

Congratulations to all the Winners!



Anwesh Mazumdar

Chair, Academic Committee, IOAA 2025;
National Coordinator, Science Olympiads in India;
Dean, HBCSE-TIFR

Final Reflections

The 18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) is drawing to a close. Over the past week, 288 students from 63 teams have come together in a celebration of the best in high school astronomy and astrophysics. As we conclude, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all participants, mentors, and organisers. The academic committee worked hard over the past year to prepare a set of tasks that were aimed not only to test knowledge and skills, but also to excite and inspire the students into thinking and learning more about astronomy. The questions of the competition spanned a wide swathe of topics, and we hope that every student, irrespective of performance, could find at least something in the exam tasks that piqued their curiosity. I thank the whole academic team for putting in a great effort to produce a programme that we hope our international guests will remember for a long time.

Closing Ceremony

As IOAA 2025 comes to a close, the closing ceremony invites us to reminisce about the unforgettable past ten days. We will relive shared moments, reflect on academic and cultural exchanges, and celebrate the friendships formed across borders. The occasion will shine with music, dance, and joy, culminating in the much-awaited medal ceremony and prize distribution.



Weather Forecast



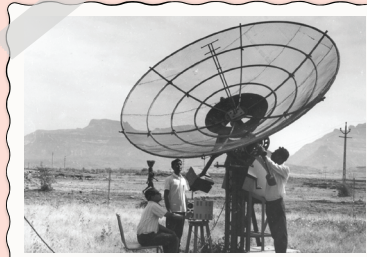
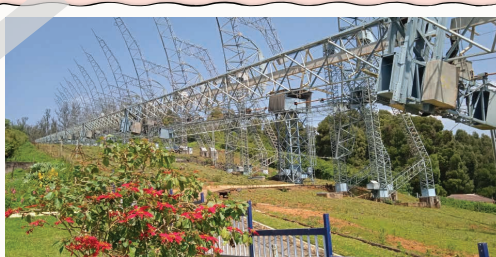
Max:
28°C / 82.4°F
MIN:
24°C / 75.2°F
Mumbai

Generally cloudy sky with heavy rain

Source: India Meteorological Department

The Indian Radio Astronomy Programme: Past, Present, and Future

Feature



Today's Programme



09:30 hrs – 14:30 hrs

Closing Ceremony

Venue: Jio World Convention Centre,
Bandra Kurla Complex

Ooty Radio Telescope (left) and archival photo
of Kalyan Radio Telescope (right)

Image Credit: Radio Astronomy Centre, NCRA-TIFR Website

India's radio astronomy began with early efforts like the Kalyan Radio Array, which mapped solar activity and developed expertise in interferometry. In the 1960s, Govind Swarup proposed the equatorially mounted Ooty Radio Telescope (ORT) and used the lunar occultation technique to locate radio sources accurately. These observations favoured the Big Bang theory by supporting specific radio source counts. The ORT advanced solar studies, interplanetary scintillation, pulsar research, and quasar observations. In the 1980s, Swarup envisioned the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT), completed in 2001 near Pune. It features thirty 45-meter parabolic dishes over 25 km and uses lightweight wire-mesh reflectors, enabling cost-effective construction with excellent low-frequency sensitivity. The GMRT became a leading global facility for studying neutral hydrogen, pulsars, and cosmic magnetism in the metre-wavelength band. The upgraded GMRT (uGMRT), finished in 2018, enhanced frequency coverage, sensitivity, and dynamic range. India now also contributes to the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), an international collaborative project in radio astronomy.

