

DEEP IMPACT SPACE MISSION

AMALENDU BANDYOPADHYAY*

NASA's Deep Impact Space Mission has been a smashing success. The main objective of this mission was to crash a projectile into the nucleus of a comet in order to excavate a large crater. Comets are leftovers from the formation of the planets, four and a half billion years ago. As such, each one represents a fossilised planetary 'building block' and investigating them is a way of learning about how the planets formed. In short, the science performed by Deep Impact Mission is about as important as it can ever get. The copper bullet impactor was released by the Deep Impact's main flyby spacecraft from a safe distance of 500 km from the comet and the bullet did strike the nucleus of a comet at 37000 km per hour. Data from the flyby spacecraft and the impactor was radioed back to earth. Preliminary findings from the analysis of the data received from this mission have very recently been released to the press by NASA. Some of the findings are really revolutionary.
