

**INSTITUTE PROFILE:**  
**The Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)**  
Website: <http://www.iucaa.in/>



IUCAA is a premier centre of excellence dedicated to astronomy and astrophysics research in India. It is an autonomous institution serving as a bridge between universities, promoting astrophysics research and drawing out the best talent from across the country, thereby also promoting Indian research to the world.

*History and Current Staff:*

IUCAA was founded in 1988 and is funded by the **University Grants Commission** (UGC) in India. It is part of **Pune University** in the state of Maharashtra. At present, the Institute has 17 permanent faculty members, 21 postdoctoral fellows and 35 PhD students.

*Core philosophy of academic exchange*

Given its status as a confluence point for astronomy research in India, **academic exchanges** are built in to its core programmes. IUCAA has a vibrant visitor programme with more than 600 academic visitors per year. The institute organizes around eight meetings/workshops every year on its own campus, including international conferences. In addition, it also serves as organizer of conferences in universities across India.

*Research Stake*

IUCAA is involved in every large astrophysics project that India has a stake in. These include major global initiatives such as the gravitational wave observatory LIGO-India, the multiwavelength space mission **AstroSat**, the Southern African Large Telescope (**SALT**), the next generation Thirty Metre Telescope (**TMT**), and the LIGO-India (**IndIGO**). IUCAA runs its own High Performance Computing facility, with multiple 2000-cores machines and a combined raw peak computing power of about 150 TeraFlops. IUCAA has a 5-year research cycle budget allocation of about 170 crore rupees (20 million GBP).

*Recent Distinctions*

IUCAA featured as a **Rising Star in Nature Index 2016**, and several of the senior faculty are recipients of the highest civilian awards in India. For instance, Prof. Jayant Narlikar has received the Padma-Vibhushan, Prof. Padmanabhan has been awarded the Padmashri, and IUCAA has also hosted several Bhatnagar awardees (the highest Science award for those younger than 45 years).