Gold Medal

Luca Pimenta	Brazil
Elena Yordanova	Bulgaria
Petar Popov	Bulgaria
Svetoslav Arabov	Bulgaria
Kaifeng Gu	China
Zixiao Wu	China
Ara Mahdessian	Cyprus
Alex Faivre	Czechia
Martin Kudrna	Czechia
Matous Mista	Czechia
George Bailey	United Kingdom
Puyuan Ge	United Kingdom
Rory Moloney	United Kingdom
Yuvan Raja	United Kingdom
Oliver Eckstädt	Germany
Bálint Dobák	Hungary
Dorottya Elekes	Hungary
Novin Raushan	Indonesia
Aarush Mishra	India
Akshat Srivastava	India
Banibrata Majee	India
Panini	India
Ali Naderi Lordjani	Iran
Arshia Mirshamsi Kakhki	Iran
Hirbod Foudazi	Iran
Hosein Soltani	Iran
Hossein Massumi	Iran
Kento Kakutani	Japan
Shunsuke Fujiwara	Japan
Jiho Min	South Korea
Seungmin Oh	South Korea
Taehun Jung	South Korea
Dawid Chudzik	Poland
Bogdan Rusea	Romania
Mendel-Emanuel Mendelsohn	Romania
Teodor Bichir	Romania
Vlad-Tudor Bolohan	Romania
Cheng Le Eng	Singapore
Jun Min Wang	Singapore
Kai Wen Teo	Singapore
Shuheng Jerry Lan	Singapore
Aljaz Erman	Slovenia
Primož Marković	Slovenia
Zan Arsov	Slovenia
Tomas Kubricky	Slovakia
Chayapol Nonthasoot	Thailand
Andrii Zahika	Ukraine
Brian Sun	United States of America
Feodor Yevtushenko	United States of America
Nguyen Vu	Vietnam

Best Performance in Observational Component

Luca Pimenta	Brazil
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Best Performance in Theoretical Component

Feodor Yevtushenko	United States of America
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Silver Medal

Emil Musheghyan	Armenia
Gor Hasratyan	Armenia
Michael Tikhanov	Australia
Tasdik Ahmed Tonmay	Bangladesh
Francisco Carluccio De Andrade	Brazil
Franklin Da Silva Costa	Brazil
Lora Lukmanova	Bulgaria
Parth Sheth	Canada
Shicun Liu	China
Yunzhe Shi	China
Anita Vaceková	Czechia
Mihkel Tali	Estonia
George Devlin	United Kingdom
Efe Gökkus	Germany
Lasse Jungermann	Germany
Zhe Jeffrey Tang	Hong Kong, China
Panni Elekes	Hungary
Jasper Cakra	Indonesia
Sumant Gupta	India
Yan Tserakhau	Individual Olympiad Participant
Taichi Fujiyama	Japan
Tomoki Nagata	Japan
Chanyeong Yu	South Korea
Jude Allehyani	Saudi Arabia
Maksims Hodosevics	Latvia
Marianna Kogane	Latvia
Emilijus Latakas	Lithuania
Hoe Yeen Cheah	Malaysia
Artur Ziolkowski	Poland
Jasmina Nurkovic	Poland
Ziga Vučajnk	Slovenia
Mihailo Radovanovic	Serbia
Pavle Ignjatovic	Serbia
Patrik Pritrsky	Slovakia
Peter Svrlo	Slovakia
Tanadash Rujanun	Thailand
Ege Anakli	Türkiye
Dmytro Hilei	Ukraine
Mariia Mazur	Ukraine
Federico Mendez Silva	Uruguay
Hieu Nguyen	Vietnam
Khanh Hoang	Vietnam
Phong Dang	Vietnam

Group Competition Winners (Shani Group)

Farhan Sajid	Bangladesh
Adhemir Jaimes Rivera	Bolivia
Luca Pimenta	Brazil
Svetoslav Arabov	Bulgaria
Charlène Lana Eloy	France
Mariam Bekauri	Georgia

Best Performance in Data Analysis Component

Kento Kakutani	Japan
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Bronze Medal

