

# GalileoMobile taking modern astronomy to rural students

Staff Correspondent

**KOLAR:** As part of its global expedition to popularise modern astronomy, a team of scientists from Germany's Max Planck Institute for Astronomy visited several rural schools in Kolar district in the first week of July and interacted with students and teachers.

The six-member team led by its convener Megha Bhat held a series of demonstrations and delivered lectures. Maria, Sandra, Maitre, Philips Kobel, Pilar are the members.

Supported by UNESCO, GalileoMobile was formed during International Year of Astronomy 2009. It is a science education project aimed at bringing astronomy closer to young people in developing countries, particularly in areas that have little access to outreach programmes.

Galileo Teachers' Training Programme, Global Hands on the Universe, Office of Astronomy for Development founded by the International Astronomical Union, Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium of Bangalore are some of the prominent organisations as-



**MISSION:** *The GalileoMobile team making a presentation at a school in Kolar.*

sociated with the mission:

Named Khagol Rath or 'Astro Chariot', the team visited the Government High School at Kamadhenuhalli in Kolar taluk and Government Upgraded Higher Primary School at Kashettipalli in Srinivaspur taluk.

Ravindra of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics was among others who helped translate to Kannada the lectures of the GalileoMobile team for the benefit of students. The team donated telescopes and several books on astronomy to schools they visited.

The expedition called Khagol Rath began in Karnataka on July 2 at a school at Cheemangala in Shidlaghatta taluk in Chickballapur district. And the expedition in Karnataka will conclude at a school in Mysore on July 13.

The Galileo Mobile team's work helped rural students and teachers in many ways, V.S.S. Shastry, a prominent science communicator who coordinated the team's tour in Kolar district, told *The Hindu* on Thursday. He said the globe and telescope were among the things that the team donated to schools.