India wins 4 gold and 1 silver at the 19th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics

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News

India is reported to have won **4 gold medals and 1 silver** at the **19th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA 2026)**, held at **Phenikaa University, Hanoi, Vietnam** (closing ceremony **4 October 2026**). All five members of the Indian team won medals. This was the **first IOAA in Vietnam** and the largest so far: about **67 teams from 66 countries**.

Key facts

Edition	**19th** IOAA, **Hanoi, Vietnam** (first time in Vietnam)
India	**4 gold + 1 silver** (5 students per team)
Host Vietnam	6 gold, 4 silver
Rounds	Theory, data analysis, telescope observation, planetarium observation
Previous edition	**18th IOAA 2025, Mumbai** – India's first time as host (HBCSE); India also won 4 gold + 1 silver

Background

- The **IOAA** began in **2007**; the first edition was at **Chiang Mai, Thailand**. It is for pre-university students.

- India's team is chosen by the **Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE)**, Mumbai, part of **TIFR** under the **DAE**, the **nodal centre for India's science olympiads** (with **IAPT**). Stages: **NSEA → INAO → selection camp → pre-departure training**.
- India also won **all 5 golds at the International Physics Olympiad 2026** (56th IPhO, Bucaramanga, Colombia, July 2026).

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu has a strong astronomy heritage: the **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (1899)** and the **Vainu Bappu Observatory at Kavalur** (Tirupattur district), whose 2.34 m telescope was once Asia's largest. **S. Chandrasekhar** (Nobel Physics 1983), of a Tamil family, gave the **Chandrasekhar limit**.

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