NATIONAL JUNIOR SCIENCE OLYMPIAD PROGRAMME

2025-2026

leading to participation in International Olympiad



INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICS TEACHERS and Vidyavardhaka Sangha-JUNIOR SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

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AN INVITATION TO EXPERIENCE THE FUN, CHALLENGE AND DEPTH OF DOING SCIENCE

A major Olympiad programme in basic sciences is operational in the country. The programme aims at promoting excellence in science among high school and pre-university students and selecting teams of students to represent India at the International Olympiads in Junior Science. This brochure gives the necessary information regarding this programme to all concerned: students, teachers, parents and others.

Do India proud at the International Olympiads 2025 - 2026.

Enrol for NSEJS

Introduction

The international Olympiad movement is aimed at bringing the most talented secondary and higher secondary students of the world together in a friendly competition of the highest level. The Olympiads do not lead directly to any career benefits; rather, they provide a stimulus to begin a career in science or mathematics, to undertake a lifelong journey into the realms of exciting intellectual challenges. The Olympiads are not merely competitions, they are the meeting places of the brightest young minds of the world, and many friendships forged at the Olympiads form the seeds of scientific collaboration later in life. Much like the Olympics in sports, the Olympiads are a celebration of the very best in school level science and mathematics. The Olympiad programmes globally have aimed at not just the international events, but have also served as national channels to enrich school educational curriculum. Even beyond the scope of the examinations, Olympiad problems provide intellectual stimulus and uncommon opportunities for teaching and learning of sciences.

The scientific community of India recognises the need for a national Olympiad programme in mathematics and basic sciences, which would lead to participation in the international Olympiads. India has been participating in the international Olympiads in Mathematics since 1989, and later started participation in Physics (1998), Chemistry (1999), Biology (2000), Astronomy (1999) and Junior Science (2007) as well. Enrolment of students in each subject has grown steadily over time, and currently stands at between 20000 and 60000 in different subjects. The science Olympiad programme involves many teachers and scientists from across the nation. The nodal agency for all the science and mathematics Olympiads in the country is the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), a national centre of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR). The Olympiad programme is run in close collaboration with the teacher associations: the Indian Association of Physics Teachers (IAPT), Association of Chemistry Teachers (ACT), and the Association of Teachers in Biological Sciences (ATBS). The first stage examinations of the Olympiads in Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry and Physics are conducted by IAPT, while the later stages are the responsibility of HBCSE. From 2022, IAPT oversees all stages of the Junior Science Olympiad.

The science Olympiad programme is fully funded by the Government of India through the Board of Research in Nuclear Science, Department of Atomic Energy (BRNS, DAE),

