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## GREETINGS TO NCRA – CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE GMRT

Today – 4th October 2021! Exactly 20 years back, the GMRT facility was formally inaugurated and dedicated to the global community of Astronomers for the study of galactic bodies in the universe. I am pleased to know that NCRA is celebrating today this milestone of GMRT journey. Thanks to NCRA for their invitation for attending this celebration. Over the years, GMRT has carved itself in the regime of radio astronomy by making some of the most remarkable observations and explored many mysteries hidden in the dark sky. Last year, IEEE recognised the global impact of GMRT, with users from more than 40 countries worldwide and acknowledged that it was designed and built entirely in India, with some of the most innovative and brilliant ideas. It's a marvellous achievement of NCRA-TIFR. It's a proud moment for me to be present and witness this wonderful celebration. I was actively involved in the mechanical design and selection of the drive elements including axes bearings, gearboxes for the GMRT antenna, at Tata Consulting Engineers Limited, Mumbai. I remember my several discussions during the design stage with Prof Govind Swarup, the man behind the GMRT and the Project Manager Mr S C Tapde. Recalling their dedicated efforts and great contribution in building the GMRT would be the true tribute to them on this occasion. GMRT is an important asset in our quest to explore this universe. Astronomers worldwide regularly use this facility to observe different astronomical objects. It is expected to unveil some of the deeper mysteries of the universe in the future. Congratulations to NCRA-TIFR for upkeep and maintaining the GMRT on regular basis for its operations and use round the clock to the astronomers. Wishing NCRA-TIFR and the global Astronomy community all the Best for their endeavours for valuable discoveries in Astronomy for many more years to come using this Wonderful Facility of International Importance - GMRT.