

The Times of India

Title : YOUNG ACHIEVERS - Young Delhiites to name asteroid

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Location :

Article Date : 01/23/2017

Young Delhiites to name asteroid

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Two young minds from Delhi are going to name an asteroid they discovered in August 2010. Amanjot Singh and Sahil Wadhwa found the rocky body while participating in a campaign.

Singh and Wadhwa, schoolchildren at the time, scanned image packs shared with them as part of a global effort to spot asteroids. They went through data files of the sky provided by the International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC), an educational outreach programme

founded by a US academic, using astronomical data analysis software. These files had multiple images of the sky taken at night with telescopes at the Astronomical Research Institute (ARI) Observatory in the US.

The asteroid's name would be alphanumeric according to NASA standards.

Now working with a private company, Sahil said, "My keen interest in stargazing and science drove me to be a part of the Space Club in our school when I was in class VII. As part of a club activi-

ty, we were trained to use software to pack images from the sky, observe spatial images and prepare a report. We also received learning support from

Patrick Miller from Hardin-Simmons University in the US. He used to transmit pictures of celestial objects taken by his telescopes for us to observe. After detecting the correct picture, our discovery was confirmed."

Selected teams that participated in the All-India Asteroid Search Campaign, conducted by a non-profit in India in collaboration with the IASC had exclusive access to data sets of the sky, provided by the observatory, to look for asteroids.

Once a team detects a moving object in a series of images, it sends a report to IASC which monitors it for six years to confirm if it is an asteroid.



Amanjot Singh and Sahil Wadhwa, in school at the time, scanned images shared with them as part of a global effort to spot the rocky bodies