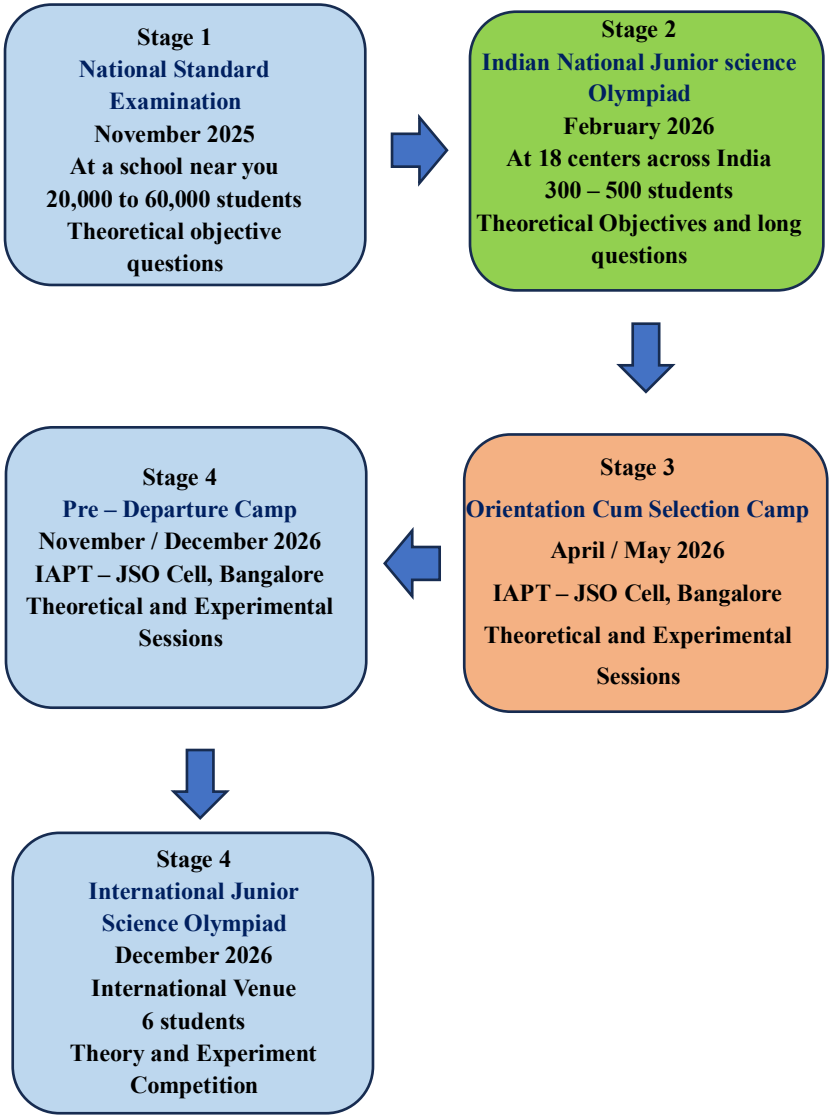
Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Indian Space Research Organisation, Department of Space (ISRO, DoS). The national Olympiads are overseen by a National Steering Committee (NSC), constituted by DAE, and comprised of members of each funding agency as well as eminent experts in each subject.

Indian students have excelled at the international Olympiads in every subject, right from the year of participation. More than 99% of the nearly 530 contestants from India have won medals and laurels at the international competitions in the last 25 years of participation. Over one-third of the students have won coveted gold medals, and several special prizes have been won as well. The international community has also recognised India's strong presence at the Olympiads. India has hosted the international Olympiads in every subject: Mathematics (1996), Chemistry (2001), Astronomy (2006 and 2016), Biology (2008), Junior Science (2013) and Physics (2015).

The national Olympiad leading to the selection of students to represent our country, follows a five stage process, starting with an examination held at nearly 1400 schools across the country and culminating with the international Olympiads at different corners of the world. The national level examinations are designed to assess the conceptual understanding, logical reasoning, laboratory skills, and above all, ability to apply problem-solving skills to novel situations, both theoretical and experimental. Training is included from the third stage of the programme and the first two stages do not necessarily require any specialised coaching outside the regular school system. The programme for the year 2025-2026 is outlined in this brochure.



Overview of the Science Olympiads: Five Stages



Stage I National Standard Examinations (NSEs)

National Standard Examination in junior science constitute the first stage of selection of students in the International Junior Science Olympiad. **Every student aspiring to go through successive stages of the programme and participating in the international Olympiads in 2025 must enrol for the NSEJS.**

ELIGIBILITY FOR NSE/AND SUBSEQUENT STAGES:

1. Must be eligible to hold an Indian passport.
   1a. As per the orders of the Madras High Court, OCI students will NOT be eligible for selection to the Indian team in the International Olympiads. However, such students are provisionally eligible for selection at all prior stages, up to and including the OCSC (stage III), provided they fulfill all other criteria. They are also provisionally eligible to write the selection tests at the OCSC. This policy is subject to revision without prior notice depending on any further orders issued by the courts, or by a competent government authority.
2. Date of birth between 1 Jan 2011 and 31 Dec 2012, both days inclusive.
3. Must be residing and studying in India since 30 November 2023 or earlier.
   OR
   Must be studying in an Indian school system since 30 November 2023 or earlier.
4. Must not have passed (or scheduled to complete) class 10 board examination earlier than 30 November 2025.
5. Must not have commenced (or planning to commence) studies in a university or equivalent institution by 1 June, 2026.
6. Must not be appearing in any of NSEA, NSEB, NSEC or NSEP 2025.

