

# **“Why the Planet Pluto is not in Solar System Now”**

**Report on The Albert Einstein STEM and Space Workshop  
conducted by Explore The Space, K.K Nagar, Chennai.  
(22.03.2025)**

Shopithan from Our Lady Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Valasaravakkam, Chennai asked “Why the Planet Pluto is not in Solar System now?” and made the interaction more lively at the “Albert Einstein STEM and Space workshop”, which was held on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 in K.K Nagar, Chennai.



## **Why is Pluto No Longer a Planet?**

Pluto was considered the ninth planet in our solar system until 2006 when the International Astronomical Union (IAU) redefined the term "planet." To be classified as a planet, a celestial body must: **Orbit the Sun, Be nearly round in shape, Clear its orbit of other debris.**

Pluto meets the first two criteria but fails the third because it shares its orbit with other objects in the Kuiper Belt. Due to this, Pluto was reclassified as a "**dwarf planet.**"

Despite losing its planetary status, Pluto remains significant in space research. NASA's New Horizons mission in 2015 provided valuable insights into its surface, atmosphere, and moons. While its reclassification is still debated, Pluto continues to be an essential part of our study of the solar system and beyond.

The workshop was conducted by Senior Instructor Mrs Seetha Rajagopalan and Intern Mr Benictor Sam. The Students who participated were keen to know more about Space and they performed STEM experiments, watched videos and took part in the objective test. They also took a pledge that they will use their knowledge for public good.

**For More Details Please Contact**

**9790186633, [explorespace360@gmail.com](mailto:explorespace360@gmail.com).**