

IUCAA scientists will study UV rays' radiation

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Pune: Causes for variations in radiation of ultraviolet rays will now be studied by the scientists at the city-based Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) in association with the Max Planck Institute for solar system research, Gottingen, Germany.

Since UV rays are harmful to human beings causing acute and chronic problems, scientists feel that it was important to find out its main source and behaviour.

The study will be carried out through solar ultraviolet imaging telescope (SUIT), which is presently under construction by IUCAA. Sami Solanki, director of the Germany-based institute, told TOI during an interaction on Monday about the joint project and how crucial it was to resolve the source of UV rays from the sun's disc.

SUIT will be part of 'Aditya' satellite, which is a mission to sun. Solanki said, "We all know how UV rays are harmful to human beings and they often become a cause of skin cancer. The aim of the project is to study

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DIRECTOR, MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE

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SUIT will study the changes in radiation that take place in the sun's atmosphere and find out the exact source. The aim will also be to find out when the radiation increases or reduces in order to carry out further research.

“UV radiation is very un-

healthy. Luckily, most of the UV radiation is blocked by the earth's atmosphere. But sometimes, depending on how strong the radiation is, the UV rays get absorbed in the earth's shield, thereby changing the dynamics of the earth's atmosphere which causes harm to human beings. At present, scientists across the world are unsure about the behaviour of UV radiation. This study through SUIT will try and resolve this problem and will be a big advance in solar study,” Solanki said.

Solanki also said the 'Aditya' satellite aims to study the deficiencies and lack of solar satellites launched by other countries. It will study the fiery solar corona, the sun's outermost region and the crucial physical parameters for space weather such as coronal magnetic field structures and evolution of coronal magnetic field among others.

Solanki has been deeply involved with several space missions targeting solar magnetism and activity. He will be delivering a public lecture at IUCAA on Tuesday on 'exploring our fiery star - the sun', at 6.30 pm at the Chandrashekhar auditorium.