

**Galilean Nights Event ID:** gn883

**Number of telescopes:** 3

**Number of organisers:** 4

**Number of attendees:** 200

**Event photos:** <http://www.flickr.com/photos/kingson14/>

**Event Report:**

The Doon School Astronomy Society, Dehradun, India organized a Star Gazing event during the Galilean Nights. The Doon School is a residential school in the northern state of Uttarakhand set at the foot of Shivalik range of Great Himalayas. The society has 15 regular members who are students of grade 7-12.

On 22nd & 23rd October 2009 the society members set up one 6" and one 8" reflecting telescope in the school main field. Around 200 students from different houses of the school saw Moon and Jupiter with its four moons. The students were in awe to observe the relative motion of Jupiter's moons. Apart from these objects they also observed the constellations Cygnus and Cassiopeia. The city lights were a little disturbing but the show was a huge success at the campus.

On 24th October 2009, 16 students and 3 teachers headed for a place called Burans Khanda near Dhanaulti at a height of 8166ft. with 30.30 latitude & 78.00 longitude. We settled in camps at a lovely place with a clear view of the sky. That night we observed Jupiter and its moons, our Moon, Polaris and eight other constellations. Three lines on the disc of Jupiter were clearly visible with our 6" reflecting telescope. We also had a Great World Wide Star Count and were able to see Magnitude 6 stars! It was quite exciting for all of us. The next morning from 4.00 am onwards we had a fantastic view of Saturn, Mars and Venus. Since Earth is at equinox with Saturn so we saw the ring of Saturn as a straight line across its disc. Some terrestrial viewing was also done of the snow clad peaks of the upper Himalayas from our camp site namely Gangotri (origin of Ganges) and Chaukhamba (four peak mountain). The Galilean Nights was real enjoyment for all of us.