

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION (IAU)

- 1) (IAU) was founded in 1919. Its mission is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all aspects including research, communication, education and development.
- 2) It is a senior body governing international professional astronomical activities worldwide, with a headquarters in Paris.
- 3) In the early 21st century, it had a membership of some 8000 professional astronomers from about 60 adhering countries.
- 4) It is the only professionally recognized organization which names the astronomical bodies, which it does solely on the basis of merit, history or discoverer's privilege.
- 5) IAU holds a general assembly every three years in varying parts of the world at which professional

Astronomers meet to discuss research, new cooperative ventures etc.

- 6) IAU has a total membership of 12783.
- 7) IAU membership spans 93 countries out of which 85 are National Members. In addition, it also collaborates with various scientific organizations all over the world.
- 8) The key activity of IAU is the organization of scientific meetings. Every year it sponsors 9 international IAU symposia.
- 9) Among the other tasks of IAU, are the definition of fundamental astronomical and physical constants, unambiguous astronomical nomenclature and informal discussions on the possibilities for future.
- 10) IAU serves as the international authority for assigning designations to celestial bodies and surface features on them.
- 11) IAU was recognized by the UN in 1982 in UN Resolution 13 on Extraterrestrial feature names.
- 12) It also works to promote research, education and public outreach activities in astronomy for the public.
- 13) In 2019, it celebrated its 100th Anniversary by organizing a year long celebration to increase awareness of a century of astronomical discoveries as well as to support and improve the use of astronomy as a tool for education, development and diplomacy under the central theme "Under One Sky".
(Source: www.iau.org)