

VISIT TO KODAIKANAL SOLAR OBSERVATORY

India is one of the leading countries in the pursuit of knowledge in the field of Solar Physics and a great deal of manpower and technical expertise is being thrown into the same. It is not only important to gain a deeper understanding of the star we live with but also to know how exactly it is important to the various day to day issues of life. With this perspective and thought a group of interested students of Physical sciences were taken by the Department of Physics for under graduate studies to the Solar Observatory of Kodaikanal owned and operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics on 7th July 2012. We are highly obliged to thank Dr. Ramesh K.B for organizing the visit and also for an informative lecture after the visit.

The Kodaikanal Solar observatory, situated at an altitude of 2343 meters, was found in 1899 and the first observations were commenced in 1901. In 1909, John Evershed, from his observations made from this observatory, discovered the phenomenon of radial motion of gases in sun spots, the earliest successful observation of velocity fields due to a complex magneto-hydro dynamical process in action in a celestial setting. Through Evershed's work Kodaikanal became known as one of the premier solar observatories in the world. Students were so fascinated to see the first telescope ever used in the observatory. We were also able to see the Solar Tunnel Telescope. The major attraction of the visit was that we were allowed to view the live images of the Sunspots from the Twin Telescope. Also, we were able to visit and understand the working of WARM telescope which is the brainchild of Dr. Ramesh himself, who was kind enough to accompany and explain to us the working of all the facilities. Later we also had a lecture on the recent trends and discoveries in Solar Physics and its various implications in the different fields by Dr.Ramesh. As a perfect ending to the trip we were able to see the double rainbow while coming back in the evening sky which is a rarity.



Solar Twin Telescope



Solar Tunnel Telescope



WARM Telescope



The whole team in the Solar Observatory



The first solar telescope used in the observatory



A lecture by Dr. Ramesh