

## ASTRO NEWS

### India brands its astronauts 'vyomanauts'

Reports indicate that the Indian media has branded its astronauts as 'vyomanauts', a word derived from the Sanskrit language. The tongue-twisting term comes from the Sanskrit word for sky or space i.e. 'vyoma'.

### Rockets to study solar eclipse

The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) launched 11 Rohini series of indigenous Sounding Rockets recently, on the day of annular eclipse, to investigate the effects of the solar eclipse on the atmosphere. The rockets were launched to study the effects of the annular solar eclipse on the atmospheric structure and dynamics.

### 10% of solar systems are like ours

Ten percent of solar systems in the whole universe are like ours, says an astronomy study. The finding comes from a worldwide collaboration headquartered at Ohio State called the Microlensing Follow-Up Network

(MicroFUN), which searches the sky for extrasolar planets. MicroFUN astronomers use a method called gravitational microlensing, which occurs when one star happens to cross in front of another as seen from Earth.

### Crater named after Shah Rukh Khan

The International Lunar Geographic Society recently announced that a crater in the 'Sea of Tranquility' will be named after Bollywood star, Shah Rukh Khan. The actor, who has reigned Bollywood since the last twenty years, says that this honour is more for India, and that he is glad that India makes its presence on the global map once again!

## THE BUZZ

### 21 children selected for exemplary courage

From saving lives in landslides and averting major disasters due to terrorist strikes to even giving up their lives to save somebody else's - 21 children have been selected for the national bravery awards this



year for their heroic deeds. The awardees were introduced to the media at the Indian Council for Child Welfare in the capital recently. Of the 21 kids, eight are girls.

### Kite flies into record books

An Ahmedabad-based businessman flew a kite with



572 tiny electric lights attached to its string that lit up the evening sky and took him straight into the record books. Umang Bhai Thakkar, 45, has made the record by flying a kite with the most number of electric lights on it. Thakkar, who was leading a group of 10 kite-flyers, achieved the feat in about 32 minutes, starting at 7.58 p.m. and ending at 8.30 p.m. The kite was around 8 feet long.

### Patil confers Nehru Award on Iceland President

President Pratibha Devisingh Patil conferred the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding on Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland. Grims-

son called for cooperation between India and Iceland, scientists, glaciologists and experts on the use of soil and water together with a training of Indian students in these areas.



### Aamir Khan to receive Padma Bhushan

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan has been selected for the 'Padma Bhushan' award on the occasion of 60th Republic Day. He is already a recipient of the Padma Shri. A.R. Rahman and Ilaiyaraaja will also receive the honour. Bollywood diva Rekha and actor Saif Ali Khan have been chosen for the 'Padma Sri' award. Eminent theatre and film personality Zohra Sehgal is also likely to be given 'Padma Shri'.



## SPORTS NEWS

### Karthikeyan best among Indian drivers

Narain Karthikeyan, the first and the only Indian to have raced in Formula One, is ranked 126 in the Castrol Rankings for 2009. The 35-year old Karthikeyan is the highest



among Indian drivers, ahead of GP2 racer Karun Chandhok (201), Formula 2 pilot Armaan Ebrahim (424) and National Rally champion Gaurav Gill (1,311).

### School kids to help forecast air quality during Games

For 10 days in February, 1000 children from Delhi government schools will monitor the number of vehicles around Commonwealth Games venues and the data they collect will prove crucial in managing air quality during the event to be



held from October 3-14. The Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), which has developed technology for air quality management during the Games, will give the children a gadget called Click Counter to collect this data.

### World Cup matches to be broadcast in 3D

Viewers will be able to watch 3D broadcast of part of the 2010 Football World Cup matches after sports broadcaster ESPN decided to film 25 of the matches in 3D in South Africa. After years of



### Indian woman skis to South Pole

Indian mountaineer Reena Kaushal Dharmshaktu has become the first Indian woman to ski to the South Pole. Dharmshaktu (38) was



part of the eight-member Commonwealth Women's Antarctic Expedition team. All the eight women skied around 10 hours a day for 3 days and covered 915 km to reach the bottom of the earth (South Pole) recently.

### Sriram Jha conferred Grand Master title

The International Chess Federation (FIDE) has confirmed Grand Master title to Sriram Jha of Delhi based on his Elo rating of 2,511. The FIDE also confirmed four International Master titles to Rahul Sangma (Delhi), Swapnil Dhopade (Amaravati), Debashis Das (Cutack) and Sahaj Grover (Delhi) as the four have crossed the 2,400 rating mark. India boasts of 21 Grand Masters and 65 International Masters.

