

'Radio waves can offer answers about extraterrestrial intelligence'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, 03 TO DEC 25

THE ON-SITE construction of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), the world's largest radio telescope, is all set to commence in early 2021.

India is one of the member countries besides South Africa, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and others, who are together building the SKA, proposed to be completed in two phases. The antenna for the largest radio telescope will be built in South Africa and Australia.

"With the approval of various designs expected to be completed by 2020, the construction of the first stage of SKA will commence in early 2021. It is expected to be over by 2025 or 2027," said Yashwanth Gupta, director, National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA).

It was a part of the sixth edition of the Homi Bhabha Memorial lectures, organized by the Indian Institute of Science,



The lecture was organized by the Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research, Pune on Friday.

Education and Research (IISER), Pune on Friday.

Sharing insights into the future of radio astronomy, Gupta said, "The data that SKA could gather would be far more than the whole of the existing internet traffic that is generated currently."

This essentially means that the scientific community will re-

quire much more advanced tools, software and bigger telescopes to work with.

He said, "In order to observe the farthest and the faintest celestial objects, many of which go undetected now, we will need much bigger telescopes like SKA." In fact, the radio waves could possibly lead to detecting extraterrestrial intelligence.

"Though at IISER, we are not presently working on Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI), there are some preliminary-level talks going on with some of our collaborators. But, it would be the radio waves that would be offering some clues about SETI," said Gupta.

Beyond all the present technological limitations and other barriers in observing celestial bodies, the pertinent and growing challenge, however, remains the noise or interference created by signals emitted by cellular towers. As radio signals are extremely weak, such noise could disturb the detection of signals coming from extremely far off celestial objects. Essentially, researchers will need to establish telescopes where human population is sparse.

Shedding further light on the subject, the NCRA director said, "At the South African site of SKA, the data collected by the antennas will be transmitted via optical fibre cables to a central station located about 800 km away in Cape Town."



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THE IDEAS PAGE

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VBA may have spoiled chances of Cong-NCP candidates in 22 seats

MANU JAYDEE ANURADHA MASARENHAS
PUNE, OCTOBER 25

THE VBA, at least once again, the Pradesh Anti-Corruption Vachak Bahincha Akhara (VBA) could have wrecked the prospects of the Congress-NCP alliance in 22 seats in the assembly elections, just as it had spoiled the alliance's chances in several seats in the Lok Sabha polls this year.

Of the 22, Congress was co-opted 17 and the NCP was in the VBA itself contested 200 seats across the state, but failed to win

SOME OF THE SEATS WHERE VBA CANDIDATES MAY HAVE CHANGED THE GAME

- In Khajurwar seat, BJP candidate Anshu Pathak secured 9510 votes while Congress candidate P P Patil managed 7,464 votes. Congress candidate lost by around 1200 votes but VBA candidate here contested up 25,839 votes. Though the VBA candidate was nowhere in the picture, his presence sealed the fate of Congress candidate.**
- In Akola West, BJP candidate GM Sharma polled 72,838 votes while Congress candidate Sgdhban secured 76,416 votes. The difference was barely 2,600 votes but the VBA candidate here polled 26,363 votes.**
- In Jalgaon seat, BJP candidate got 72,271 votes while VBA candidate managed a whopping 35,533 votes.**
- In Shivajinagar seat of Pune district, Siddharth Shinde of BJP secured 53,806 votes while the Bharat of the Congress managed 53,480 votes. The winning margin was over 6,000 votes and the VBA candidate Anil Karhade secured 10,442 votes.**
- In Pune constituency seat, BJP candidate Smitl Karhade won the 15,000 vote while Congress Pune city president and party candidate Ramesh Hegde managed 46,286 votes. VBA candidate Laxman**

A health warning

India's top government officials face health risks

DR. RAJESH KUMAR

As the world's largest democracy, India has a unique challenge of maintaining the health of its top government officials. The health of these officials is not just a personal matter but a national one. The health of the Prime Minister and other top officials is a matter of national security. The health of these officials is a matter of national security. The health of these officials is a matter of national security.

Just 15% of Indians with foreign medical degrees clear test here

Medical Council of India (MCI) has announced the results of the Foreign Medical Graduates Examination (FMGE) for the first time in 10 years. The results show that only 15% of the candidates who appeared for the exam cleared it. The MCI has announced that the results of the FMGE for the first time in 10 years. The results show that only 15% of the candidates who appeared for the exam cleared it.

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