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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SPACE-associated schools participated in the largest global celebration of astronomy during April and also conducted the largest solar observation held by schools on the same day in an effort to set a Limca record**

*Around 40 client schools conducted various astronomy popularization activities with their students, parents and other community organizations and schools all through the month of April that recommended by SPACE and the international organization Astronomers Without Borders. An overwhelming number of children participated in the activities, the reports for which were sent to AWB. SPACE will also be awarding the schools under various categories.*

**New Delhi, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2014:** Schools associated with SPACE, the pioneer organization in India working towards the development of science and astronomy in India, conducted various astronomy popularization activities with their students, parents and other community organizations and schools all through the month of April recommended by SPACE and the international organization Astronomers Without Borders.

It was wonderful to see a large number of students felt the urge to explore various activities under GAM 2014 and decided to share their passion for astronomy with members in their community, thereby becoming a part of the larger international initiative taken by AWB. **Their overwhelming response made the campaign organized by SPACE only for its client schools a huge success.**

It was wonderful to see the students enthusiastically taking part in the activities with the prior training support provided by SPACE Educators. Students participated as well as conducted the activities of Global Astronomy Month 2014 were as follows:

- **Solar Observation – 25<sup>th</sup> April**
- **Mars Observation - 11<sup>th</sup> April**
- **Online Vesta Watch - 10<sup>th</sup> April**
- **International Earth and Sky Photo Contest - 10<sup>th</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> April**
- **Globe at Night – 20<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April**
- **Astropoetry Contest – 1<sup>st</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May**

One of our client schools, Bal Bharti Public School, Pitampura, reached out to the community and celebrated SunDay with children from NGO Seva Bharti Matrichhaya and Physically Handicapped Rehabilitation Association on 28th April. The event saw participation of 21 children from NGOs along with 21 students of Montessori I of BBPS, Pitampura. The students observed the sun with solar goggles and did telescopic observation. The event was concluded with Montessori I students gifting their new friends with books and colours.

All the activity reports by the schools along with their contest entries – photographs and astropoems – were submitted to AWB.

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## **Largest solar observation held by schools ever!**

As part of the astronomy celebration, we also urged our client schools to conduct an observation on 25<sup>th</sup> April to watch the sun spots and the filaments for students, friends and family and be a part of the *Limca record for maximum number of schools observing the sun at the same time*. The observation was held between 9am-11am.

***The list of participating schools will be sent by us to the Limca team along with other details for their consideration.***

## **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rakesh Sharma's first flight into space**

As part of GAM2014, SPACE also celebrated the 30th anniversary of the first flight of an Indian into space. On 2nd April, 1984, Rakesh Sharma became the first Indian cosmonaut to venture into space, as part of a joint programme between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Soviet Intercosmos Space programme.

To commemorate this achievement, SPACE invited messages from its associated teachers and students for Rakesh Sharma, ISRO, Sonia Gandhi and the Russian Ambassador to India. We were glad to see the overwhelming response by the students.

*A student of Bal Bharti Public School, Pitampura wrote "I am always mesmerized to see a person going to space. I aspire to become an astronaut. I salute you and you are my role model. Congratulations! When I see you I feel proud as an Indian."*

The best messages would be selected by us and presented along with the name of the sender to the intended audience.

### **About GAM:**

Global Astronomy Month 2014 (GAM) is organized in April every year by the international organization Astronomers Without Borders (AWB), is the world's largest global celebration of astronomy. GAM 2014 brings new ideas and new opportunities, and again brings enthusiasts together worldwide, celebrating AWB's motto, One People, One Sky.

### **About SPACE:**

SPACE, the pioneer organization working towards the development of science and astronomy in India, is an ISO 9001:2000 certified company which has been changing the face of science and astronomy awareness, education and innovation in India through path-breaking concepts, services and programmes. SPACE has not only successfully implemented astronomy and space science curriculum in Indian education system but has also provided international platforms to Indian students, where they distinctively contribute in scientific discoveries at a very early age. We constantly strive to use scientific and astronomical programmes to foster scientific temperament in society, especially among the youth who are the harbingers of India's future.

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