It is the student's responsibility to determine if he/she satisfies the eligibility norms. If at some later stage it is found that the student does not meet the eligibility norms, he/she may face disqualification from the programme.

ENROLMENT FOR NSEJS:

Enrolment at student's own school/college: A student can enrol for NSEJS at his/her own institution if it is a registered NSE centre (see below for registration of NSE centres). The principal would be the contact person for this purpose.

Direct Enrolment: If a student's own institution is not a registered NSE centre, it is still possible to participate in NSE by enrolling directly on the IAPT website: www.iapt.org.in.

Enrolment fees: Rs. 300/- per subject.

Enrolment dates: 21 August - 14 September, 2025 (check IAPT website)

NSE centre registration: Any state recognised school/college is eligible to become a NSE centre with a minimum enrolment of 20 students, subject to approval by Chief Coordinator, IAPT Examinations. Online NSE centre registration on the IAPT website will be between 1 August and 20 August, 2025.

Contact:

Prof. B. P. Tyagi (Chief Coordinator, IAPT Examinations)
Dr. Anand Singh Rana (NSE Coordinator)
Dr. V. V. Soman (NSEJS Coordinator)
15, Block II, Rispana Road,
DBS (PG) College Chowk, Dehradun 248 001
E-mail: iapt.nse@gmail.com
Tel. No: 9632221945 (Mon-Fri: 10.00 to 13.00 and 14.00 to 17.00)

NSEs are the organizational responsibility of IAPT. All queries about NSEJS must be addressed to the above-mentioned address. **PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT HBCSE / IAPT - JSO IN THIS CONNECTION.**

Stage II Indian National Olympiad Examinations (INOs)

The second stage in the selection process, Indian National Junior Science Olympiad (INJSO) will be organized by IAPT-JSO cell, Bangalore in early 2026. These examinations will be held at about 18 centres in the country. The list of students selected for the INJSO according to the criteria given below will be published by January 15, 2026 on the IAPT website: www.iapt.org.in

All students appearing in INJSO must register themselves on the HBCSE website (olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in) after the publication of the list in order to obtain their INJSO admit cards. This registration is mandatory for appearing in INJSO. Failure to register for INJSO will result in disqualification of the candidate for INJSO.

The tentative schedule of these examinations is given below. Confirmation of the schedule and all necessary instructions pertaining to the INJSO will be available on the same website. As far as possible the National Olympiads in different subjects are held on separate days/times so that a student who is eligible to appear for more than one subject can do so. Students appearing in INJSO are eligible for TA/DA as per the norms of the programme.

ELIGIBILITY FOR INJSO

The aim of the first stage examination is to have a wide reach, to progressively increase this reach and to attain nationwide representation for Stage II without overly compromising on merit. Hence the selection for the Stage II examinations, i.e., Indian National Olympiad Examinations (INOs) is based on the following scheme.

(a) **Minimum Admissible Score (MAS) Clause:** To be eligible for the Stage II INJSO exam leading to the International Olympiad, a candidate must secure a score equal to or greater than a Minimum Admissible Score (MAS). The MAS for a given subject will be 50% of the average of the top ten scores in that subject rounded off to the nearest lower integer.

(b) **Merit Index (MI) Clause:** There will be a high score called the Merit Index (MI) associated with each subject in Olympiads. The MI in a subject is defined as 80% of the average of the top ten scores in that subject rounded off to the nearest lower integer. All students with a score equal to or greater than merit index MI for the subject will automatically qualify for INJSO Stage II examination. For example, if the average of top ten scores is 92, then 80% of this is 73.6. Then the MI will be 73. All candidates with a score equal to or above 73 in that subject will automatically qualify for INJSO stage II.

