

Kembhavi is new director of Iucaa

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: Professor Ajit K Kembhavi will be the new director of the Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (Iucaa). He will take charge of this world-renowned research institute on September 1, following the superannuation of the incumbent director Prof Naresh Dadhich on August 31.



Ajit Kembhavi

The University Grants Commission (UGC), which established the Iucaa on the campus of the University of Pune (UoP) to promote high-end research in astronomy and astro-

physics, had appointed a multi-member search committee under the chairmanship of Atomic Energy Commission chief Anil Kakodkar, which selected Kembhavi.

Kembhavi will be the third director of Iucaa, following in the footsteps of renowned astrophysicist and founder director Prof Jayant Narlikar and Dadhich. Presently, Kembhavi is on an official tour of France and is expected to return to Pune on June 5.

Kembhavi is currently holding the charge as a distinguished professor and dean for visitor academic programmes at the Iucaa. He is one of the founding members of the organisation. Prior to the appointment, he was with the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai where he got his Ph.D. with Prof Narlikar. Kembhavi has also been a post-doctoral fellow at the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge, England.

Kembhavi's interests are in galaxies, high energy astrophysics, quasars, etc. He leads the Virtual Observatory-India Project and is deeply involved in developing astronomical research in universities and colleges in India. He is also the chairman of various UGC committees which look after the UGC-Infonet, which brings the benefits of information and communication technology to all the universities in India.