

12th International Olympiad in Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA)

The International Olympiad program provides a platform to the secondary and higher secondary school students to engage and compete in an amicable atmosphere at the highest level. In India, the Olympiad programs are coordinated by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE-TIFR), Mumbai and students selected through national level tests. The International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) is a competition for higher secondary school students that involves an assessment of both theoretical and observational skills in Astronomy and Astrophysics. Every year, IOAA is hosted by a different country. This year, the 12th IOAA was held at Beijing, China between 3-11 Nov, 2018. 46 teams from 38 countries participated, each team comprising of 5 student members. The Indian students were accompanied by two Team Leaders and two Observers. **One of the team leaders was Dr. Sarita Vig, Dept of Earth and Space Science, IIST. All the team members went on to win medals, three silver and two bronze. In addition, one of the Indian team members was awarded a special prize for scoring full marks in the sky observation test.**

The Indian Team Members:

1. Prashant Gokhale – Bronze Medal, Special award for scoring full marks in Sky-Observation Test
2. Adittya Pal – Bronze Medal
3. Kaustubh Verma – Silver Medal
4. Harshit Khandelwal – Silver Medal
5. Prathyush Poduval – Silver Medal
6. Manojendu Choudhury (Team Leader, IUCAA)
7. **Sarita Vig (Team Leader, IIST)**
8. Avinash Deshpande (Observer, RRI)
9. Vinita Navalkar (Observer, CBS)

At the closing ceremony on 11 Nov 2018.



At the Opening ceremony on 4 November 2018

