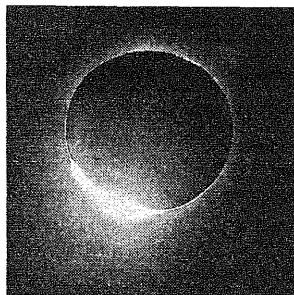


Solar eclipse will only be partially visible in State

Staff Reporter

BANGALORE: Scientists and astronomy enthusiasts are excitedly gearing up to witness what will be the longest solar eclipse of this century. However, the fact that this event — forecast to occur between 6.20 a.m. and 7.17 a.m. on Wednesday — will only be “partially visible” in Karnataka, the Department of Meteorology said.

In Bangalore, the eclipse will be further veiled by possibly cloudy skies and near-dawn timing of the eclipse. Scientists of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) are making their way to China to study the glowing solar corona, and teams from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will be training their gaze on the earth atmosphere. “We will be conducting observations in four



Near-dawn timing and cloudy skies may mar the view of the eclipse in Bangalore.

stations in India to see if there any changes in humidity, pressure, wind direction and wind speed during the eclipse,” said S. Satish, Director of Public Relations, ISRO.

Weather balloons

Radiosonde instruments will be launched using weath-

er balloons into the lower, middle and upper atmosphere at observatories in Dehra Dun, Shillong, Varanasi and Dibrugarh, he added. “The instruments will measure these atmospheric parameters, before, during and after the eclipse to see if there are any changes.

Scientists are also looking at this event as an opportunity to dispel superstitions associated with eclipses. The IIA will hold a public awareness programme at Lal Bagh on Wednesday morning between 5.30 a.m. and 7 a.m. where they will educate the public about the science behind the eclipse. “We will persuade the public not to fast on the day and explain the phenomenon,” said Ebenezer, scientist at IIA. He added that filters such as the Mylar filter are essential while viewing the eclipse after 6.30 a.m.