



Event Brochure

Pune FOSS User Group

Event:

National Science Day 2026

Organised By:

Giant Meterwave Radio Telescope
National Centre for Radio Astrophysics
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Pune

28th February - 01st March, 2026

National Science Day

February 28th is celebrated throughout India as National Science Day. This marks the discovery of the Raman Effect by C. V. Raman for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930. National Science Day. National Centre for Radio Astrophysics - Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Pune (NCRA-TIFR) celebrates Science Day by organising one of the biggest science festivals in the country on February 28 and 29, or February 28 and March 1, at its Giant Meterwave Radio Telescope (GMRT) campus in Khodad.

Giant Meterwave Radio Telescope (GMRT)

National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA), a center of the school of natural sciences of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India has set up a unique facility for radio astronomical research using the metre wavelengths range of the radio spectrum, known as the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT). It is the world's largest Radio telescope of its kind. It is located at a site about 80 km north of Pune. GMRT consists of 30 fully steerable gigantic parabolic dishes of 45m diameter each spread over distances of upto 25 km. GMRT is one of the most challenging experimental programmes in basic sciences undertaken by Indian scientists and engineers. GMRT is a very versatile instrument for investigating a variety of radio astrophysical problems ranging from nearby Solar system to the edge of observable Universe.

Science Day at GMRT

Every year GMRT has been organizing Science exhibition on the occasion of National Science Day (28th February). It is organized for two days. The first day i.e 28th February is the inauguration day and the following day is closure and prize distribution ceremony. GMRT has been organizing this event since the last 19-20 years and it has been recognized as one of the biggest Science fairs in the country. This Science festival attracts around 20,000 to 25000 visitors, including students from various schools (5th to 10th grade), colleges (BSc, MSc, Engineering), teachers, software professionals, major science research organisations, scientists and research scholars throughout the state/country.

Every year the government organizations like National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), National Institute of Virology (NIV), National Centre for Cell Sciences (NCCS), National Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), Pune, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO, SAC), Ahmedabad, Institute of Plasma Research, Gandhinagar, TIFR Balloon Facility Hyderabad as well as non-profit organisations like Pune FOSS User Group, Free Software Community of India, Debian India, Mozilla India 20 other organizations participate in the GMRT Science Exhibition.

Pune FOSS User Group

Pune FOSS User Group has been actively promoting Free and OpenSource Software for more than last 10 years. The group is a collective effort of Free Software users, advocates and developers. We collaborate, do the communication and maintain infrastructure for everyone that respects their freedom and privacy. During the Science Day on 28th Feb, to be organised in GMRT, our effort is to promote the importance of FOSS among the students, software professionals, and researchers and to show them how they can use OpenSource in their day-to-day life.

What we will do at Science Day

The Pune FOSS User Group (PFUG) wants to use this opportunity (by setting its stall) to showcase the importance of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) and its use in everyday life. We intent to promote FOSS such as Debian, Raspbian on Raspberry Pi, Mobian, CentOS, Diaspora (an alternative to social media platform based on FOSS principles), Moodle, Trac, LaTeX, Emacs, Git, Gimp, OpenSource BigData Technologies, OpenSource Web-development tools etc. and awareness about its philosophy among students, teachers, software professionals, researchers and general public. Additionally, our focus is also on creating awareness about digital literacy, privacy, and technical debt related issues.

We would also like to associate some budding developers with PFUG who could probably help us with some of the projects which we hope to initiate under **Pune FOSS User Group** and **Debian India**.

About Debian Project

Debian is an operating system consisting entirely of Free and Open Source Software. Debian set of guidelines serves as an example for many other projects. Debian's high quality standards and adherence to its strict policies makes it a preferred choice for derivative works. Currently, over 120 actively developed operating systems build on Debian, including the widely popular Ubuntu and Linux Mint distributions, and Kali Linux. The Debian Project takes pride in being built upon by others. Debian volunteers work actively with teams deriving their distributions from Debian, to maximize the benefits for all.

The Debian Project's key strengths are its volunteer base, its dedication to the Debian Social Contract, and its commitment to provide the best universal operating system. Debian is produced by over a thousand active developers, spread across the globe, many of whom volunteer in their spare time. Unlike all other Linux distributions of similar size, Debian is an independent non-profit organization. Debian's dedication to Free Software, its non-profit nature, and its open development model makes it unique among Free Software distributions.

Science Day at GMRT impressions



(a) Science Day 2023

(b) Science Day 2024

Figure 1: Some of the glimpse from past Science Days



Figure 2: Science Day 2025

Contact Us

If you have any special request that you would like to accommodate as a sponsor, feel free to reach out to us.

Looking forward for your participation and support.

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