



March 2nd, 2023

Dear Saikiran Katapally,

We are pleased to officially welcome you to the [NASA International Space Apps Challenge](#) (Space Apps) community as the Local Lead of Space Apps 2023 in Kashmir, India. Since the inception of Space Apps in 2012, we have relied on leaders like you to bring each year's Space Apps hackathon to communities worldwide. You were chosen for the prestigious role due to your clear demonstration of leadership in running a successful event, collaboration and service to your local community.

As you know, Space Apps, set for October 7-8, 2023, is a hackathon inviting a global community of technologists, citizen scientists, students, engineers, artists, and others to come together and build project solutions to challenges using NASA's open data. Last year, over 31,500 people from around the world registered to address 22 challenges on Earth and in space. With over 5,000 teams from 162 countries and 3,000 submitted projects, Space Apps proves to inspire collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking that fosters interest in Earth and space science and exploration. Our mission is to leverage this interest to encourage the growth and diversity of the next generation of scientists, technologists, designers, storytellers, and engineers.

Experts from across NASA will carefully craft challenges for this year's teams to address. Your efforts to nurture a volunteer community of solvers will help us approach these challenges with fresh perspectives and innovative solutions. We look forward to engaging with you and your local participants as we gear up for this year's event.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me at [bridgette@spaceappschallenge.org](mailto:bridgette@spaceappschallenge.org).

Congratulations! We are thrilled to have you as a Space Apps 2023 Local Lead!

Sincerely,  
Bridgette Johnson

*Bridgette Johnson*

Global Community Manager  
NASA Space Apps Global Organizing Team