Centenary of Evershed Effect

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NIAS director Dr K Kasturirangan (centre) releasing a brochure during the inauguration of the conference in Bangalore on Tuesday. (L to R) IIA Director Prof S S Hasan, and Scientific Organising Committee Co-Chairman Prof E R Priest are also seen.

DH News Service

Bangalore: The Indian Institute of Astrophysics held a conference on Tuesday to mark the one hundred years of the discovery of the 'Evershed Effect' in 1909, at the Kodaikanal Observatory. This is one of the major findings made in solar physics from Indian soil.

A seminar,'Magnetic Coupling between the Interior Atmosphere of the Sun' was held.

The seminar had a focus on the critical issues pertaining to the solar magnetism and the various magneto-hydrodynamic processes in the solar atmosphere, and the current status of magnetic field measurements and their implications for recent theoretical studies.

Inaugurating the conference, Dr K Kasturirangan, Director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies said that the event has highlighted major solar discoveries made from the Indian soil in the 19th and 20th centuries.

"Solar physics in India is going through a period of renaissance with upcoming and proposed facilities for observations. Increased research using ground-based and space-borne instruments is needed for an astrosat mission," Kasturirangan added.

A special commemorative stamp and first day cover were released by M P Rajan, Chief Postmaster General, (Karnataka Circle) on the 'Evershed Effect'.

What it is

The discovery of the Evershed Effect is the first astrophysical observation of interaction between plasma and magnetic field, and has played an important role in our understanding of the physical properties of sunspots and the evolution of solar activity.

John Evershed obtained spectra of a sunspot on January 5 and January 7, 1909, in order to determine the gas pressure in the sunspots.

Deccan Herald, Wednesday, December 3, 2008, pp. 7