

16th August 2016

SECOND CIRCULAR

10th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics, Bhubaneswar, India, 9 – 19 December 2016

Dear Participants,

We are looking forward to having you here in Bhubaneswar in December for the 10th IOAA. In the first circular we had given you some basic information about the event. In continuation of the same, here are some additional information items:

Programme

Day	Date		Students	Leaders
Friday	9 th December	Afternoon onwards	Arrivals (check-in after 14:00 on 9/12/16)	
Saturday	10 th December	Morning		
		Evening	Opening Ceremony	
Sunday	11 th December		Excursion 1	IBM 1
Monday	12 th December	Morning	Planetarium Examination	Excursion 1
		Afternoon	Sky Map Examination	
		Night	Night Sky Examination	Free time
Tuesday	13 th December		Excursion 2	IBM 2
Wednesday	14 th December	Morning	Theoretical Examination	IBM 3
		Evening	Free time	
Thursday	15 th December	Morning	Data Analysis Examination	Excursion 2
		Evening	Free time	IBM (org.)
Friday	16 th December	Morning	Team Competition	Excursion 3
		Evening	Party	
Saturday	17 th December		Excursion 3	Moderation
Sunday	18 th December	Morning	Free time	Final IBM
		Evening	Closing Ceremony	
Monday	19 th December	Morning	Departures (check-out before 12:00)	

Registration, passports and Visa

The last date for online registration for IOAA 2016 was 15th August 2016. In case you have not completed the registration for the team already, country coordinator is requested to send us an email specifying the date by which you will be able to finalize your registration. However, please note it is advisable to register as early as possible for smooth and timely processing of visa. The website for registration is:



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(An autonomous Institution under Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India)

NISER, Jatni, Khurda – 752 050, Odisha, India

Phone: +91-674-2494233/53 ♦ Web: www.ioaa2016.in ♦ e-mail: info@ioaa2016.in



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<https://secure.hbcse.tifr.res.in/ioaa2016/>

Please note that as per Indian visa regulations, the passport of every participant should be valid at least for 6 months after the end of IOAA 2016 (till 19/06/2017). If passport of any participant is expiring before this date, he/she must get a new passport before completing the registration process.

We strongly recommend that you apply for 'conference' visa for the purpose of IOAA 2016. Names of registered participants have been submitted to Government of India for necessary approvals. The government will communicate approval for visa to appropriate Indian embassies to enable smooth processing of visas. Invitation letters for visa will be issued to participants after confirmation from the government. The procedure for visa, including biometric data collection may take considerable time (in some cases up to a month after approval from ministry). Please check with the relevant Indian Embassy about the application procedure at the earliest.

Information related to Indian Visa can be found at : <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/>

Participants from the continents of Africa and South America may require clearance regarding vaccination for yellow fever. Please refer to the website given below for information:

<http://www.immigrationindia.nic.in/content/health-regulation>

List of Participating countries

Armenia	India	Qatar
Bangladesh	Indonesia	Romania
Belarus	Iran	Russia
Brazil	Jordan	Serbia
Bulgaria	Kazakhstan	Singapore
Canada	Kyrgyzstan	Slovakia
China	Lithuania	Slovenia
Colombia	Malaysia	South Korea
Croatia	Mali	Sri Lanka
Czech Republic	Mexico	Thailand
Estonia	Nepal	Ukraine
FYRO Macedonia	Pakistan	United Arab Emirates
Georgia	Philippines	United Kingdom
Ghana	Poland	United States of America
Greece	Portugal	Vietnam
Hungary		



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Fees

As an established custom of the International Olympiad in Astronomy and Astrophysics, main team of each participating country (max. 5 contestants and 2 leaders) does not have to pay any registration fee. Each Scientific Observer and each member of the guest team (including contestants) is required to pay the registration fee of USD 1000. Details regarding modes of payment will be specified in the third circular.

Accommodation and Transportation

Local Hospitality

Local hospitality will begin from December 9, 2016 afternoon (check in after 14.00 hrs) and end on December 19, 2016 before noon (check out before 12.00 hrs). Local hospitality includes accommodation (10 nights) along with breakfast, lunch and dinner during this period. Any other expenditure (meals in other restaurants of the hotel, mini bar, laundry, telephone, etc) will be billed to you by the hotel individually and will need to be settled by you at the time of check-out.

