### Science & Innovation Lab

## Planetariums in India

Have you ever looked up at the night sky and wondered what lies beyond those twinkling stars? Planetariums are magical places that bring the universe closer to us, helping young minds like yours explore the mysteries of space, stars and planets without leaving Earth!

A planetarium is a dome-shaped theatre where the night sky is projected using advanced technology to simulate stars, planets, and galaxies. With an incredible 360-degree view that surrounds you completely, it feels like you are actually travelling through space while sitting comfortably in your seat.

# A Journey Across India's Planetariums

India has several planetariums that inspire budding scientists and astronomers. One of the most famous is the **Nehru Planetarium in New Delhi**, established in 1984. It hosts fascinating sky shows about the solar system, black holes and India's space missions. Students often gather here to watch live projections of celestial events like solar and lunar eclipses.

Down south, the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru is a hub of astronomical learning. Operated by the Bangalore Association for Science Education, it organises popular "Know Your Stars" programs and public sky-watching sessions where telescopes are set up for everyone to gaze at planets and constellations.

In Mumbai, the **Nehru Science Centre** and **Planetarium** offers interactive experiences that blend science and fun.

The Birla Planetariums in Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad are also among India's oldest and most visited. The Birla Planetarium in Kolkata, opened in 1963, is one of Asia's largest and conducts multilingual shows to reach students from all backgrounds.



### **Learning Beyond Classrooms**

What makes planetariums special is how they transform complex concepts into awe-inspiring visuals. Instead of reading about galaxies, you see them swirling above you. Instead of imagining a rocket launch, you experience it. This immersive form of learning helps young people understand astronomy, physics and even mathematics in exciting new ways.

Many planetariums now collaborate with schools, conduct space camps, and organize quizzes and astronomy fairs, encouraging students to think critically, ask questions, and explore the unknown.

#### The Universe Awaits You

Planetariums are not just theatres of stars, they are gateways to imagination. Every visit sparks curiosity, and curiosity is the first step in science!