

## **For Immediate Release**

**Date: January 21, 2017**

### **Indian students naming the Asteroid, felicitated by NASA** ***The unprecedented achievement by any of the Indian students ever***

**New Delhi:** 2 Asteroid Discoverers, Amanjot Singh and Sahil Wadhwa are felicitated by NASA Scientist who can now name that Asteroid, which they have discovered in 2010, during SPACE Annual Meet on January 21, 2017 at NDMC Convention Centre, New Delhi. The Asteroid Discovery is recognized by International Astronomical Union (IAU), US.

**Mr. Sachin Bahmba, Chairman & Managing Director-SPACE Group**, who himself is an enthusiast and passionate for Astronomy said that, "Till date, through our various astronomy based outreach programmes, we have touched more than 1 lakh families; educating more than 20,000 students annually. Every year we distinguish to add value and increase scientific knowledge of the participants and above all pass on our passion of astronomy to the youth, who dream to fly in space."

Wishing the goodluck to the achievers, he added, "We look forward to fruitful Indo-US ties, which can come up with new technological advancements through researches done by amateurs and the scientific community of both the countries."

The Meet has seen the presence of:

**Dr Paul Rosen**, Project Scientist, NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar, NASA-JPL as the **Chief Guest**;

**Ms Meenakshi Lekhi**, Member of Parliament- Lok Sabha, New Delhi Constituency as the **Guest of Honour** and

**Dr Andrea Robles-Olson**, Science Officer, United States Embassy in New Delhi

The meet was also addressed by 4 SPACE Achievers, who are only 16 years old and have excelled in the field of Science & Technology.

i) Aryan Mishra, one of the SPACE Asteroid Discoverer

ii) Yashraj Bhardwaj & Yuvraj Bhardwaj, Entrepreneurs, winners of Karamveer Chakra Award, having national & international 22 projects and 7 patents

iii) Ronaldo Laishram, one of the SPACE Asteroid Discoverer awarded by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and intern at Space Physics Laboratory, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Indian Space Research Organisation.

The Meet has also witnessed the release of SPACE Annual Report 2016 and launch of international celebration of Asteroid Day by the Chief Guest. The Meet observed the presence of the students, Principals, education fraternity, industry experts and media and was graced by the esteemed presence of Mr CB Devgun, President-SPACE Foundation; Ms Shalini Bahmba, Head of Education-SPACE; Mr Pankaj Bahmba, Director-SPACE Group of Companies with eminent industry experts. Dr. Anuj Sinha, Former Director-Vigyan Prasar and Dr. Salil Gupta, Convener, Indian Science

Congress Association (Delhi Chapter) has also graced the programme with their esteemed presence.

### **About SPACE**

SPACE is a pioneer organization working towards the development of science. Through hands-on learning methodology, it has brought back experimentation and rational thinking to classrooms. It has pioneered STEM education (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) in India, thus contributing to the mandate of the government that students should be inspired to pursue science, research and engage in innovation. SPACE has helped to incline one lakh students and over 100 institutes towards science through its programmes. We aim to 'foster scientific temperament' in the students and inspire teachers to innovate in their classroom teaching. Today, SPACE member students are asteroid discoverers, comet hunters, researchers, doctoral students and many of them are national and international level project winners.

International Programmes conducted by SPACE in India

- 1- All India Asteroid Search Campaign:** An International campaign organized by SPACE in collaboration with International Asteroid Search Collaboration (IASC) conducted by Dr. Patrick Miller of Hardin Simmons University, USA.
- 2- Sally Ride EarthKAM:** A workshop conducted by SPACE in India in collaboration of NASA.
- 3- Global Astronomy Month:** Organized in April every year by Astronomers Without Borders (AWB), world's largest global celebration of Astronomy.
- 4- World Space Week:** The largest annual space event worldwide with 1,400 events in more than 80 countries, organized in the month of October, every year.
- 5- Kalpana Chawla Space Settlement Design Competition** (starting from 2017) launched by Captain Sunita Williams, during a programme, 'Captain Sunita Williams, In Conversation with Sachin Bahmba' organized by SPACE on February 26, 2016 in New Delhi.

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