Accommodation

Team Leaders and Observers will be accommodated in the following hotel:

Hotel Swosti Premium

P-1, Jaydev Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India - 751013

<http://www.swostihotels.com/hotels/swosti-premium/about-swosti-premium/>

This hotel is about 7 km from the Bhubaneswar Airport.

Contestants will be accommodated in the NISER campus at Jatni, which is about 35 km from the Bhubaneswar Airport.

Pre- and post-Olympiad stay

For teams arriving before the scheduled date (December 9, 2016) and/or departing after the scheduled date (December 19, 2016) we can arrange to book accommodation in the leader hotel at a special rate on your behalf. Please note that accommodation charges outside the Olympiad period (i.e., before December 9 or after December 19, 2016) will be at your cost and you will need to settle your bills for such period directly with the hotels. If you need to book accommodation before and after the Olympiad at the same hotels kindly let us know by email at the earliest.

Alternatively, you may also make your own arrangements in any other hotel that you wish. Links of some alternative hotels for pre- and post-Olympiad period will be put up on our website soon.

Pre- and post-Olympiad tours

We can help teams in planning pre or post Olympiad tours to explore other parts of India with help of a reliable travel agent. Please note that charges for such tour will be at your cost (approximately USD 100 per person per night) and you will need to settle your bills for tours directly with the travel agent. If you are interested in exploring this idea further, kindly let us know by email at the earliest.

Airport transportation

The airport in Bhubaneswar is called Biju Patnaik International Airport (Code: **BBI**). The airport is well connected to international hubs Mumbai (Code: **BOM**) and Delhi (Code: **DEL**). There are also a few flights to other cities like Kolkata, Bangalore and Chennai. Transport from this airport to our designated



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accommodation venues will be provided from 08:00 hrs on December 9. Similarly, transport from accommodation venues to airport will be provided till 14:00 hrs on December 19. The leaders and contestants of a delegation will be transported directly from the airport to their respective accommodation. Teams arriving before December 9 should make their own arrangements to reach the designated venues on afternoon of December 9.

IOAA Elections

As per Article #18 of IOAA statutes, the election will be held during IOAA 2016 in Bhubaneswar, India. The new president and general secretary will preside over IOAA activities from 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2021. Any international board member can nominate any person for election to the either post. The nominating member should take consent of the nominee before sending the nomination. All nominations should be sent to the LOC, by e-mail (info@ioaa2016.in) on or before 31st August, 2016.

Academic Details

Planetarium

Pathani Samanta Planetarium in Bhubaneswar city is a 150-200 seater unidirectional planetarium with Digistar 5 projection system.

Telescopes

IOAA 2016 observation examination will involve use of a 150mm f/5 Newtonian reflector telescope on EQ2 mount. Pictures of the telescope and accessories will be put up on IOAA 2016 website closer to the event.

Calculators

No calculators will be provided by the organisers to the contestants. Each contestant must bring their own calculator. Calculator used by any contestant must adhere to following norms:

- Calculators should not have a graphing mode.
- Their display must not have more than three rows for any function like matrix mode.
- Calculators should not contain integration button / equation solver function.
- Should not have stored physical constants (e.g. gravitational constant) in their inbuilt memory.

It is duty of team leaders to ascertain that calculators used by their team members adhere to these norms. If calculator of any contestant is found to violate these norms, the contestant would not be allowed to use that calculator during the examination. A list of acceptable calculator models will be made available on IOAA website in due course.

Miscellaneous

Communication devices

Contestants carrying mobile phones, laptops, tablets, smart watches etc. will have to deposit them with the organizers after the opening ceremony. They will be returned after the completion of all examinations on December 16, 2016. If any contestant is found in possession of a communication device during the restricted period, organisers may disqualify him/her or his/her entire team from the competition.



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Flags

Each team will be provided with a country flag of size 1.35m x 0.9m. The country coordinators are requested to carefully check and approve the flag motif during online registration. Only these supplied flags will be allowed on stage during ceremonies.

Weather

December is a winter month in Bhubaneswar. The temperature will be around 27°C during the day and 15°C at night. We recommend that you bring some warm cloths for your visit to Bhubaneswar. A cap will be provided in the registration kit.

Contact

Circulars and all relevant information are put up on our website at <http://www.ioaa2016.in> which will be updated regularly.

Information and Contacts

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For any information/queries, please contact :

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More details will appear in the third circular in November 2016.
Welcome to 10th IOAA!

10th IOAA Secretariat



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