(c) **Proportional Representation Clause:** Students from all States and UTs need to be encouraged to appear for the first stage examination and a nationwide representation for INJSO Stage II is desirable. The quota for each State/UT used in National Talent Search Examination (NTSE), a nationwide competitive examination will be used as the baseline for calculating the number of students qualifying for Stage II INJSO from schools in that State or UT. The target total number of students to be selected is 300. Suppose the NTSE quota is S for a State, and the total for all States and UTs is T, then the total number of students to be selected to INJSO Stage II from that State would be S/T times 300, rounded off to the nearest higher integer. This number will include those selected on the basis of the Merit Index. In the event of tie at the last position in the list, all students with same marks at this position will qualify to appear for the INJSO Stage II examination. The selected students must nevertheless satisfy the MAS clause (a). The number to be selected from each State or UT will be displayed on the IAPT and HBCSE websites (www.iapt.org.in; olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in).

(d) **Minimum Representation Clause:** Notwithstanding the proportional representation clause the number of students selected for INJSO from each State and UT must be at least five, provided that the MAS clause (a) is satisfied.

The above criteria are illustrated with the following examples:

i. Let the quota on the basis of the Proportional Representation Clause (c) for a State S1 be 20. Suppose the number of students satisfying the Merit Index Clause (b) is 10. These 10 students will qualify for the second stage INJSO exam and an additional 10 students from

the State S1 will be selected merit-wise, provided they satisfy the MAS Clause (a).

ii. Let the quota on the basis of the Proportional Representation Clause (c) for a State S1 be 20. Suppose the number of students satisfying the Merit Index Clause (b) in a subject is 30. In this case, all 30 students will qualify for the second stage INJSO exam, and there will be no further selection from the State S1.

(e) **Minimum Total Number Clause:** If it is not possible to reach the target 300 number of students after all the above criteria have been reached, (due to non-availability of enough number of students in some states who satisfy MAS Clause (a)), in such an event, additional students will be selected purely merit-wise, provided MAS Clause (a) is satisfied, till the target number of 300 is reached. Other clauses will not apply for these students. In case of a tie at the last position, all students with the same marks at this position will qualify to appear for the INJSO Stage II examination.

(f) **Previous International Representation Clause:** Candidates who have represented India in the International Olympiad on a previous occasion (IOAA, IBO, IChO and IPhO) need not appear for the first stage NSE examination in the respective subject. Candidates who have represented India in the Asian Physics Olympiad (APhO) and the International Astronomy Olympiad Junior (IAO-Jr) need not appear for the 1st stage NSEP and NSEA Examinations respectively. Such candidates who thus qualify to skip the first stage NSEs should write to the National Coordinator, Science Olympiad (nc_olympiad@hbcse.tifr.res.in) before 1 January, 2026, seeking permission, to directly appear for the second stage Indian National Olympiad (INO) examination.

There will be no other criterion or provision for selection to the Indian National Junior Science Olympiad Examination.

Second Stage	Date and time of Examination	Venues	Language	Syllabus
Indian National Junior Science Olympiad	31st January, 2026	Ahmedabad Bengaluru Bhopal Bhubaneswar Chandigarh Chennai Delhi Guwahati Hyderabad Jaipur Kochi Kolkata Kota Lucknow Mumbai Nagpur Patna Ranchi	English and Hindi	Is broadly equivalent to NSEJS

Questions and problems in INJSOs, while circumscribed by the above mentioned CBSE syllabus, are usually nonconventional and of high difficulty level, comparable to the international Olympiads.

Stage III Orientation-Cum-Selection Camps (OCSC)

On the basis of performance in the INJSO students will be selected for the Orientation-Cum-Selection Camp (OCSC). At these camps, Orientation is provided to students for Olympiad level of theoretical, experimental in this camp. Emphasis is laid on developing conceptual foundations and problem-solving skills. Students are exposed to innovative experiments with focus on conceptual and procedural understanding in experimental science. This camp will be held in Talent Development Centre, IISc Campus, Chalekere, Karnataka.

Several theoretical and experimental/observational tests are held during the camp. Based on the of performance in these tests, Six students are selected to represent India at the international Olympiads. These students also receive merit awards in the form of books and cash. A camp concludes with a valedictory function where distinguished scientists are invited to speak to the students.

SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR OCSCs:

The number of students to be selected for OCSC is 35 unless declared to be otherwise before the INO examinations. In the event there is a tie at the last position in the merit list, all students with the same marks at the last position will qualify to be selected for the OCSC.

The following procedure will be applied for selection of students for OCSCs. **Each year, a student can participate in the orientation/ training/ selection of only one programme; OCSC in Junior Science or Junior Olympiad or International OCSC camp held at Talent development centre, Challakere**



SCHEDULE OF OCSC:

The OCSC dates will be announced on IAPT-JSO website (https://jso.indapt.org.in) by the end of february 2026.

To the extent possible, care is taken that the camp dates do not overlap with the national level competitive exams, (e.g. IIT-JEE or NEET). Students are advised to select Mumbai as their examination centre of any national level entrance examination that might be scheduled during the OCSC period.

The selection of the members of the Indian teams of IJSO holds provided they satisfy required criteria such as age limit, secondary school status, medical fitness, parental/ guardian consent, etc. In addition, by the beginning of the OCSC they must hold an Indian passport that is valid till at least six months beyond the dates of the respective international Olympiad.

The decisions of the examination committees of the INOs and OCSCs regarding selection of international team, special merit awardees and other awardees will be treated as final.



Stage IV Training of Indian teams for International Olympiads at IAPT-JSO CELL, Bangalore

The students selected to represent India undergo a rigorous training programme at IAPT-JSO Cell, Bangalore in theory and experiment and in case of astronomy, observational astronomy prior to their departure for the international Olympiads. Special laboratories have been developed for this purpose. Resource persons from different institutions across the country are invited to the training camps. The maximum period of training may be limited in some subjects as per the statutes of the respective international Olympiads.

Stage V Participation in International Olympiads

	Team Composition	Venue	Month
Junior Science (23rd IJSO)	6 Students, 3 Teacher Leaders, 1 Observer	Yet to be announced	December 2026

The leaders are accompanied by one scientific observer.

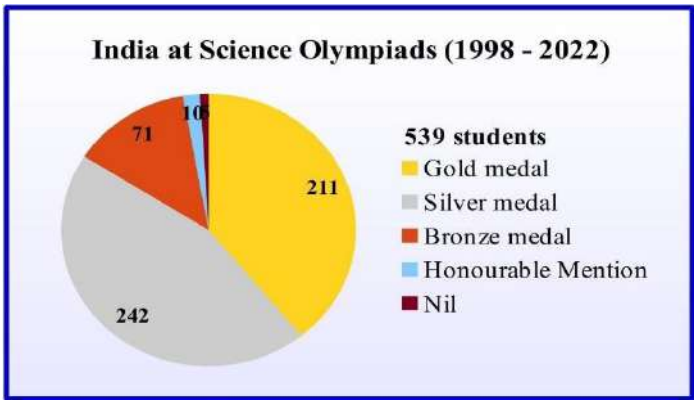
Teacher participation in National Olympiad programme

A large number of secondary, higher secondary and undergraduate teachers from all over India are involved in the national Olympiad programme. Many of them are invited to Resource Generation Camps (RGCs) at HBCSE and IAPT-JSO cell, VVS First Grade College, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore the year. Exposure camps are also organised as above to orient teachers to the academic and organisational aspects of the Olympiads. Usually these camps are held in the second half of the calendar year. Teachers are encouraged to keep an eye on our website for participation in exposure camps.



Indian performance in International Science Olympiads

Indian students have excelled at all the international science Olympiads ever since participation started in 1998. Almost every student has won a gold, silver, bronze medal or an honourable mention. Over the years several Indian students have also won special awards for best performances in theoretical or experimental components.



