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IIT-I working on telescope for NASA's project

To Be Part Of Mission To Probe Formation Of Universe

Ashish Gaur | TNN

Indore: A radio telescope being built by faculty of Indian Institute of Technology, Indore (IIT-I) will be part of NASA project to probe formation of the universe in years to come. The telescope will help understand the fluid dynamics at extreme and improve communication technology than ever before. Perhaps one of the ambitious projects of the institute on which no other technical institute has worked before.

A dedicated team of six-member of the premier technology institute is busy working on the prototype of the telescope, the Rs-6 crore project fully funded by the IIT-I. The telescope will be inaugurated by Union minister of state for human resources Shashi Tharoor in August 2013. Later, advanced prototype of the telescope will be installed at Ladakh, which will be part of



AN EYE FOR CURIOSITY

NASA's project to probe the universe.

Professor Peter Timbie of University of Wisconsin-Madison visited the IIT-I in March this year to discuss the project. He is also working on a long-term NASA project—design, construction and commissioning of next-gen satellite to probe the origins of the cosmos.

The experimental astrophysics project is meant to develop high range telescope that could also find objects that are fainter and farther

away. Siddhartha Savyasachi Malu, leader of the project, said, "The technology we are building will not only help in communication technology, but also improve radio signal transmission and receiver. Even top astrophysics institute does not invest in such projects. We are thankful to the director, who has taken this step and has shown faith in the team." Malu has refused the top jobs in the US after completing Masters from University of Oxford and Doctorate from University of Wisconsin-Madison to prove that India leads in the sector. He is assisted by Sarfraz Qureshi and Pritpal Kaur Sandhu.

The project is interdisciplinary and other faculty members are also assisting to look after other aspects. Along with Malu, I A Palani, M Anabarsu and Pankaj Sachdeva are working on development of new and more sensitive signal detector.

Unique telescope to adorn Dongla observatory

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ujjain: Astronomical study would become more easy and accurate as a 20-inch aperture telescope, the only of its kind in Madhya Pradesh, is being installed at newly-developed Dongla observatory in Ujjain district. The powerful optical telescope can scan our galaxy (milky way) and other galaxies to elicit data, said astrophysics professor Gopal Upadhyay, who is associated with the project.

State chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is scheduled to dedicate the facility ceremonially on Tuesday.

The professor said the telescope could make available insight into large scale structure of universe and online observations will record celestial phenomena such as supernovae explosions. The telescope has motorized focus facility with

German equatorial mount and CCD imager. It is being installed on 12 metre high pier to avoid degradation of seeing due to convection.

The spot, where the telescope is being installed, is significant as the tropic of cancer passes from there. On June 21 every year at 12 noon, shadow of vertical object vanishes when the sun comes exactly perpendicular. The spot was first searched and studied by noted archaeologist late Padmashree Vishnu Shreedhar Vakankar after which the place was developed as observatory. MP Council for Science & Technology (MPCST) roped in to promote Dongla on world astronomic map. Senior RSS functionary Suresh Soni, who was the man behind the facility, said that setting up of telescope would attract more astronomical experts towards Dongla.