

Team of city scientists on SKA panel

ST CORRESPONDENT
reporters@sakaaltimes.com

Pune: A team of scientists from Pune will be a part of the panel that will design the world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope on earth, Square Kilometer Array (SKA).

India has formally joined a group of 10 countries as an associate member for design-

ing SKA. The Pune scientists from National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) and Tata Research Development and Design Centre (TRDDC), have started working on the project design from Wednesday.

The main task of the Pune team of scientists will be to prepare the Telescope Manager, one of the 10 crucial components of SKA.

SKA, with a sensitivity 50 times more than of the existing telescopes, will be co-located in South Africa and Australia.

"This is a dream project which every scientist will like to see built. SKA will help scientists study objects in minute detail and discover unknown objects," said project leader of the Pune team and NCRA scientist

Yashwant Gupta. He was interacting with the media at NCRA on Wednesday. Gupta added that the telescope will be built to meet certain scientific goals. SKA will help in determining the stages in evolution of the universe, understanding concepts of physics like the law of gravity etc, explained Gupta.

Gupta said that NCRA-TIFR will use their experi-

ence and expertise in building, operating and maintaining the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) at Khodad and that the design stage for the telescope will be completed by the end of 2017.

A United Kingdom-based scientist involved in the SKA project, Tim Cornwell, said that the design stage of SKA project will roughly cost 100 million euros.



INITIATIVE:

(L-R) Yashwant Gupta, NCRA scientist, Alan Bridge, Science and Technology Facilities Council, UK and Tim Cornwell, British scientist, at a press conference in city on Wednesday.