

Mangalyaan - SPACE will be conducting sessions and interactions on 23 and 24 September, 2014

New Delhi, 22 September, 2014: With the milestone of the Mars Orbit Injection of the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) scheduled on 24 Sep, SPACE too will be organising activities and sessions on 23 and 24 September, 2014. Educators from SPACE will be conducting sessions on the MOM at our associated schools for the SPACE Astronomy club students. These interactive sessions are directed at educating students about the significance of the mission to Mars, the technological achievements and how this will place India at the forefront of space science. Besides these sessions, our members, including Mr CB Devgun, President, SPACE Foundation, will also be holding **Live interaction in Hindi : Mangal Grah ki oar** at 10:30 AM at the Nehru Planetarium tomorrow as part of an all day event centered on the red planet. There is also a special Hydorrocketry Demonstration by SPACE planned for students at the Planetarium grounds from 11:15 am to 2:30 pm.

MOM is India's first interplanetary mission to the planet Mars with an orbiter craft designed to orbit Mars in an elliptical orbit. The mission is primarily a technological mission considering the critical mission operations and stringent requirements on propulsion and other bus systems of spacecraft. One of the main objectives of the first Indian mission to Mars is to make scientific discoveries and also to gain experience in developing the technologies required for design, planning, management and operations of an interplanetary mission.

Once the craft enters the orbit of Mars, it will explore the Mars surface features, morphology, mineralogy and the Martian atmosphere using 5 scientific instruments for about 8 to 10 months. MOM was launched on 5th November 2014 and has travelled for 10 months to reach this position. A test firing at 2:30pm on 22 September (today) was successful and bodes well for a successful insertion which is scheduled to take place on 24 September at 7:18 AM IST. Mangalyaan follows the success of Chandrayaan also launched by ISRO, which reached the Moon and yielded significant discoveries. ISRO has been active in building satellites and launch vehicles but this is the first time ISRO has sent a mission to another planet. A successful mission means that ISRO will be the 4th space agency in the work to place an orbiter around the red planet following Ruskosmos (Russia), NASA (USA) and ESA (Europe).

Mr CB Devgun, President, SPACE Foundation says, *“After its successful insertion into the orbit of Mars, MOM will be a great achievement for the Indian space industry and ISRO, as it will be demonstrate that we are capable of launching interplanetary mission. If the orbit insertion is successful, then we can boast of being the first nation to achieve our target in the very first attempt itself, whereas even the space powers have done it only after several attempts.”*