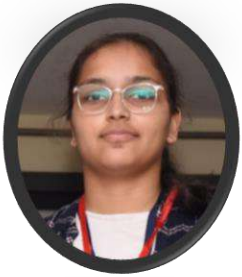
Students performance in International junior science olympiad



IJSO 2023
Kanishk Jain
Gold medal winner in overall theory



IJSO 2024
Pranit Mathur
Gold medal winner in Physics
Silver medal winner in Chemistry



IJSO 2024
Bhavyaa Gunwal
Bronze medal winner in Biology



IJSO 2024
Manas Goel
Bronze medal winner in Biology



IJSO 2025
Aadish Jain
Gold medal winner



IJSO 2025
Anmol Kumar
Gold medal winner

Note on other Olympiads

- **International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO):**

HBCSE is also a nodal centre for the Mathematical Olympiad. The details of selection to this Olympiad maybe found in a separate brochure and also on the HBCSE website: olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in

We mention below a few other recognized international Olympiads in science disciplines but participation in them is not directly organized by HBCSE.

- **Asian Physics Olympiad (APhO):** Participation is organized by IAPT. Students aspiring for this Olympiad must normally appear in the first stage NSEP exam followed by the second stage INPhO exam. The details of further selection and training are decided by IAPT and you may consult their website (www.iapt.org.in).

- **International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics - Junior (IOAA - Junior):** Participation is organized by the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM). Students aspiring for this Olympiad must normally appear in the first stage NSEJS exam. The details of further selection and training are decided by NCSM and you may consult their website (www.nehrusciencecentre.gov.in).

- **International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO):** Participation is organized by the Geological Society of India and you may consult their website for more information (www.geosocindia.org).

- **International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI):** Participation is organized by the Indian Association for Research in Computing Science and you may consult their website for more information (www.iarcs.org.in/inoi).

We caution the students and teachers about numerous private examinations titled 'Olympiads', which may charge high fees, are not officially recognized by the Government of India and which do not lead to participation in the International Olympiads.

Queries and Grievances

All queries regarding Stage I examinations (NSEs) should be addressed to IAPT (Prof. B. P. Tyagi - see page 8).

For general queries regarding Junior Science Olympiad programmes you may contact:

Dr. Achutha B S
Coordinator, Junior Science Olympiad
Indian Association of Physics Teachers – JSO, Vidyavardhaka sangha centre
Registered office: L117/302, Naveen Nagar, Kanpur 208025
Bangalore office (for correspondence): Mangaladhama, 2nd block, 3rd stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore – 79
Email: iapt.jso@gmail.co
For more information, visit the website: https://jso.indapt.org.in

The courts at Bengaluru alone shall have the jurisdiction to settle and decide all matters and disputes related to the Olympiads organised by IAPT-JSO and Examinations from Indian National Olympiad (INO) and onwards as IAPT-JSO is the Nodal Organising Institute for this programme.

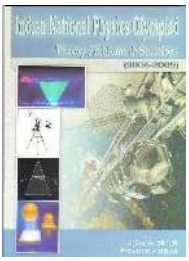
Information in this brochure is subject to revision in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

Olympiad Books published by HBCSE



Indian National Physics Olympiad - Theory Problems (1998 - 2005), *Vijay A. Singh* and *Shirish R. Pathare.* **Price Rs. 50/-** (Purchase in person from HBCSE) or by sending **by post for Rs. 90/-**

Indian National Physics Olympiad - Theory Problems and Solutions (2006 – 2009), *Vijay A. Singh* and *Praveen Pathak.* Available for download from: **https://olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in/how-to-prepare/olympiad-books/attachment/inpho-2006-09/**





Indian National Chemistry Olympiad - Theory Papers with Solutions (2002-2004), *Savita Ladage* and *Swapna Narvekar.* Available for download from: **http://chem.hbcse.tifr.res.in/indian-national-chemistryolympiad-2002-2007/**

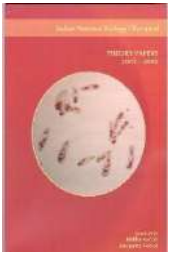


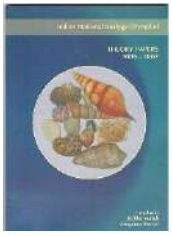
Indian National Chemistry Olympiad - Theory Papers with Solutions (2005-2007), *Savita Ladage* and *Swapna Narvekar.* Available for download from:
http://chem.hbcse.tifr.res.in/indian-national-chemistryolympiad-2002-2007



