

Students replicate ‘astronomical’ experiment

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Students from Chennai participated in a science experiment conducted by SPACE Chennai as a part of its Project Paridhi



Greek astronomer Eratosthenes

Chennai: Over 130 school students from the city participated in a field science experiment to replicate measuring the circumference of the earth done by Greek astronomer Eratosthenes 2,300 years back on the Vernal Equinox day on March 20 and March 21. The event was conducted by SPACE Chennai as a part of its Project Paridhi.

Students were seen marking the shadow of the sun using Gnomon (astronomical measuring instrument) as a vertical object to find the shortest shadow, measuring the sun angle and using simple mathematics to calculate the circumference of the earth. The March equinox occurs the moment when the Sun crosses the celestial equator, the imaginary line in the sky above the Earth’s equator, from north to south. On the equinox, night and day are exactly the same length – 12 hours – all over the world.