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# Clarification

With reference to the news, "Accessing GMRT archives now just a click away" (TOI, Sept 1, 2010), Ajit Kembhavi, director, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), has clarified that the statement that the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) is a joint collaborative initiative of the IUCAA and the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) is incorrect.

The GMRT was proposed by Professor Govind Swarup, FRS, of the Radio Astronomy Group of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai. The academic centre for all activities related to the telescope has been the NCRA on the University of Pune (UoP) campus since 1987. IUCAA was set up on the UoP campus in December 1988, Kembhavi has said.

"NCRA and IUCAA are neighbours on the UoP campus and productively collaborate together on various scientific and technical projects, but IUCAA has not been involved in the setting up, maintenance or operations of the GMRT," Kembhavi has said.

He has added that the Virtual Observatory-India project has worked with the scientists from NCRA to develop archives for GMRT data. This data is meant for scientific investigations and requires highly developed skills for its analysis. The data is not of general interest to the public.