



Physical Research  
Laboratory

# VOICE 2020

## Vikram Sarabhai cOmpetition for Concept-Essay Writing 2020

Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) also known as “Cradle of Space Sciences” was founded by Dr. Vikram A. Sarabhai, the father of Indian Space Programme, in the year 1947. On the occasion of his birth centenary year (2019), PRL started a pan India level essay competition for school children. The competition is being conducted for students of 8 to 10 standard this year (2020).

### Essay Topic : A night with a Telescope

The night sky has fascinated human minds since time immemorial. Early people noticed that the Moon changed shape from night to night; constellations of stars look like animals and people. The oldest records of astronomical observations are found on the walls of caves dating back to 30,000 years. The first astronomical observations using a telescope happened around 410 years ago by Galileo. Since then, observers used not only visible light but almost every electromagnetic wavelength, starting from radio to gamma-rays to observe the sky. Telescopes indeed became our eyes to observe the Universe. Now astronomers use telescopes over the whole spectrum in order to understand the celestial objects. Assume you are given time to observe with the best telescope in the world (you can choose any wavelength starting from radio to gamma-ray, even multi-messenger observations such as gravitational waves, neutrino or cosmic ray), tell us which object would you want to observe, and what mystery about it would you want to solve.

#### Rewards

1st prize: Rs. 10,000

2nd prize: Rs. 8,000

3rd prize: Rs. 5,000

Special Mention prizes (6 Prizes)

#### Timeline

Last date of submission : 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Date of notification : 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Presentation : 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Prize distribution: 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

### Guidelines

- Students of standard 8 to 10 can participate. Students should submit the scan copy of the student information form (as given on the PRL website) attested by the Principal/Head of the Institution with official seal with the essay.
- Essay should be submitted online in the prescribed format. Submission in any other mode will not be considered.
- Word limit: 3000 words. It must contain a summary up to 300 words, major highlights in three bullet points not exceeding 75 words, and a conclusion in about 200 words, with other relevant details such as introduction, the body of the essay, figures, etc. The essay should contain the following:
  - Which mystery do you want to solve?
  - Which telescope would you wish to use?
  - Why do you think the chosen telescope is best suited?
  - Finally, how you want to solve the mystery?
- All the terms & conditions are available at PRL website
- Competition will be organized in two phases.
  - 1st phase: Maximum of about 50 students will be shortlisted.
  - 2nd phase: Short-listed candidates will be invited to PRL for presentation and nine essays will be awarded.
- Local hospitality to all the short-listed students (one accompanying person) and the travel support in Sleeper (SL) class train/Govt. bus in shortest route upon request will be provided to the students.

For details, visit [www.prl.res.in/prl-eng/voice](http://www.prl.res.in/prl-eng/voice); Contact : [voice@prl.res.in](mailto:voice@prl.res.in)  
Physical Research Laboratory, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad - 380 009, India

Images: The night sky as observed at PRL observatory, Gurushikhar, Mount Abu, Rajasthan