

Workshop on Annular Solar Eclipse

On 26th of December 2019, an Annular Solar Eclipse is set to happen that is visible only from some parts of Tamilnadu, Kerala and Karnataka. Palakkad is at the southern edge of this annularity belt. All locations falling inside this annularity belt, will see the annular phase of the eclipse - when the Moon comes completely in front of the Sun and the maximum of the eclipse takes place. This gives a unique opportunity to conduct simple scientific experiments and celestial observation events to pique the scientific curiosity among the young minds of this locality.

In order to increase scientific awareness among the local society, IIT Palakkad along with Nehru Planetarium, New Delhi, conducted a two day workshop on 20th and 21st of September 2019 for eclipse viewing. This workshop was attended by more than 40 school students from 5 different local schools and 3 local colleges. As a part of this workshop, interesting information on astronomy and cosmology were shared among the participants. Further, a hands-on session on building a telescope for observation and measurement of these events was held. The participants of the workshop built 4 telescopes during the event.

The enthusiastic and excited participation from the local schools has led to the creation of local astronomy clubs that will spread further scientific awareness and inspire young minds.

