



अंतर-विश्वविद्यालय केंद्र : खगोलविज्ञान और खगोलभौतिकी

IUCAA

Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics
An Autonomous Institution of the University Grants Commission

November 4, 2024.

Dr. Main Pal
Sri Venkateswara College
University of Delhi
Dhaura Kuan
New Delhi – 110 021

Subject: IUCAA Centre for Astronomy Research and Development (ICARD)

Dear Dr. Pal,

It is a pleasure to invite your department to host an IUCAA Centre for Astronomy Research and Development (ICARD), with you as its Coordinator. A description of the ICARD programme and its responsibilities is attached herewith.

Please send your acceptance of this invitation duly endorsed by the Head of the Department or the Vice Chancellor/Director/Principal of your University /Institute/College. Please send the acceptance latest by November 10, 2024.

The ICARD will be officially initiated from November 1, 2024 till October 31, 2026.

IUCAA's mandate is to promote Astronomy in the Universities and we look forward to a partnership with your University/Institute/College to continue to work towards this aim.

Looking forward to your acceptance.

With regards,

Prof. Durgesh Tripathi
Head, ICARD



Address : IUCAA, Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Ganeshkhind, Pune 411007, India.

पता : IUCAA, सावित्रीबाई फुले पुणे विश्वविद्यालय परिसर, गणेशखिंड, पुणे ४११००७, भारत

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IUCAA Centre for Astronomy Research and Development (ICARD)

The primary functions of the ICARDs are:

1. To contribute to the development of innovative teaching methods designed for astronomy. This includes the development of up-to-date course structures and new kinds of experiments/data analysis sessions, which can be a part of a starting or existing Astronomy course in a university. They will try, and inculcate distant learning programs and come up with suggestions as to how they can be implemented.
2. To hold frequent workshops/schools/meetings at various levels at the host University/College and at the nearby regions.
3. To have an active public outreach program for astronomy
4. To be a visiting centre for astronomers from nearby regions.

Modes of Functionality:

Funding for these activities may be provided by IUCAA. For each activity (such as seminars, workshops, and meetings), the ICARD may make a proposal to IUCAA with a budget for approval. The ICARD may also make other requests (such as setting up a facility for distant learning), which will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The ICARDs are encouraged to develop innovative plans to enhance Astronomy in their regions, taking into account the local logistics and requirements. A running expense of up to Rs. 30,000 will be provided to each ICARD as needed. This expense will be used for minor events such as a visit by a scientist from another University, seminars and public outreach activities. Each such event has to be approved by IUCAA.

All financial transactions from IUCAA to the ICARD will be made through NEFT transfer to an official account of the University/College/Institute. Utilisation Certificates (UC) and Statements of Expenditure (SE) for the finances provided by IUCAA will be prepared and sent by the ICARD to IUCAA in the GFR 12 format (attached) of the Government of India on or before February 1st. In case an ICARD is holding other bigger events, e.g., workshops or regional meetings, the UC for the running expenses must be submitted before further grants can be released.

IUCAA will not lend any asset to the ICARD except as required and sanctioned by specific proposals made and approved by IUCAA.

ICARD must provide routine updates and reports of their activities at least once a year. The reports and updates will be displayed in public view on the IUCAA webpage. Renewal of the ICARD after two years will depend on the successful activities undertaken by the Centre.