Narek Galstyan	Armenia
Mahammad Jafarli	Azerbaijan
Ogtay Latifli	Azerbaijan
Lucas Amaral Jensen	Brazil
Jinyang Hong	Canada
Xiupei Xu	China
Cristian Echeverri Valencia	Colombia
Kyriakos Dymiotis	Cyprus
Matvey Dubishkin	Cyprus
Eduard Plic	Czechia
Dmytro Mintenko	Germany
Emily Hein	Germany
Eszter Bartucz	Hungary
Gellért Zádori	Hungary
Adinda Mubarrokah	Indonesia
Faiz Akmal	Indonesia
Joanna Chandrasaputra	Indonesia
Palina Salahub	Individual Olympiad Participant
Andrea Cusimano	Italy
Francesco Leccese	Italy
Riccardo Brunetta	Italy
Kurara Tsutsumi	Japan
Azamat Aimuratov	Kazakhstan
Batyrkhan Sheruyen	Kazakhstan
Yonggeon Lee	South Korea
Aleksandrs Jesilevskis	Latvia
Karlis Girts Karnitis	Latvia
Pijus Tydmanas	Lithuania
Rapolas Zygyus	Lithuania
Saule Vaidelyte	Lithuania
Elaiah Asperin	Philippines
Justine Aaron Co	Philippines
Kinga Wysocka	Poland
Ruhan Shafa	Singapore
Nika Vidensek Podgorelec	Slovenia
Dusan Lazic	Serbia
Jovan Kulezic	Serbia
Neda Zivanovic	Serbia
Mario Tlamka	Slovakia
Jiachen Mi	Sweden
Piti Thammagowit	Thailand
Thunpisid Thepborirak	Thailand
Wiritpol Kanchana-Alongkorn	Thailand
Bilal Aydin	Türkiye
Hüseyin Bakan	Türkiye
Muhammed Kocabas	Türkiye
Vehaan Subramanian	United Arab Emirates
Bohdan Ohorodnyk	Ukraine
Uliana Herbut	Ukraine
Yuxian Liu	United States of America
Yen Nguyen	Vietnam

Honourable Mention

Natali Margaryan	Armenia
Vahe Mkrtchyan	Armenia
Agil Gulaliyev	Azerbaijan
Raig Babazade	Azerbaijan
Faria Mahmud	Bangladesh
Md Rokon Ujjaman Rhyme	Bangladesh
Giovanna Ribeiro De Queiroz	Brazil
Atanas Mitrev	Bulgaria
Ema Donev	Croatia
Angelos Hadjisoteriou	Cyprus
Tsotne Giorgadze	Georgia
Ngo Wang Chan	Hong Kong, China
Varvara Kaliasniova	Individual Olympiad Participant
Damir Kurman	Kazakhstan
Fajr Alobaidan	Saudi Arabia
Hussain Al Mubarak	Saudi Arabia
Yahaya Bin Basiron	Malaysia
Pratyush Paudel	Nepal
Runlin Shu	Norway
Jordan Jesus Juscamaita Altamirano	Peru
Kyush Cian Cabilino	Philippines
Jayakodiarachchige Nanayakkara	Sri Lanka
David Reichmuth	Switzerland
Vladimir Slanina	Slovakia
Jacob Brzezinski Ädelroth	Sweden
Aldric Benalan	United States of America

Best Overall Performance by a Female Student

Dorottya Elekes	Hungary
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Best Overall Performance

Feodor Yevtushenko	United States of America
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The most exciting part about being the General Secretary of IOAA is the scientific community! Meeting the leaders, the local organisers, seeing how it goes behind the scenes, seeing the questions of course is all so amazing.

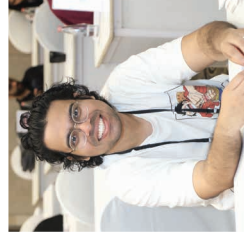
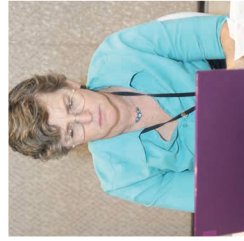
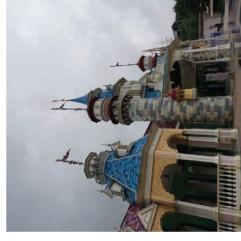
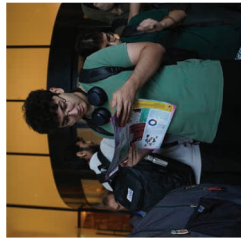
Nataša Dragović
(General Secretary, IOAA)

This year's IOAA was not just the biggest and most diverse but also academically very robust. Several teams praised the efforts put in by the academic committee and rest of the graders for ensuring a fair and uniform marking.

