

Leading India to the Stars



Ujjain Planetarium



The central India city of Ujjain has been a focal point of mathematical and astronomical thought and research for over 1,000 years. A famous Ujjain mathematician, Brahmagupta is credited with first writing about the concept of zero and negative numbers, and others helped to develop trigonometry. Ancient astronomical observatories operating there over two millennia set Ujjain as the "Greenwich of India", defining the prime meridian and zero longitude in Indian geography. And astronomers have used stone instruments there to chart the motions of the planets and positions of stars for centuries.

So it is no wonder that this holy city draws not only millions of Hindu pilgrims, but also attracts those searching for knowledge in the stars. And now, as India pushes toward its goal of manned space flight by the year 2016, Ujjain will again play an important role. In support of that goal, Ujjain has created the new Ujjain Planetarium, where young and old will come together to learn about the sky, to be inspired, and to have a new appreciation of the heavens.

The leadership of the Ujjain Planetarium set forth a plan for a 12 meter planetarium with seating for 124 people. They determined that the projection equipment must give a superb and accurate view of the night sky, and that it must also be capable of showing the dynamic concepts of modern astronomy education in an exciting manner. So after examining several different technologies, their choice was for a GOTO CHRONOS II HYBRID system.

The CHRONOS II, with its sharp LED sky, fast and accurate sun, moon, and planet projectors, and 10,000,000 star Milky Way shows the sky in all its glory. And the synchronized VIRTUARIUM II full-dome video system complements this sky with educational overlays as well as full-color animations to help educate and entertain audiences. Finally, the HYBRID control console allows operators to customize live programs for students of all ages.

It is said that time flows slowly for the friendly people of Ujjain. But the pace of India's race for space is accelerating at the Ujjain Planetarium.

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