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I was among the first batch of users of GMRT in 1999, who later on completed their thesis mainly using the GMRT observations. I came from RRI and was locally supervised by JNC in NCRA. There was a lot of excitement among us, mostly young faculty members and students, in using the GMRT. The nights in the NCRA computer room used to be as busy as in the day. I recall that there was one central printer and all images coming from AIPS in personal desktops were directed to that printer and obviously those images always went through our eyes. We used to share our experience on GMRT imaging and issues very openly. I very much enjoyed my time at NCRA and the early days of GMRT operations. Many nice memories of the GMRT campus including mandatory encounters with scorpions and occasionally with leopards. I just share one incident when I, as a part of the group from RRI, came for HI observations in 2000. In the middle of the observations we were told that the operation has to shut down as air-conditioning in the correlator room is going to stop because someone forgot to fill water for the cooling towers. We decided to go to the pump house against the advice of security persons who feared that leopards would be seen there at night. The water was filled up and observations carried out successfully. Well!!! not quite successfully as it was found later that the intended central frequency of the observing band was falling at the beginning of the band as the GMRT frequency reference used to be at the first channel and not at the center of the band. Despite all these challenges, I see GMRT as the most successful astronomy project in India and I feel delighted that I was among the first ones who completed PhD using this wonderful machine.