

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

By Ashwin Khan, Pune Mirror | Updated: Jun 24, 2018, 10.22 AM IST



Learn all about stars, planets and giant black holes at a talk today by a well-known city-based scientist.

Space science fascinates Yogesh Wadadekar, who specialises in identifying and understanding the physical properties of distant hidden galaxies. Wadadekar, a professor at the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA), hopes to engage an audience of science enthusiasts and share his passion for the subject of space exploration.

Wadadekar's talk titled 'The Multicolour Universe' deals with how astronomers can use telescopes in space and on the ground to discover galaxies, study colossal black holes, and distinguish the properties of stars and planets. The talk will further clarify how heavenly bodies can now be observed by astronomers in different wavelength bands.



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The talk, says Wadadekar, is designed for seventh to tenth standard students. However, it is open to anybody interested in science. "I am obviously not going to delve too deep into the subject. That would require an advanced understanding of physics and mathematics," says Wadadekar. What he hopes to achieve is simplify scientific knowledge to make it accessible. The trick is to connect scientific knowledge with something that people can relate to," he says. For example, it would be possible to track Elon Musk's Tesla Roadster thousands of years from now, says Wadadekar.

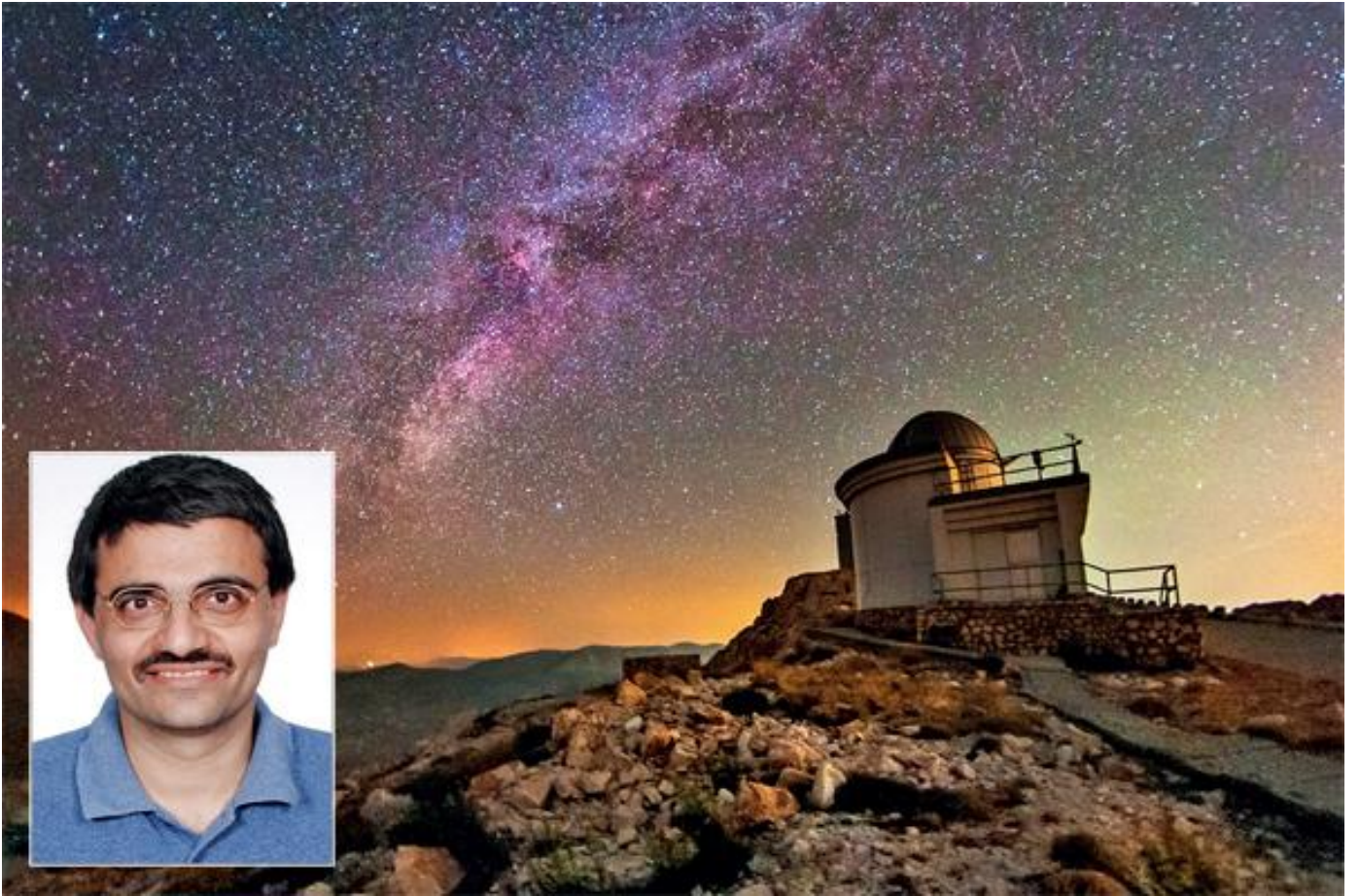
It was reported that the Roadster is headed towards the asteroid belt, which is positioned between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. "You can take a picture of the asteroid belt and distinguish Elon's car from the asteroids through its colour," he explains. Given that there are 100 billion galaxies out there, Wadadekar is deeply invested in exploring them. He has carried out extensive research on galaxy formation and evolution.

Three years ago, he led a project to discover a giant radio galaxy (a galaxy that emits radiation in the radio-frequency range of the electromagnetic spectrum). The scientist, who was a postdoctoral fellow at the Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris between 2001 to 2002, also has a postdoctoral degree from the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore.

Wadadekar's enthusiasm for space exploration is infectious. "Exploring the unknown in space is akin to how explorers went about discovering new lands," says Wadadekar, who has worked as an astronomical software scientist for the Sloan Digital Sky Survey at Princeton University in the US.

Those who wish to attend the talk must register at www.excitingscience.org. Seats are available on first-come-first-serve basis.

WHERE: New Lecture Hall, Smt Indrani Balan Science Activity Centre, IISER, Pashan **WHEN:** June 24, 10 am to 11.15 am **ENTRY:** Free



Wadadekar will talk about how telescopes in space like the Hubble Space Telescope and on the ground aid in scientific research among other topics

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