Aniket Sule
(President, IOAA)

Best Poster Competition Winners (Top 3)

AI in Solar Astronomy	Czechia
Capybara Spring	Colombia
Revolutionising Time	Serbia





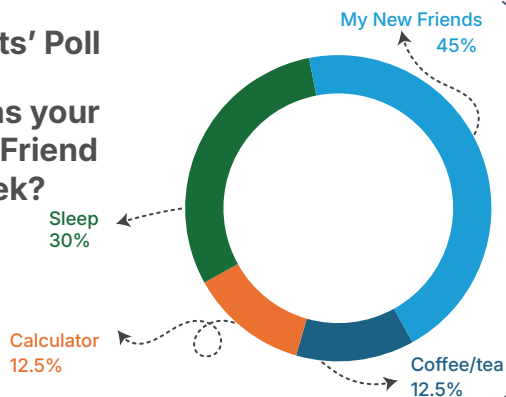
Have you decoded the "Indian nod"?

The Indian head nod—famous and delightfully confusing. Side to side? Up and down? A gentle wobble? It could mean yes, no, maybe, or just “I’m listening.” Interpreting it is a true art form. Have you figured it out during your stay? Watch closely—every region has its own twist.



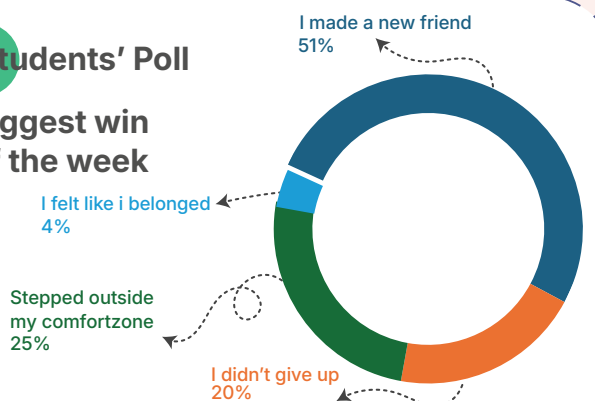
Students' Poll

Who was your closest Friend this week?



Students' Poll

Biggest win of the week



In Their Own Words



Thank you, IOAA family, for bringing your passion, curiosity, and friendship to Mumbai. May the memories, discoveries, and bonds formed here keep shining like the stars in the skies long after you leave. In India, we never say goodbye, just “phir milenge” – till we meet again. So, until our orbits cross again, hopefully under clearer skies, wishing you all a safe journey home!

Arnab Bhattacharya

(Chair, Local Organising Committee IOAA 2025)

Olympiads don't get enough attention, but they should, because they really have an impact.

Federico Mendez Silva

(Contestant, Uruguay)

I was surprised to know from many of my peers that they had to bear their own expenses to come here and I felt bad about it. I wish that would change. Countries should prioritise education and technology.

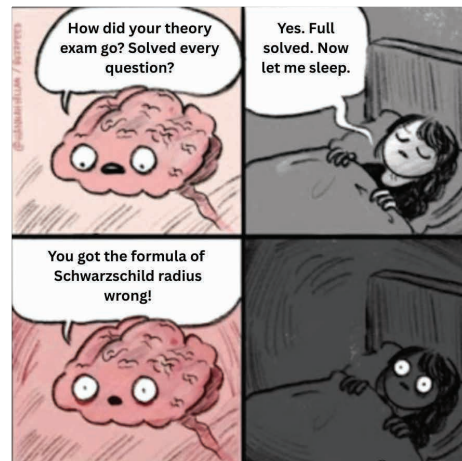
Ahmed Gad

(Contestant, Qatar)

Parting Brain Teaser

If 8 is written as Five; If 9 is written as Four; If 10 is written as Three; Then 11 is written as

