



## **ODISHA'S 2ND PLANETARIUM NAMED APJ ABDUL KALAM IN SAMBALPUR**

**Sambalpur:** A planetarium is a theatre built primarily for presenting educational and entertaining shows about astronomy and the night sky, or for training in celestial navigation. Planetariums are the world's astronomy classrooms and theaters of public science education that have served perhaps a billion people during the past century. In a time when quality science education is more important than ever, a scientifically literate public is an essential part of the progress of any country. Planetariums around the world both inspire and educate people of all ages about our surroundings—the Earth itself and our place in the Universe—and they are often a place in which young people become enthused to follow a scientific career. Many of today's leading scientists chose their careers because they were captivated by the experience of a planetarium visit.

Planetariums also were used to train early astronauts in celestial navigation techniques. By showing the fascinating discoveries in astronomy and space exploration, planetariums are a major tool in increasing science literacy. This dissemination of knowledge distinguishes our time from the middle Ages, when knowledge was restricted to an elite few.

A dominant feature of most planetarium is the large dome-shaped projection screen onto which scenes of stars, planets and other celestial objects can be made to appear and move realistically to simulate the complex 'motions of the heavens'. The celestial scenes can be created using a wide variety of technologies, for example precision-engineered 'star balls' that combine optical and electro-mechanical technology, slide projector, video and full dome projector systems, and lasers. Whatever technologies are used, the objective is normally to link them together to provide an accurate relative motion of the sky. Typical systems can be set to display the sky at any point in time, past or present, and often to show the night sky as it would appear from any point of latitude on Earth.

On 22/09/2017 Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik dedicated the Sambalpur planetarium named after former President and missile man APJ Abdul Kalam to the state and inaugurated the second planetarium of Odisha, at Burla in Sambalpur district. This is the first planetarium in western Odisha and second in the state after Pathani Samanta Planetarium in Bhubaneswar. The planetarium, constructed by the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) at a cost of Rs 5.60 crore, has a capacity of 140 visitors during a single show, informed planetarium authorities. The basic purpose of setting up a planetarium in Sambalpur is to spread awareness on meteorology and space science among children of Western Odisha.

The planetarium has been set up with a purpose to create awareness on solar science and astrology among the students of Western Odisha. Students of western Odisha will be benefited by the facility. Earlier they used to only read about the solar system, galaxies, and the universe. Now they will get a practical view of the same. The construction of the planetarium had begun in 2014, while work on the science park was started in May this year at Burla. Three more planetariums will come up in the state, one each at Baripada, Gopalpur and Rayagada, to popularize science and technology among students and the discerning.

Apart from the planetarium, the Chief Minister laid foundation stones and inaugurated various developmental projects in Sambalpur district, including a new science park at Burla.



APJ ABDUL KALAM PLANETARIUM



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Honorable Chief Minister Inaugurating the planetarium at Burla



Science Park in Burla



Science Park at Burla



Inauguration of 10 new city buses by Honorable Chief Minister  
By:MRT (AMRUT)