

Indian Students Excel NASA Space Settlement Contest 2008

Apeejay School (Jalandhar) Students among First Prize Winners

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Students from India have excelled in the NASA Space Settlement Contest 2008. This annual contest, co-sponsored by NASA Ames and the National Space Society (NSS) is for 6-12th graders (11-18 years old) from anywhere in the world. This year there were 156 submissions from 840 students, sponsored by 74 teachers. The Apeejay School junior team won the first Prize in the International Space Settlement contest.

The team comprising of 11 students from 9th grade submitted a 131 page proposal called '**Cosmogogenesis**'. The team was adjudged the best in its category. **Cosmogogenesis** means 'Origin and development of universe' and it unfurls the establishment of a new society in space. Cosmogogenesis is a unique and innovative twin city structure which could accommodate nearly 18,000 people in space. Besides providing entertainment and recreation facilities, it will also provide an earth like environment. One of the most fascinating features of Cosmogogenesis is the 28x6 Day-night schedule i.e 6 days a week and 28 hours a day thus missing out Monday.

The names of the students on winning team are Parabal Partap Singh, Karan Kashyap, Karansheraz Singh Powar, Gunveet Singh Narang, Vaibhav Gupta, Achintya Soni, Aneesh Singhal, Sajal Aggarwal, Isha Kohli, Shreya Mahindru and Diksha Deora.

The senior team comprising of six students from class 11 worked for nearly six months on the project named '**Janus**'. They **bagged the 3rd prize** in their category. **Janus** in Roman mythology is a God of Gates and beginnings. Thus Janus will mark the beginning of an era of space revolution and will lead the way to future space exploration. Janus is a fascinating four city structure with excellent engineering infrastructure that can accommodate 20,000 people. Janus' distinctive structure, innovative life support system and exceptional human engineering facilities puts it above all the other projects. The winning students who created this unique concept are Aksha Kini, Kushboo Sewak, Karan Sumra, Shivansh Singh, Richa Gupta and Mehak Pruti.

This is the third consecutive year Apeejay Jalandhar school teams have won positions in the annual NASA competition. 'At Apeejay we believe in holistic education and as such pay special attention to developing and nurturing our students' interest in subjects beyond straight academics. This is one of the reasons we encourage our students to participate in such initiatives, both at the national and international level', informed Mrs. Ranjana Sud Principal of Apeejay School, Jalandhar. 'We are especially proud that both of our schools entries have made it to the global roll of honour. I congratulate the students and their guiding teachers for this achievement', she added.

The competition result is available in this web site given below.

<http://www.nas.nasa.gov/About/Education/SpaceSettlement/Contest/Results/2008/index.html>

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