Tasdik Ahmed Tonmay (Contestant, Bangladesh)



Bogdan Rusea (Contestant, Romania)



Contestants of Team Brazil



With Gratitude and Goodbye

As we bring you the final issue of *nakshatra*, it is with gratitude, wonder, and a touch of nostalgia that we look back on the incredible journey we've shared through these pages. Each issue has strived to reflect the spirit of IOAA: curiosity without borders, learning without limits, and a love for the cosmos that unites us all.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped bring *nakshatra* to life. First, our sincere gratitude to IOAA President Aniket Sule and IOAA General Secretary Nataša Dragović for their unwavering support. Thanks to the LOC Chair and HBCSE Centre Director Arnab Bhattacharya for his guidance. We are extremely grateful to Anupama Ronad, Sumana Amin, Mayuri Rege, Shweta Naik, Vikrant Ghanekar, Manoj Nair, Pragati Dandekar, Sonal Tanavade, Vishal Dhavle, H. Rane, U. V. Shenoy, Mahesh Bamne, Praveen Pathak, Gawri Tawate, Rashmi Shrotri, Ravindra Sawant, Anwesh Mazumdar, Pritesh Ranadive and Akshat Singhal for keeping us updated with snippets, photos, and for assisting us at various stages. Thanks to Anil Sankhwar and Rupesh Nichat for ensuring uninterrupted internet access throughout. Special thanks to Krishna Sahu for supporting the transportation needs of the newsletter team.

We also extend our appreciation to Ashish Kadam from Orduo Photography Pvt. Ltd. and Deepak Patel from Ekvira Enterprises, as well as personnel at both the Westin and St. Regis hotels, and the delivery agents who made our work logistically possible, particularly during the midnight hours. A warm thank you to the student volunteers and guides who acted as our informal correspondents.

Finally, to all the students, team leaders, observers, and guests, thank you for your enthusiasm, feedback, and for letting us share your journey through this newsletter. Long hours, late nights, and occasional technical hiccups may have led to errors or omissions. For any such mistakes, we sincerely apologise.

With gratitude and best wishes, we wish you safe travels!

The Editorial Team



All issues of *nakshatra* are available on IOAA 2025 official website:
<https://ioaa2025.in/ioaa-newsletter/>



A Hogwarts of Our Own (IOAA Edition)

Shireen Niteen Gangal
(Member, Academic Team)

As I read through the daily IOAA 2025 newsletter, I can't help but imagine myself at a Hogwarts of Astronomy—set in the grand halls of our hotel. Meals feel like Great Hall feasts; the only spell you need is "Accio Second Cheesecake!" Even the elevators play tricks like moving staircases—not all reach every floor, and you wonder if you got transported to another dimension!

Our "classes" are marathons of grading Astronomy Olympiad papers, with coffee breaks as thrilling as Quidditch matches. We have a house system too, led by academic committee members with their Snape-like sternness or McGonagall-style sharpness. And yes—you can guess who's Dumbledore!

Adventures unfold day and night with mysterious grading strategies. Owls take a modern twist: midnight messages summoning us to meetings. Though no spells are cast, the friendships, laughter, and joy of working with those who gaze at the stars with the same wonder—is what makes this experience a truest kind of Hogwarts magic!



Bahram Madadi

Observer, Iran

Jiachen Mi

Contestant, Sweden

Hot Takes for a Hotter Earth

Protecting the environment is not a choice—it's a responsibility we all share.

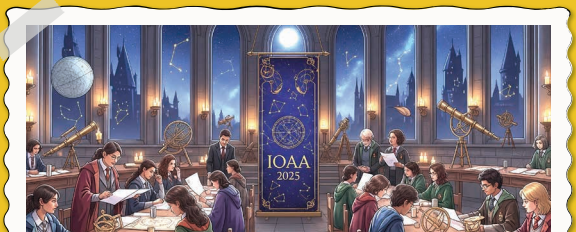


Image Credit: AI Generated

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