



Organised by HBCSE-TIFR as part of IOAA 2025 Outreach for Indian students

## Overview

As part of the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) 2025 outreach initiative, we invite school students across India to participate in two national-level creative competitions. These contests aim to celebrate curiosity, imagination, and artistic expression through astronomy-themed hand-drawn illustrations and comics.

## 1. Competition Categories

### A. Cosmic Canvas (Hand-Drawn Illustration Contest)

Participants must submit an original, hand-drawn illustration based on one of the following themes related to space and astronomy.

**Themes (choose any one):**

- Bhartiya Space Station
- Black Holes and Space-Time
- Exoplanets and Cosmic Neighbours
- Space Colonization
- India in Astronomy: A Vision for 2050

Entries may be created using pencil, ink, crayons, markers, or paints—any traditional medium is allowed. Digital artwork is not permitted. Only one entry per participant is allowed.

*Please make sure to read the full terms and conditions before submitting your entry.*

### B. Stellar Stories (Four-Panel Hand-Drawn Comic Contest)

Participants must submit a four-panel static comic strip, entirely hand-drawn, based on any astronomy-related theme. The comic should creatively engage the viewer and demonstrate visual storytelling.

- Themes can be narrative, informative, educational, humorous, or imaginative.

- Any traditional visual style is permitted—colour or black & white, line work, shading, sketch etc.
- The comic must be hand-drawn only (no animation or digital editing).
- The four panels should be arranged clearly and visibly.
- Text and visuals must be neatly written and easy to read.

*Please make sure to read the full terms and conditions before submitting your entry.*

## 2. Eligibility

- Participants must be currently enrolled in Classes 6 to 12 in a recognised Indian school.
- Each participant may submit only one entry per competition.

## 3. Submission Guidelines

- Entries must be submitted by a teacher, parent, or school representative on behalf of the student.
- Each submission must include:
  - Student’s full name
  - Class and section
  - Full school name and location
  - Competition category: Cosmic Canvas or Stellar Stories
- All entries must be uploaded via official form <https://tinyurl.com/iaaschool>.
- The artwork must be clearly scanned or photographed to ensure the work is well-lit, legible, and properly visible.
- Accepted file formats include: JPEG, JPG, PNG, or PDF.
- File name should include the student’s name and competition category.
- The original physical artwork must be retained for possible verification.
- **Deadline:** All entries must be submitted on or before **30 June 2025**.

## 4. Selection Process

- All eligible entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges.
- Entries will be evaluated based on:
  - Artistic creativity and execution
  - Relevance to the astronomy theme

- Clarity, originality, and effort
- The top three entries in each competition will be selected as winners.
- Additional outstanding entries may also be featured through official IOAA 2025 platforms.

## 5. Prizes and Recognitions

- Winners (First, Second, and Third) in each category will receive:
  - Certificates of Achievement
  - Cash prize
  - IOAA 2025 merchandise
- Selected entries may also be featured in:
  - IOAA 2025 newsletters and websites
  - Educational bookmarks, postcards, banners, and event backdrops
  - Outreach exhibitions and promotional materials (with full credit to the student)
- The schools of the First Prize winners in both categories will receive an official invitation to attend the IOAA 2025 Closing Ceremony, allowing up to **10 students and 2 accompanying teachers** to participate.

*Kindly note: Financial support for travel or accommodation will not be provided.*

## 6. Terms and Conditions

- Submissions must reflect the student’s own original and unaided hand-drawn work.
- Students may refer to books, websites, or other materials for inspiration, but direct copying, tracing, or AI-generated content is strictly prohibited.
- Misrepresentation of authorship or school information is not permitted.
- Group or collaborative entries will not be accepted. Only individual submissions are allowed.
- By participating, students and guardians agree that submitted entries may be showcased (with full credit) in IOAA 2025-related educational and outreach materials—such as newsletters, websites, exhibitions, bookmarks, or banners. These uses will be non-commercial and solely intended to celebrate student creativity.
- The organisers reserve the right to revise, suspend, or withhold awards based on the quality or eligibility of submissions.

- All decisions made by the judging panel and organising committee will be final and binding.

## **Contact**

For any queries or clarifications, please write to: [ioaa2025outreach@gmail.com](mailto:ioaa2025outreach@gmail.com)