

IOAA Circular #3

Date: 16 July 2025

Subject: Updates on travel plans, currency, excursions and travel essentials.

With less than four weeks to go for IOAA 2025, we hope your preparations for traveling to India are progressing smoothly. We look forward to welcoming you to Mumbai!

A total of 63 countries/teams have completed their registration, with one additional country joining as an observer. Please find below some important logistical details related to IOAA 2025.

Accommodation

Accommodation at either hotel will be on double sharing basis (except for leaders, observers and visitors who have opted for single occupancy at extra cost). Both the hotels are equipped with swimming pools.

Accommodation at either hotel outside the Olympiad period (before 14:00 hrs on August 11 or after 17:00 hrs on August 21) will be at your own expense. If needed, we can reserve the required number of rooms on your behalf at either hotel upon request. Payment for these bookings must be made directly by you to the hotel. If you choose to stay at a different hotel, accommodation arrangements will need to be made entirely by you.

Currency Exchange

The currency of India is the Indian Rupee (INR). Cash is handled by currency notes in denominations of 500, 200, 100, 50, 20 and 10 and coins in denominations of 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1. Both the hotels have currency exchange facilities. It is also possible to exchange currency at the airport. Please note that, unlike some other touristic cities, you will **not** find currency exchange counters in shopping areas / markets.

Registration Fees and Payment

Cash payment of registration fees upon arrival is permitted **only if you have informed us in advance**. Payment will be accepted in INR (Indian Rupees) only. Currency exchange services are available at the hotel. Upon arrival, please contact the help desk for assistance with the payment.

Local Transportation

All transportation related to airport pick-up and drop-off, examinations (for contestants), excursions, and the opening and closing ceremonies will be arranged by the organisers.

Arrival and Departure Timings

You are kindly requested to enter your travel itinerary using the link provided on your country's registration page by July 22, 2025. All teams are expected to arrive and depart via Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (airport code: BOM). If your travel plans differ, please notify us by email in advance.

Airport pick-up arrangements will be available for teams arriving after 08:00 hrs on August 11. For earlier arrivals, transport arrangements can be made, if possible, on request. At the airport, IOAA volunteers holding placards with "18th IOAA" will be stationed outside the international arrivals exit. If you don't spot our volunteers immediately, please stay calm.

In case of any difficulty, you can contact the following numbers via voice call or WhatsApp.

IOAA Airport Team- +91 9892633473

Contestants and leaders will be separated at the airport and taken to different hotels. Therefore, please ensure that luggage is packed, segregated and labelled accordingly to facilitate smooth handling.

Excursions

Excursions for contestants, leaders, observers, and visitors to places of interest in and around Mumbai have been arranged on the days specified in the schedule. Additionally, visitors will be offered extra excursions at no additional cost on days when leaders and observers are occupied with the academic programme. Two of the excursions for contestants will take them outside the city limits of Mumbai.

All guests are strongly recommended to wear closed shoes with good grip during excursions. Carrying your umbrella (provided in the welcome kit) is essential. Please note that in the event of extremely inclement weather, some excursions may be cancelled.

Contestants are not permitted to leave the hotel except during planned excursions and must always be accompanied by their student guide. Leaders, observers, and visitors are free to explore the city on their own; however, we recommend using cabs/taxis rather than the public transport system, which can be crowded.

Power, Telephone and Internet

The mains power supply in India is AC 230 V, 50 Hz. Details of power sockets and plugs are given on the [Travel Information page](#) of IOAA 2025 website. The international telephone code for India is “+91” and the area code for Mumbai is “22”. Calls placed from your hotel room will be at your own expense.

Leaders, Observers and Visitors

WiFi-based internet connection will be available free of cost in the rooms and common spaces of the Leader’s hotel.

Contestants

Students are required to deposit all mobile phones, laptops, tablets, smartwatches, and similar wireless communication devices with their mentors during the opening ceremony. Students found in possession of electronic or other communication devices during the competition may face disqualification from IOAA 2025. Personal devices will be returned to students after the conclusion of the examination rounds, during the common dinner on August 18, 2025.

In case of emergencies, contestants should contact their respective student guides, who will notify the appropriate authorities to facilitate communication with the leaders, if necessary.

Travel Essentials

Climate and clothing

In August, Mumbai experiences monsoon showers, including occasional heavy rain, with high humidity and temperatures around 30°C. Please bring your raincoat/windcheater; an umbrella will be provided in your welcome kit. Waterproof shoes, dry-fit clothes, and swimwear are also recommended items to bring.

While formal attire is not required for the ceremonies, it is recommended to avoid extremely casual dress on these occasions. Traditional attires are also welcome. A cultural get-together for contestants will be held at the student hotel on the evening of August 18.

