

senior or junior scientists, is talking about studies they can now propose,” adds Bhalerao, who is excited about studying neutron stars from India without having to wait for international support. Bhalerao has been studying these stellar objects using high-energy X-ray wavelengths with NASA’s Nuclear Spectroscopic Array (NuSTAR) at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, and is looking forward to extending that study to the lower-energy X-ray and ultraviolet bands that will be available through ASTROSAT.

With five instruments, or ‘payloads’, tuned to detect different types of light, ASTROSAT will observe a wider variety of wavelengths than most other satellites, from visible light to the ultraviolet and X-ray bands. Mylswamy Annadurai, director of the Indian Space Research Organisation’s Satellite Centre in Bangalore, calls this “the strength and uniqueness of ASTROSAT”. Black holes, galaxy clusters and other celestial objects can blaze with different wavelengths as different events occur. “When all payloads are combined, ASTROSAT gives a coverage which no other observatory has achieved till now,” he says.

For some researchers, the satellite’s X-ray detection capability will fill the gap left when NASA’s Rossi X-ray Timing Explorer satellite died in 2012, after 16 years of operations. Like Rossi, ASTROSAT will look regularly at large

areas of the sky, enabling it to track simultaneously a large number of X-ray sources that change with time, says Randall Smith, an astronomer at the Harvard–Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts. By contrast, the X-ray telescopes currently in space generally focus on studying individual objects in great detail.

ASTROSAT’s X-ray detectors can also cope with very bright objects that would saturate those on other satellites such as NASA’s

Chandra X-ray Observatory or ESA’s X-ray Multi-Mirror (XXM-Newton) mission. According to Andrew Fabian at the University of Cambridge’s Institute of Astronomy in the United Kingdom, this capability will make ASTROSAT “invaluable” for alerting the international community to short-lived bursts of X-rays — a key indicator that something new is happening in space. ■

*Additional reporting by Alexandra Witze.*

#### CORRECTIONS

The Editorial ‘Too close for comfort?’ (*Nature* **525**, 289; 2015) incorrectly stated: “In his defence, Folta argued that the money supported only travel and outreach, not research, and he was therefore under no obligation to disclose it”. Folta did not say this. He said that he had complied with his university’s disclosure rules. The News Feature ‘Why interdisciplinary research matters’ (*Nature* **525**, 305; 2015) incorrectly affiliated Rebekah Brown with Monash University’s Water for Liveability centre — she is director of the Monash Sustainability Institute. The News story ‘Africa braced for snakebite crisis’ (*Nature* **525**, 299; 2015) wrongly described snakes

as ‘poisonous’ instead of ‘venomous’. And the News Feature ‘Team science’ (*Nature* **525**, 308–311; 2015) gave the wrong authors for the report *Evaluating Interdisciplinary Research*. It was written by Veronica Strang and Tom McLeish.

#### CLARIFICATION

The Editorial ‘Protection priority’ (*Nature* **525**, 290; 2015) made reference to the fact that the mice in the experiments showed no visible sign of distress. That statement referred only to the animals for which the data were not withdrawn. The committee did not comment on whether or not the animals in the withdrawn experiments showed distress.