

Asia's first planetarium to open for public at NES Tilak Road

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REPORTER

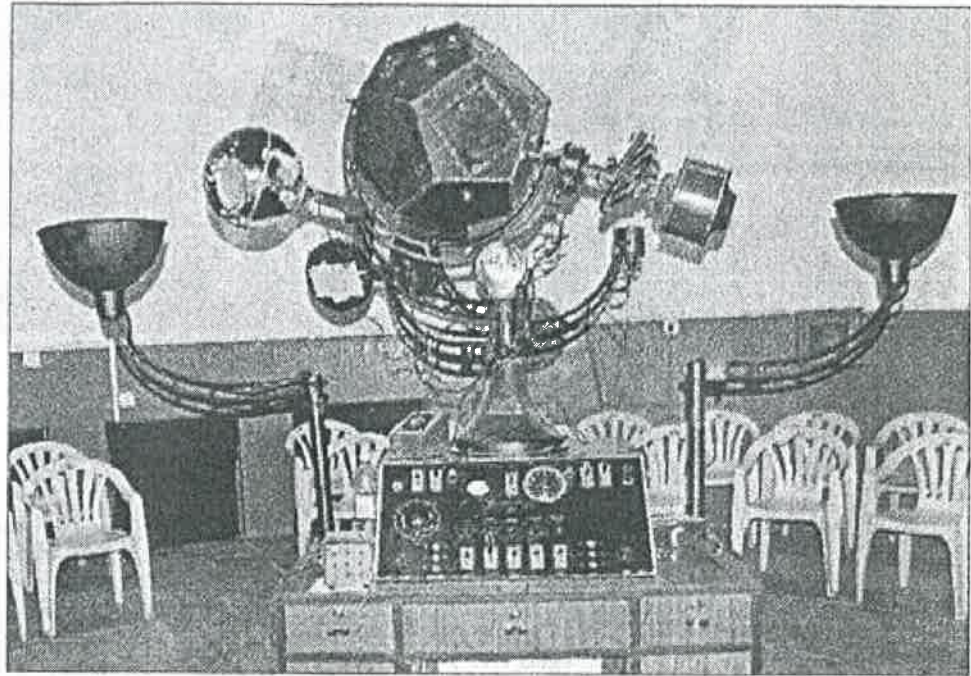
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Pune: The planetarium at the Deccan Education Society's (DES) New English School here, hailed as Asia's first, will open for the general public on the occasion of National Science Day on Tuesday.

Three shows, each of around 45-minutes duration, will be conducted using the planetarium offering an illusion of night skies, different stars, constellations and zodiac signs among other astronomical miracles.

"Our proposed shows on the National Science Day aim at attracting general public. Puneites will have a wonderful opportunity to explore and understand the universe through our planetarium," Vinayak Ramdasi, incharge of the planetarium told Sakal Times on Monday.

The planetarium, which has become functional again from April last year after being defunct for several years, has done around 75



STAR GAZING: The planetarium at the Deccan Education Society (DES)'s New English School here, hailed as Asia's first,

shows for schoolchildren since it has been brought back into action.

Installed at the dome-shaped roof of New English School in mid-1950s when the school was shifted from its earlier location near Nanawada, the planetarium was brought from USA from the charity worth around Rs 55,000 given by then Walchand Group of Industries. Named as Kusumbai Motichand Planetarium after the name of mother

of the donor, it offers views of starry skies from dusk till dawn in around 45-minutes.

One of the interesting feature of the planetarium is that it offers sky views of any location on the planet after adjustments as per respective longitudes and latitudes of place.

Tuesday's shows of planetarium, to be held from 5 pm to 9 pm, will have an entry fee of Rs 30 per show. An entry coupon can be availed by contacting on 9766450074.