Astronomy Club Workshop- 7

The seventh session of the Astronomy Club for Classes VI to IX was an insightful and interactive workshop that beautifully combined observation, experimentation, and creativity. It aimed to deepen students' understanding of directions, time, and Earth's measurements through engaging, hands-on learning experiences.

The session commenced with an introduction to reference and cardinal directions, highlighting various techniques to determine them using a gnomon and the Sun. Students enthusiastically conducted simple yet meaningful experiments, including the recreation of Eratosthenes' famous experiment to estimate the Earth's circumference. Through Project Paridhi, they discovered how complex scientific ideas can be simplified and made accessible through real-world applications.

The workshop also explored the concept of time as a physical quantity, helping students distinguish between local time and Indian Standard Time (IST). Using sundials, they practically observed how the Sun's movement affects timekeeping and applied the Equation of Time to determine IST. Students designed their own sundials, learning about their history, working principles, and mathematical significance.

The highly interactive nature of the workshop encouraged critical thinking, teamwork, and curiosity. By connecting ancient astronomical techniques with modern scientific understanding, the session successfully inspired students to appreciate the scientific relationship between the Earth and the Sun, emphasising that observation and experimentation remain at the heart of astronomy.