Experimental Problems in Chemistry, *Savita Ladage, Swapna Narvekar and Indrani Sen.*
http://chem.hbcse.tifr.res.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Experimental-problems-in-Chemistry-2003-2007.pdf

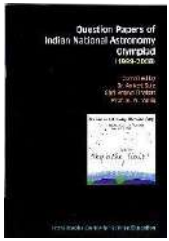
Indian National Biology Olympiad -Theory Papers (2002-2004), *Rekha Vartak and Anupama Ronad.* **Price Rs. 90/-** (Purchase in person from HBCSE) or by sending **by post for Rs. 140/-**

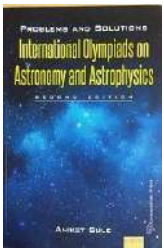




Indian National Biology Olympiad - Theory Papers (2005-2007), *Rekha Vartak and Anupama Ronad.*
Available for download from:
https://olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in/bio-theory-2005-2007/

Question Papers of Indian National Astronomy Olympiad (1999-2008) Aniket Sule, Anand Ghaisas and M. N. Vahia, Manovikas Prakashan. **Price Rs. 100/-** (Purchase in person from HBCSE) or by sending **by post for Rs. 150/-**





Problems and Solutions of International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (2007 -2014), Editor: Dr. Aniket Sule, Universities Press India Pvt. Ltd, **Price Rs. 450/-**
(Purchase in person from HBCSE) or by sending **by post for Rs. 500**

The Demand Draft/ Cheque includes postage charges for registered parcel and should be drawn in favour of ***Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education,*** *payable at Mumbai* and sent to:

HBCSE Publications Section
Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (TIFR)
V. N. Purav Marg, Mankhurd, Mumbai 400 088

Question papers and solutions of Indian National Olympiads are available at: https://jso.indapt.org.in

International Junior Science Olympiad 2023 at Bangkok, Thailand



From Left to right: Prof. Vinayak Katdare (Observer), Devesh tyagi (Leader – Physics), Mahroof Ahmed khan (Student - Gold), Rudra pethani (Student - Gold), Kanishk jain (Student - Gold), Soham pednekar (Student - Gold), Archit Bhalodiya (Student - Silver), Divya Agrawal (Student - Gold), Rajeev Chikate (Leader – Chemistry), Nikhil Vishvas phalande (Leader – biology)

International Junior Science Olympiad 2024 at Bucharest, Romania



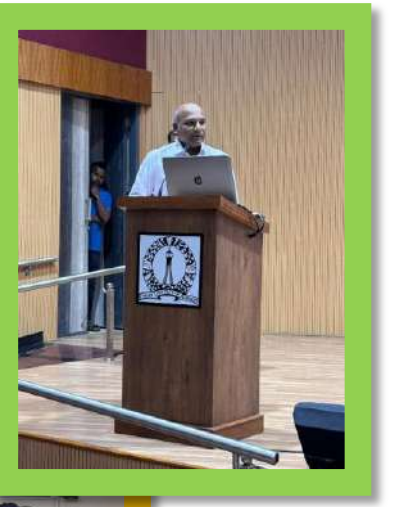
From left to right: Dr. B. S. Achutha (Leader), Rekha S (Leader), Bhavyaa Gunwal (Student – gold), Harshit Singla (Student – Gold), Shwetank Agrawal (Student – Gold), Jinansh Jignesh Shah (Student – Gold), Manas Goel (Student – Gold), Pranit Mathur (Student – gold), Prof. Rekha Ghorpade (Observer), Dr. T L Srinath

International Junior Science Olympiad 2025 at Sirius, Russia



From Left to right: Dr. Geetha R S (Observer), Prof. T. V Vedavyasa (Leader - Chemistry), Asmi Inamdar (Student – Silver), S. V. Tejas (Student – Silver), Aadish jain (Student – Gold), Sai Sravan muvvala (Student – Silver), Ruhan mohanty (Student – Silver), Anmol kumar (Student – Gold), Dr. Shirish pathare (leader - physics), Dr. Aravinda S (Leader – Biology)
















END OF SC CE QUIZ