Health and safety

We advise all participants to acquire necessary medical and travel insurance before leaving your country. You are advised **not** to eat from open stalls outside, especially uncooked or spicy food. You must be especially careful about drinking water.

No special vaccinations are needed, in our view. Emergency medical care will be available in the hotels. First-aid boxes will be available at all times during excursion. However, it will be advisable to bring your own medicines for minor illnesses like cold, fever, headache, etc., and any regular medication that you may be required to take.

Essential documents and miscellaneous items

Don't forget to carry your valid passport with visa, travel insurance (including medical coverage), flight tickets or itinerary, and emergency contact information (local organizers, embassy, family).

You may also want to bring a few passport-size photographs, some light snacks or energy bars, and a small lock for your luggage.

Poster Competition

The participating delegations are invited to submit posters for the IOAA 2025 Poster Competition. Please make sure your submissions follow the official guidelines available as indicated in Circular 2. You may submit your poster using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/posterioaa>

The submission deadline is July 25, 2025. There is no requirement to bring printed copies. The organizers will print your poster in A0 size at the venue in Mumbai, India.

Laser Engraving: Special Souvenir for all Student Participants

As part of IOAA 2025, each student participant will receive a personalized, laser-engraved, hexagon-shaped souvenir crafted at the Institute Makerspace at IIT Bombay – a facility renowned for promoting innovation, creativity, and hands-on learning. Participants will also see a live laser-cutting demonstration during their visit. To streamline production, **students must submit their designs in advance.**

Each participating student is required to submit their design to their team leader, who will then upload the individual student's design in PNG format using the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/laserioaa>

Please refer to the guidelines below for instructions on submitting your custom design.

Design Submission Guidelines

- Submit 1 design per student in PNG format (black and white only).
- Use the provided template: 591 × 591 pixels (approx. 50 mm × 43 mm hexagon).
- Do not crop, resize, or change the image resolution.
- Keep the design strictly within the inner dashed hexagon.
- Minimum line, text, and gap thickness: 1 mm (at least 12 pixels).
- Add your team code and student code at the bottom (e.g., IND S5).
- Allowed design elements: Simple texts, permitted logos, symbols, equations, or simple creative art.

Template Example

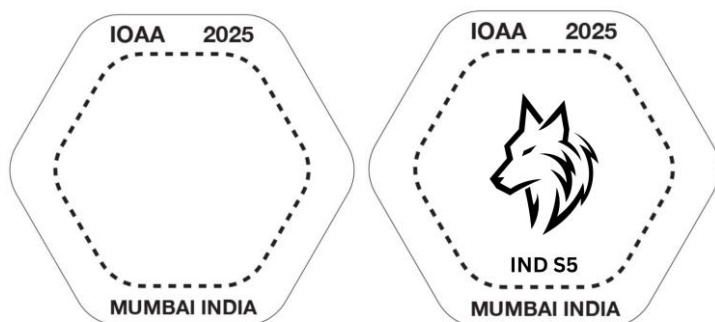


Image: (Left) Editable template for students to customize.

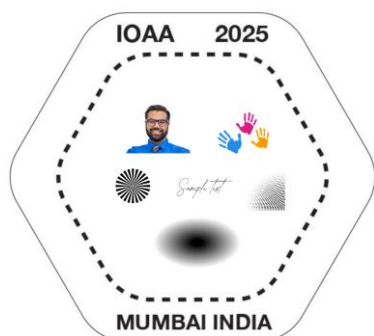
Image: (Right) Final image to be shared via team leaders, with IND S5 replaced by the appropriate student code.

Laser Engraving Template: <https://tinyurl.com/laser-engraving-template>

Do not add any elements between the outer and inner hexagon.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Very thin lines, dense patterns, or microtext.
- Colours, grey shades, gradients, or transparent areas.
- Photos, selfies, or faces.
- Overly complex designs that may not engrave well.



Common design issues to avoid.

Important Notes

- Each student can submit only one design.
- By submitting, students and the team accept full responsibility for the content.
- Some fine details may not appear in engraving due to technical limitations.
- Embed both your custom design and student code within the hexagonal template, and submit the complete 591 × 591 black-and-white PNG image as your final entry.

Upload link: <https://tinyurl.com/laserioaa>

The submission deadline is July 28, 2025.

For queries regarding the laser engraving:

ioaa2025@hbcse.tifr.res.in

akshat@hbcse.tifr.res.in

Contact

All circulars and relevant information are available on our official website at <https://ioaa2025.in/> which is regularly updated.

For any information/queries, please contact:

IOAA 2025 Secretariat

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V. N. Purav Marg, Mankhurd

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We look forward to seeing you at the 18th IOAA!

With best regards,

18th IOAA Secretariat