

AstroBaqir

Monthly Magazine

February 2026



Syed Mohammad Baqir
www.astrobaqir.com



NGC 3628 galaxy

8th February 2026

NGC 3628, popularly known as the Hamburger Galaxy, is a striking edge-on spiral galaxy located in the constellation Leo at a distance of about 35 million light-years from Earth. With an apparent magnitude around 9.5 and an angular size of roughly 14×3.6 arc minutes, it can be observed with medium-sized amateur telescopes, where it appears as a thin, elongated streak of light. Its most distinctive feature is the prominent dark dust lane that runs across its disk, giving it the appearance of a cosmic hamburger. NGC 3628 is a key member of the Leo Triplet, along with Messier 65 and Messier 66, and shows clear evidence of gravitational interaction in the form of a tidal tail extending nearly 300,000 light-years into space. Discovered by William Herschel in 1784, the galaxy spans roughly 100,000–150,000 light-years across and continues to be an important target for studying galactic structure, tidal interactions, and star formation processes.

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Galaxy NGC 3628

Celestron 130 Telescope
Infinix 40 Pro Cellphone
10 mm eyepiece
28 Images Stacked
7 Sec exposure each, ISO-19200
05:52 AM, 8 Feb 2026
Syed Mohammad Baqir
Quetta, Pakistan



M 95 galaxy

11th February 2026

Messier 95 (M95) is a beautiful barred spiral galaxy located in the constellation Leo at a distance of approximately 33 million light-years from Earth. Discovered by Pierre Méchain in 1781 and later cataloged by Charles Messier, M95 has an apparent magnitude of about 9.7, making it accessible to medium-sized amateur telescopes as a faint, round glow with a brighter central region. It is classified as a barred spiral galaxy (SBb), characterized by a prominent central bar structure from which its spiral arms extend gracefully. The galaxy spans roughly 70,000–80,000 light-years in diameter and is notable for its well-defined inner ring, where active star formation is taking place. M95 is also a member of the M96 Group, a small group of galaxies that includes Messier 96 and Messier 105, making it an important object for studying barred galaxy dynamics and stellar evolution.

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Galaxy M 95

Celestron 130 Telescope
Infinix 40 Pro Cellphone
10 mm eyepiece
32 Images Stacked
9 Sec exposure each, ISO-19200
04:48 AM, 11 Feb 2026
Syed Mohammad Baqir
Quetta, Pakistan



Type 1a Supernova (2026acd)

14th February 2026

SN 2026acd is a recently discovered Type Ia supernova that was observed in the elliptical galaxy NGC 4168 in mid-February 2026, showing up as a bright new point of light within its host galaxy in images taken around 15 February 2026. Type Ia supernovae like SN 2026acd are thermonuclear explosions that occur when a carbon-oxygen white dwarf in a binary system accretes enough mass from a companion star to approach the critical Chandrasekhar limit (about 1.4 times the mass of the Sun) and undergoes a runaway fusion reaction, completely unbinding the star. Because these explosions have a fairly consistent peak brightness, they are valuable “standard candles” for measuring cosmic distances and studying the expansion of the universe. SN 2026acd’s appearance in an otherwise old stellar population like that of an elliptical galaxy is typical for Type Ia events, which often occur in such environments where older stellar remnants like white dwarfs are common

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Type 1a supernova (and NGC 4168, 4164, 4165)



Celestron 130 Telescope
Infinix 40 Pro Cellphone
10 mm eyepiece
28 Images Stacked
7.9 Sec exposure each, ISO-19200
06:01 AM, 14 Feb 2026
Syed Mohammad Baqir
Quetta, Pakistan



Comet 29P

15th February 2026

Comet 29P/Schwassmann–Wachmann 1 is one of the most active cometary bodies in the solar system, and its outbursts are spectacular and unusual compared to typical comet activity. Orbiting between Jupiter and Saturn, this roughly 60 km-wide ice-rich object regularly experiences sudden cryovolcanic eruptions that can cause its brightness to jump dramatically in just a few hours as gas and dust are explosively ejected from its surface. These outbursts can occur many times per year — sometimes 20–30 or more annually — and involve the release of large amounts of material, temporarily increasing the coma's size and brightness by factors of tens to hundreds as the released icy particles and gases reflect sunlight. In February 2026, one such event produced one of the most impressive recent eruptions: the coma swelled into a striking spiral pattern as internal rotation and uneven venting shaped the escaping material, making 29P significantly brighter and more visible through telescopes. While the exact trigger mechanisms remain an active subject of research, the frequent and powerful outbursts of Comet 29P/Schwassmann–Wachmann 1 continue to make it a fascinating target for astronomers.

Comet 29P/Schwassmann–Wachmann Outburst

Celestron 130 Telescope
Infinix 40 Pro Cellphone
10 mm eyepiece
35 Images Stacked
5 Sec exposure each, ISO-19200
05:22 AM, 15 Feb 2026
Syed Mohammad Baqir
Quetta, Pakistan



Leo A galaxy

22th February 2026

Leo A, also cataloged as DDO 69, is a faint dwarf irregular galaxy located in the constellation Leo at a distance of about 2.5 million light-years from Earth. Discovered in 1942 by Fritz Zwicky, Leo A is one of the most isolated galaxies in the Local Group, making it an important object for studying galaxy evolution without strong gravitational interactions from massive neighbors. It has a very low metallicity, meaning it contains relatively few heavy elements, which suggests a slow and extended history of star formation. Despite its small size—only a few thousand light-years across—Leo A shows regions of active star formation and young blue stars embedded within a much older stellar population. Because of its simplicity and isolation, Leo A provides astronomers with valuable insight into the early stages of dwarf galaxy formation and the chemical evolution of small galactic systems.

