

Coming together of science and art

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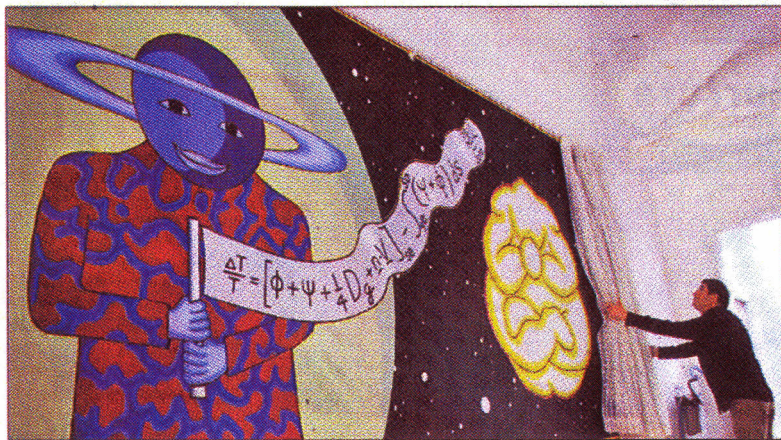
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Pune: As part of the Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics' (IUCAA) ongoing efforts to bring about an amalgamation between science and art, director of IUCAA Ajit Kembhavi on Wednesday unveiled the fresco 'Saturn Meets White Dwarf' created by Swiss painters Martin Zimmermann and Theodor Scharer.

Elaborating on the idea behind their creation, Zimmerman and Scharer said the fresco showcased the planet Saturn connecting the past, present and the future through the cosmic microwave formula. "The planet Saturn with its rings is symbolic of the solar system, the White Dwarf represents the future or the final evolutionary state of all stars," he said.

While the work of making sketches for the fresco had commenced sometime back, both artists said they kept improvising "as we did not really know the dimensions of the wall we were to paint." Once here, it took them around a week's hardwork to put together the watercolour fresco with its three-dimensional effect.

This is Zimmermann's second fres-



Swiss painter Martin Zimmermann adjusts the curtain of his fresco titled 'Saturn Meets White Dwarf' on a wall of the Bhaskara building at the IUCAA after it was unveiled on Wednesday

co at IUCAA — the first being 'Across the Universe', which he created in 2008. Incidentally, Zimmermann's wife is noted cosmologist Ruth Durrer, who works at the University of Geneva. It was through her that Zimmermann was in-

troduced to the IUCAA.

Pointing to a star on the fresco, Zimmermann said that it was dedicated to his friend — the late poet and artist Dilip Chitre — who passed away recently. "He was a dear friend and a very fine man."