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Spirituality, science partners in serving humanity: Modi

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, in India, spirituality and science have been partners in serving humanity since ages and this tradition has continued to the present era.

Modi was speaking after inaugurating India's first LED dome planetarium and a Data Analysis Training and Astronomy Resource Centre (DATARC), under the Cosmology Education and Research-Training Centre (COSMOS) project in Mysuru, on Friday.

Recalling his August 1 visit to Mysuru to launch Viveka Smaraka, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Youth Centre, Modi said, both Viveka Smaraka and the planetarium are for the future of the youth and progress of the nation. "While one aims to facilitate personality development, by inspiring the youth to understand their inner self, the planetarium and DATARC, under COSMOS, helps the youth to understand the Universe," he said.

Modi said, "Our ancient astronomers like Aryabhata, Varahamihira, Bramhagupta, Bhaskara and Nilakanta Somayaji studied the stars and planets, made calculations and gave us the most scientific calendars. Even our prediction of solar and lunar eclipses were accurate, without any technology or instruments."

"Mysuru has a great history in promoting knowledge and science. The Wadiyar Maharajas played a vital role in the establishment of educational and research institutions like University of Mysore and Indian Institute of Science, which have groomed generations of intellectuals and scientists. The planetarium is a new chapter for Mysuru," Modi said.

The LED dome planetarium and DATARC have been established on a three-acre plot of Sri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Centre for Higher Learning campus of the University of Mysore at the foot of Chamundi Hill. The Rs 116-crore project includes, Rs 5 crore MPLAD funds of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and by Union Departments of Science and Technology and Atomic Energy. It will be managed by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics.

Modi also took out a road show from Lalitha Mahal helipad to the Planetarium.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents a memento to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of LED dome planetarium and Bharat Vann urban afforestation project, in Mysuru on Friday. Governor Sudha Yadav and Chief Minister D K Shivakumar look on.