

Bharti Airtel Foundation and Directorate of Education Launch Astronomy Club 'Antriksh' in Delhi to Spark Scientific Curiosity Among Students

Inspired by Sunita Williams' recent return, the club aims to ignite young minds with a passion for space exploration

9 April 2025, New Delhi: Building on the momentum of its recent Astronomy Club launches in Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Meghalaya, Bharti Airtel Foundation has brought the initiative to the national capital with the unveiling of the Antriksh Astronomy Club at GGSSS Harkesh Nagar, New Delhi. Launched under the Foundation's Quality Support Program (QSP), the club is equipped with a high-powered telescope and aims to nurture scientific curiosity among students through immersive learning experiences in space science. At a time when global interest in space exploration is high – with Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams recently making headlines – the initiative aims to inspire students to dream beyond the skies and see science as a gateway to endless possibilities. Similar clubs have also been introduced in over 400 partner government schools across multiple states, with plans to expand the program to several other regions, bringing the excitement of astronomy to young learners across the country.

The Delhi launch event was graced by *Mr. S.C. Meena*, Deputy Director of Education (DDE), and *Ms. Sheetal*, Principal of GGSSS Harkesh Nagar, along with key representatives from *Bharti Airtel Foundation* – *Ms. Nalini Dixit* (Project Head), *Mr. Ajit Singh Rawat*, and *Ms. Devika Suri*. In her welcome address, Principal *Ms. Sheetal* highlighted the school's academic milestones, and several accolades in co-scholastic domains.

Promoting a culture of scientific exploration, *two students* were honoured for their selection in the *Inspire Manak* program. Mementos were presented to dignitaries as a token of appreciation. The highlight of the event was the unveiling of the Astronomy Club 'Antriksh' by *Mr. S.C. Meena*, who applauded the school's and Foundation's commitment to promote innovation. He encouraged students to be inquisitive, explore the cosmos, and use such opportunities to develop a scientific outlook.

With *40 students* and *20 community members* participating, the launch event marked the beginning of an exciting journey in astronomy for students at the school. The club will now hold regular telescope viewing sessions, workshops, and interactive engagements to nurture scientific curiosity and a deeper understanding of space science. The event concluded with an engaging interaction among students, parents, and dignitaries, followed by a heartfelt vote of thanks. Mr. Meena recommended the replication of such innovative and experiential learning initiatives across more schools in the district, setting the stage for a brighter, more curious generation of young minds ready to reach for the stars.

About Bharti Airtel Foundation:

Bharti Airtel Foundation was set up in the year 2000 as the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises with a vision, 'To help underprivileged children and youth of our country realise their potential'. The Foundation works in the space of holistic quality education in rural India with a special focus on the girl child; and also supports Higher Education programs in partnership with premier institutions. Since 2006, the flagship Satya Bharti School Program has been providing free quality education to thousands of underprivileged children in 164 schools of rural India across four states. At present over 37,000 children are enrolled in Satya Bharti Schools of which over 50% are girls. The impact of quality education has been widened by transferring the learning and good practices of this program to more than 4 lakh students studying in 1,000 partner government schools across 12 States/UTs, through the Quality Support Program (QSP), since 2013. In addition, Bharti Airtel Foundation was invited by several education officers at district and state levels to scale up some of the initiatives through QSP State Partnerships. The Foundation's recently launched initiative, TheTeacherApp, is one of the most innovative technology solutions for teachers and educators in the country. Satya Bharti Abhiyan, the



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sanitation initiative, from 2014 till 2021, has benefitted over 2 lakh beneficiaries by improving sanitation conditions in the districts of Punjab, providing access to toilets and by fostering behavioural change in communities. The Foundation has been able to impact over 3 million children in a meaningful manner through its education programs since inception.

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