



Light pollution rising rapidly worldwide

TOO BRIGHT

Berlin: Artificial lighting at night is contributing to an alarming increase in light pollution, both in amount and in brightness, affecting places all over the world, including India, a study has found.

Municipalities, enterprises, and households are switching to LED lights in order to save energy. However, these savings might be lost if their neighbours install new or brighter lamps, researchers said.

Scientists fear that this 'rebound effect' might partially or totally cancel out the savings of individual lighting retrofit projects, and make skies over cities considerably brighter.

An international study led by Christopher Kyba from the GFZ German Research Centre for Geoscience lends proof to this hypothesis.

According to the study published in the journal *Science Advances*, the artificially lit surface of Earth at night increased in radiance and extent over the past four years by two per cent annually. The scientists used data from the first-ever calibrated satellite radiometer designed especially for night-lights.