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Leo A galaxy



Celestron 130 Telescope
Infinix 40 Pro Cellphone
10 mm eyepiece
34 Images Stacked
10 Sec exposure each, ISO-19200
03:40 AM, 22 Feb 2026
Syed Mohammad Baqir
Quetta, Pakistan



Three galaxies in Leo

8th February 2026

NGC 3605, NGC 3607, and NGC 3608 are three prominent galaxies located in the constellation Leo and form the central members of the Leo II Group (also known as the NGC 3607 Group), situated roughly 70 million light-years from Earth. NGC 3607 is the brightest and largest of the trio, classified as a lenticular (S0) galaxy with a smooth disk-like structure and a bright central bulge, while NGC 3608 is a massive elliptical galaxy known for its extended stellar halo and evidence of past gravitational interactions. NGC 3605, comparatively smaller and fainter, is an elliptical galaxy that shows signs of intermediate-age stellar populations, suggesting a more complex evolutionary history. Together, these galaxies provide astronomers with an excellent laboratory for studying galaxy dynamics, stellar populations, and interaction processes within small galaxy groups.

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Galaxies NGC 3605, 3607, 3608, PGC 34407



Celestron 130 Telescope
Infinix 40 Pro Cellphone
10 mm eyepiece
25 Images Stacked
7 Sec exposure each, ISO-19200
05:29 AM, 8 Feb 2026
Syed Mohammad Baqir
Quetta, Pakistan



NGC 1662 Star Cluster

2nd February 2026

NGC 1662 is a relatively loose and irregular open star cluster located in the constellation Auriga at a distance of about 1,200 light-years from Earth. Discovered by William Herschel in 1784, this cluster contains several dozen young stars spread across roughly 20 arc minutes of sky, giving it a scattered and somewhat sparse appearance compared to richer open clusters. With an apparent magnitude of around 6.4, NGC 1662 is accessible through small telescopes and even large binoculars under dark skies, where its brighter member stars stand out against the Milky Way background. Estimated to be only a few hundred million years old, the cluster is considered relatively young in astronomical terms, and its stars are loosely bound by gravity, meaning it will gradually disperse over time. NGC 1662 offers observers a charming and delicate stellar grouping that highlights the dynamic and evolving nature of open clusters within our galaxy.

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NGC 1662 Open Star Cluster

Celestron 130 Telescope
Infinix 40 Pro Cellphone
10 mm eyepiece
10 Images Stacked
4 Sec exposure each, ISO-6400
12:00 AM, 2 Feb 2026
Syed Mohammad Baqir
Quetta, Pakistan



Lecture series on Comets

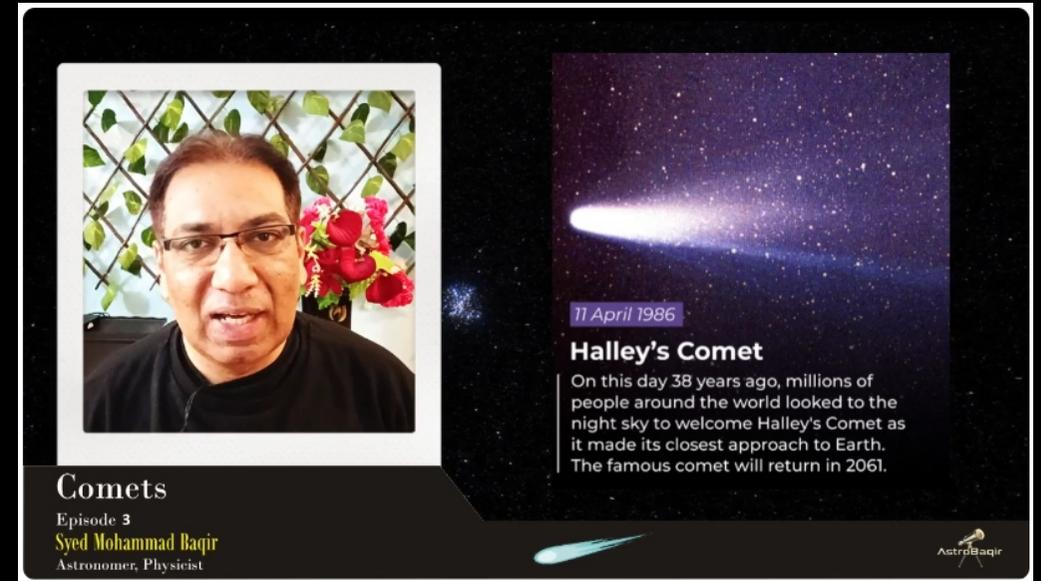
February 2026

My ongoing lecture series on comets on the AstroBaqir YouTube channel is designed to help people understand these fascinating visitors of our Solar System in a simple and engaging way. In this series, I explain what comets are, where they come from, and why they develop beautiful glowing comas and long tails as they approach the Sun. The lectures also explore famous comets, recent discoveries, and the science behind sudden comet outbursts, while guiding viewers on how they can observe comets themselves using basic equipment. Through clear explanations and real observational examples, this series aims to make comet science accessible and interesting for students, skywatchers, and anyone curious about the wonders of the universe.

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Comets
Episode 3
Syed Mohammad Baqir
Astronomer, Physicist

11 April 1986
Halley's Comet
On this day 38 years ago, millions of people around the world looked to the night sky to welcome Halley's Comet as it made its closest approach to Earth. The famous comet will return in 2061.

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Comets
Episode 2
Syed Mohammad Baqir
Astronomer, Physicist

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