

Partial OK, kids enjoy sight

Children Flock To Nehru Planetarium, Watch On TV & Net

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TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The longest annular solar eclipse that occurred after 106 years on Friday had the children in the city really excited. No wonder then that school teams and families visited Nehru Planetarium to see the moon shadowing the sun. Others watched it live on TV or simply enjoyed the breathtaking view of the Bailey's Beads on webcast from Varkala in Kerala.

Tanvi Chopra, a student of class VI from Salwan Public School, was elated to see the eclipse for the first time. "We had only seen the diagrams of a solar eclipse in our textbooks. But seeing it with the special goggles was a different experience altogether. The whole process became more clear," she said. The Amateur Astronomers Association (AAA) in the city and S.P.A.C.E, an organization promoting education in astronomy, had set



HEAVENLY SIGHT: Children got special spectacles to watch the eclipse at Nehru Planetarium in New Delhi on Friday

up telescopes to organize public watching of the eclipse at the planetarium.

Some children even stayed back to see the entire process starting 11.15am till 3pm. Twelve-year-old Ananya Sharma, an enthusiast who had come to the planetarium as part of AAA, said, "Though

we could see only 53% eclipse in the city, it was still amazing. If you see the sunlight falling on the ground during an eclipse, it appears in a semi-circle. An eclipse as long as this one is not going to come for another one thousand years." Children clicked away zealously to capture the

perfect view. Mayank from Salwan Public School said, "Most of us had brought our cameras along. I must have taken around 100 shots before I could get the perfect shot of the moon cutting the sun. Now I can show the eclipse to my family back home."

Some parents were also as excited as their children. They had brought the children to the planetarium after school for a day out. And they were prepared for the big celestial event — equipped with devices like cardboard boxes and special glasses.

Said Razia Ejaz from R K Puram, "I make sure to witness every solar eclipse. It's such a beautiful sight to watch the eclipse after taking all precautions. It's not harmful at all. I was expecting my daughter when I came to see the last solar eclipse and she turned out absolutely fine."

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