

# Scientists gather proof against Big Bang in older stars

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A GROUP of four astrophysicists from Pune, Europe and Australia, is banking on a group of stars just beyond our Milky Way galaxy to strengthen their arguments against the Big Bang theory.

Well-known astrophysicist Jayant Narlikar, Vijay Mohan of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune and Ferdinando Patat and Ken

Freeman have found a cluster of about 50 stars that roughly 20 billion years —ld - Big Bang is said to have occurred about 13.7 billion years —ack - which they say is proof that the universe existed before the Big Bang.

Narlikar has been working on the project for two years. The idea of trying to find evidence to disprove the theory came to Narlikar after he met Patat who is from Italy and works with the European Southern Observatory (ESO) in Germany, a few years back. "I went there



JAYANT NARLIKAR

(ESO) to talk about my views against the Big Bang theory. There I met Patat who shared his views with me and we began to study the theory," said Narlikar.

Narlikar and his group say the cluster of stars they found are almost 20 billion years old. "If they are that old, the theory that the solar system was formed only after the Big Bang does not hold," added Narlikar.

The group has been using the space telescope and archival data from the Hubble observa-

tory and another observatory in Chile. "The stars at the moment are at the red giant stage. We reached the conclusion the stars were that old from their colour and the way in which they have been emitting energy. The mass of these stars is about 0.7 times that of sun," elaborated Narlikar.

The group is planning to publish their paper in an international journal. "The group against the big bang theory is miniscule. However, evidence we gathered should be enough

to prove what we are trying to say. A galaxy as big as ours cannot be formed only from one incident like the Big Bang. It needs a series of events and these stars prove just that," added Narlikar.

He revealed this at the science day celebration at the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT), which saw a footfall of almost 15,000 people. Different institutes from across Maharashtra put up stalls displaying various science experiments.

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