



## **India's Nehru Planetarium Gets Stellar Upgrade** Definiti System Brings Stunning Visuals of Earth and Space to Visitors

**New Delhi, India.** India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru believed that science education is crucial for responsible citizenship. Today, that vision is renewed with a Definiti theater upgrade at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library's (NMML) Nehru Planetarium. The planetarium is the first in India to be equipped with a Definiti Optical hybrid projection system, bringing 8 million stars and fantastic flights through the universe to this legendary facility.

Inaugurated by Dr. Karan Singh, NMML Chairman, Executive Council, the festivities featured *Chandra: A Stellar Life*, a full-dome production chronicling the life and works of Nobel laureate Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar.

"The new system from Sky-Skan has provided the opportunity to present a special production about Chandra. It has been a long-held wish of mine to develop such a presentation of the life and work of India's foremost cosmologist," said Nehru Planetarium Director, Dr. Rathnasree Nandivada.

Opened in 1984, the planetarium has captured the imaginations of millions of Indians with its stories of planets, stars, and other objects as seen from Earth. The original optical projector showed a maximum of a few thousand stars, which is about as many as you can see on a clear night. Now, the new Definiti Optical system shows more than 8 million stars including an incredibly detailed Milky Way. The optical projector itself is called MEGASTAR and is made by Ohira Tech in Japan. This is Sky-Skan's first project with Ohira Tech. The projector shows nearby galaxies with such detail that they remain sharp even when viewed with binoculars.

In addition to the optical projector, a stunning new Definiti digital projection system takes audiences on fantastic journeys from Earth to the Moon and beyond to the planets, stars, and galaxies, right out to the edge of the known universe. The digital system uses six JVC projectors to produce 7.5 million effective pixels on the dome—multiple times sharper than even HDTV. The projectors use Definiti HD lenses specially designed for planetariums. The Definiti system provides the planetarium with the opportunity to present a wide range of new experiences that were not possible with the original system.

The software running the theater, DigitalSky, is the most advanced astronomy software engine in the world, with a giant database of data and user-friendly tools to produce engaging shows. Highlights include over 400,000 asteroids with their movements calculated in real-time. Tens of thousands of astronomical images come with the system, accessible with drag and drop simplicity. An incredible array of voyages can be assembled so planetarium staff can keep the presentations fresh and integrate the latest scientific discoveries. DigitalSky is revolutionizing planetariums around the world because of its power to fly in real-time through vast data sets that used to be only witnessed in research institutions. The fulfilling of Nehru Planetarium's mission to excite young people with science is realized with this amazing software.

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The NMML, in association with the National Council of Science Centres selected Sky-Skan and Young India Films, Sky-Skan's partner in India, to upgrade their planetarium machine. The changes include a new dome, sound system, and cove lighting. Sky-Skan installed and tuned a 6 channel surround sound configuration to match the exciting visual presentations.

High-efficiency Definiti LED cove lighting has been installed, providing beautiful washes of color before and after the shows. The theater uses SPICE Automation hardware and software throughout for seamless integration.

The optical star projector and digital system for multimedia imagery and real-time space flights are seamlessly integrated using DigitalSky software from Sky-Skan—operators have one set of controls for both systems. The new presentation *Chandra: A Stellar Life* was produced utilizing the planetarium's Definiti production system with the assistance of Sky-Skan production staff.

Young India Films is Sky-Skan's exclusive partner in India and brings years of experience installing planetarium and multimedia systems in the region. The Nehru Planetarium is the first project of Sky-Skan with Young India Films. A second Indian project will be completed in November 2010.

Together we are proud to be advancing the capabilities of Indian science education with the latest Definiti technology and continue the vision of Prime Minister Nehru.

### **About Sky-Skan**

In 1967, Sky-Skan began creating unique special effects projectors for planetariums. In the 1980s, SPICE Automation synchronized planetariums and giant-screen theaters. In the late 1990s, SkyVision sparked a full-dome video revolution. Today, Definiti theaters with DigitalSky 2 software present the world's most immersive real-time astronomy presentations in addition to other sciences, entertainment, and art. Definiti theaters include Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, University of Notre Dame, Horizon Planetarium in Australia, the Queen Mary 2, Beijing Planetarium (first 8K full-dome theater), 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawaii (first 3D stereoscopic planetarium), and the Macao Science Center (8K and 3D stereo).

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