



106th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai | National Current Affairs | 13 Aug 2025

Why in News?

Dr. Vikram Sarabhai (12th August 1919 - 30th December 1971), widely recognized as the **Father of India's Space Programme**, was remembered and celebrated on his **106th birth anniversary** on **12th August**.

Key Points

▪ Early Life and Education:

- He was **born in Ahmedabad**, Gujarat, into an affluent Jain family. Sarabhai was one of eight children of Ambalal and Sarla Devi.
- Undergraduate degree in **Physics and Mathematics** from Cambridge University.
- Pursued a PhD under Nobel laureate **C.V. Raman** at **IISc, Bangalore**, with the thesis titled "**Time Distribution of Cosmic Rays**," published in 1942.

▪ Institutional Legacy:

- **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad:** Founded in 1947, PRL marked the beginning of Sarabhai's journey in institution building.
- **Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad:** Played a pivotal role in its creation.
- **Community Science Centre, Ahmedabad:** Founded in 1966 to promote science education.
- **Darpan Academy for Performing Arts, Ahmedabad:** Co-founded with his wife, Mrinalini Swaminathan.
- **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram:** A hub for India's space missions.

▪ Contributions to Indian Space and Nuclear Programs:

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):** He founded the **ISRO**, emphasizing the importance of space technology for societal development.
- **Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE):** Conceptualized with NASA, **SITE** beamed educational programs to rural areas, laying the foundation for programs like **Doordarshan's Krishi Darshan**.
- **Aryabhata Satellite:** Initiated the fabrication of **India's first satellite, Aryabhata**, launched in 1975 from a Russian cosmodrome.
- **Atomic Energy Commission:** Took over as chairman after Homi Bhabha's death, advancing **nuclear science**.

▪ Awards and Honors:

- **Awards:**
 - **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award** (1962)
 - **Padma Bhushan** (1966)
 - **Padma Vibhushan** (posthumously, 1972)
- **Distinguished Positions:**
 - President, Physics Section, Indian Science Congress (1962)
 - President, General Conference of the IAEA, Vienna (1970)
 - Vice-President, Fourth UN Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy (1971)
- **Title:** **Mahatma Gandhi** of Indian Science (By former President **APJ Abdul Kalam**).
- **Legacy:**

- **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** was named in his honor.
 - A lunar crater, "**Sarabhai Crater**," was named after him.
-

Mega Tinkering Day 2025 | National Current Affairs | 13 Aug 2025

Why in News?

In a **first-of-its-kind** nationwide innovation movement, the [Atal Innovation Mission \(AIM\)](#), [NITI Aayog](#), hosted **Mega Tinkering Day 2025**, marking a significant milestone in India's innovation landscape.

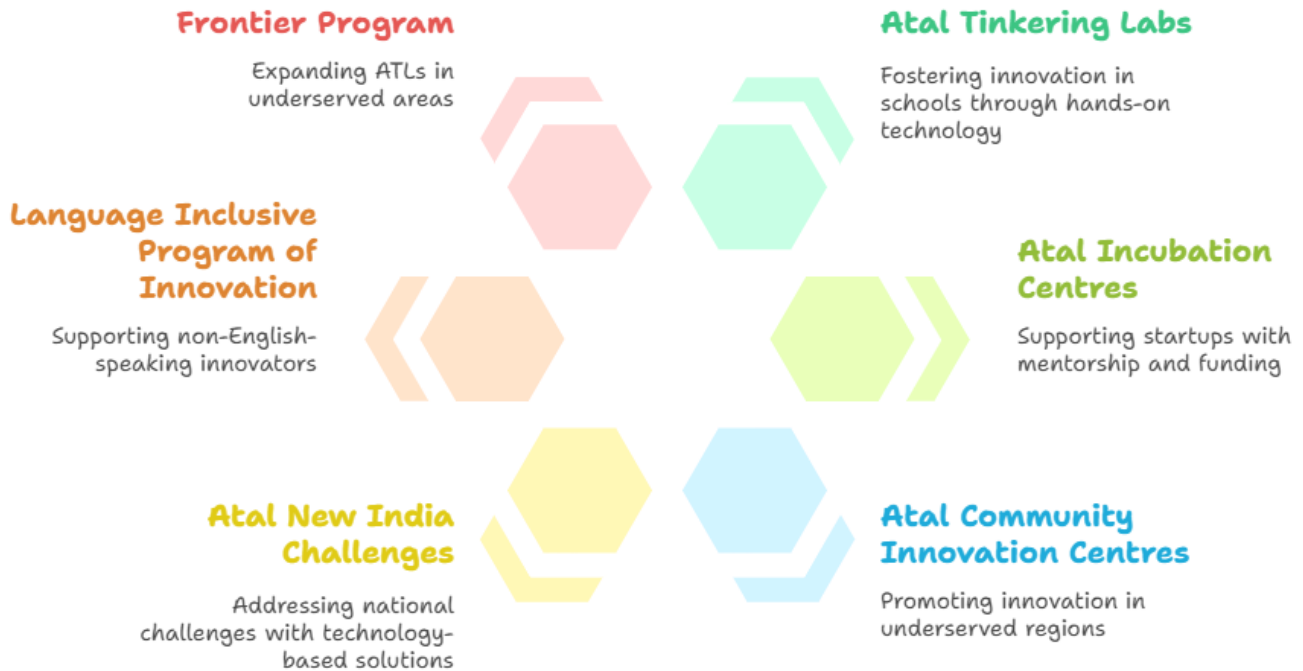
Key Points

- **About:** The nationwide event brought together over **10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)** across all **35 states and Union Territories** of India.
 - The event witnessed **4,73,350 students** from **9,467 ATL-equipped schools** participating in a hands-on challenge to design and build a do-it-yourself (DIY) **vacuum cleaner** using everyday materials from their labs.
- **Event Format:**
 - **Virtual & Simultaneous:** The event was **held virtually** and simultaneously in schools **across India**, with regional participation across North (Leh, Ladakh, Kargil, Kashmir), South (Kanniyakumari), West (Bhuj, Kutch), East (Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh), and [Aspirational Districts](#) (Virudhunagar).
 - **Collaborative Learning:** The online format enabled students to **collaborate in real-time**, despite geographical distances.

Atal Innovation Mission

- **About:** Launched by NITI Aayog in 2016, AIM **promotes innovation and entrepreneurship** by fostering a problem-solving mindset in students and strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem in **universities and research institutions**.
 - **AIM 2.0 aims to scale and pilot new initiatives** to expand and strengthen India's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, building on the success of AIM.

Key Programs



18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics | National