

19th October 2016

THIRD 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. We hope you have noted key information points listed in first and second circulars. In continuation of the same, here are some additional information items:

Arrival and Departure Information

In your login area on the registration page, we have added a new button on the right side of panel. Clicking on that button will lead you to a page where you can update travel information for all the participants from your team. Please fill these details at the earliest so that we can arrange for transportation from Bhubaneswar airport. For most of the teams, your point of entry in India will be either Delhi or Mumbai and you will have to take a domestic flight to reach Bhubaneswar. For your reference, following airlines run flights to Bhubaneswar airport:

To/From Delhi (DEL): Air India, Indigo Airlines, Vistara Airlines
To/From Mumbai (BOM): Air India, Indigo Airlines, Go Air
To/From Kolkata (CCU): Indigo Airlines, Go Air

Indigo Airlines and Go Air also connect Bhubaneswar Airport to Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai. However, number of flights are fewer.

First and last day schedule

On 10th December, leaders and observers will depart from hotel around 15:00 for NISER campus. The opening ceremony will start around 17:00. Teams arriving at Bhubaneswar airport by 14:00 should be able to reach NISER campus comfortably in time for the opening ceremony.

On 18th December, the closing ceremony will commence around 16:30 and end at 19:00. Teams are advised not to book tickets on any flights before 21:00 on that day.

Registrations and Visa

The last date for online registration for IOAA 2016 was 15th August 2016. We have made the invitation letters available for download in your login area of the registration portal. If you have not downloaded them yet, you can login and download them. The website for registration is:
<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 applying for visa.

Names of registered participants have been submitted to Government of India for necessary approvals. We hope to receive these approvals from Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) by 10th November 2016. A copy of these approvals will be sent to you.

The visa process for all teams will be much smoother and quicker after these approvals are received. The government will also communicate these approvals directly to appropriate Indian embassies. We strongly recommend that you apply for 'conference' visa for the purpose of IOAA 2016. Please check with the relevant Indian Embassy about the application procedure at the earliest.

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>

Participation Statistics

List of participating countries

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

In addition to main teams, guest teams from Bangladesh, India, Iran, Qatar, Romania, Russia and Serbia will participate in the event.

Total number of countries with main teams:	42
Total number of observing countries:	1
Total number of Guest teams:	7

Total number of participating students:	238
Total number of leaders and observers:	123





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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.

Team leaders / observers can pay registration fee on arrival in Bhubaneswar. Only cash payments will be accepted. Payments can be done in USD or equivalent amount in EUR or in Indian rupees.

Currency Exchange

Foreign currency exchange counters are not very common in Bhubaneswar. If you wish to use any money for personal expenses, you should exchange currency in Indian rupees at the entry point airports (Mumbai / Delhi).

Poster Competition

Like last year, IOAA 2016 will also host a poster competition for research posters prepared by contestants. The best poster will be given a trophy. All posters must follow these rules:

- The space for each poster will be A0 size in portrait mode i.e. roughly 85cm x 115 cm. Posters should not exceed this size.
- The posters should be about an observation based research project conducted by one or more student participants of IOAA 2016.
- Each team can submit maximum one poster.

The teams which wish to bring a poster, should inform the organisers before 15th November 2016 so that suitable number of poster stands can be made available. If the number of entries is less than 5, the poster competition will stand cancelled.

Academic Details

Stationary:

Students have to bring their own writing instruments and geometric instruments like ruler, compass, set squares, protractors etc. No writing instruments / geometric instruments will be provided by the organisers.

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.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH BHUBANESWAR

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

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

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Computer Based Questions

There will not be any computer based questions in IOAA 2016.

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. An indicative list of acceptable calculator models is as follows:

Allowed calculators (incomplete list)

Casio FX-82 MS / SOLAR / SX Plus
Casio FX-95 MS
Casio FX-220 Plus
Casio FX-350 MS
Casio FX-570 MS
Canon F-502 G
Canon F-715 S / SG
Canon F-720i
HP 10s+
Sharp EL-501 X
Sharp EL-503 W
Sharp EL-506 X / W
Sharp EL-509 X / W
Sharp EL-510 RN TI-30XS Multiview
Sharp EL-520 X / W
Sharp EL-531 XH / XG / WH
TI-30X IIS / IIB
TI-30 eco RS / Xa
TI-36X II

Disallowed calculators (incomplete list)

Casio FX-82 DE+ / AU+
Casio FX-83 GT+
Casio FX-96 SG+
Casio FX-350 ES+
Casio FX-570 ES / ES+
Casio FX-991DE+ / MS / ES / ES+ / ID+
Sharp EL-W506 X
TI-30 XS Multiview

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 (<http://www.swostipremium.com/>) 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. If you need to book accommodation before and after the Olympiad at the same hotels, kindly let us know by email by 15th November 2016.

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 are as follow:

<http://www.gingerhotels.com/>

<http://www.palheights.com/>

<http://www.sandystower.com/>

<http://www.hhihotels.com/hotel-bhubaneswar/>

Computers for leaders:

As we have done in previous years, each country must bring their own laptop / tablets for discussion and/or translations during the jury meeting. Organisers will not provide computers for the purpose of meeting. We will be using a special purpose computer based meeting tool during the meeting. Hence each country must have at least one laptop / tablet with them.

Caution: The access to hotel wi-fi network may not work smoothly with Mozilla Firefox. If you are a linux user, please ensure that you have google chrome installed in your laptop.

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. Following nominations have been received.

A. President

- a) Hossain Haghi (Iran)
- b) Greg Stachowski (Poland)

B. Secretary

- a) Mehdi Khakian Ghomi (Iran)
- b) Loukas Zachilas (Greece)
- c) Aniket Sule (India)

Information and Contacts

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

For any information/queries, please contact :

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For visa related issues, please contact:

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Co-convener, IOAA 2016

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Last circular with information regarding weather etc. will be sent about a week before start of the IOAA 2016.

Welcome to 10th IOAA!

10th IOAA Secretariat



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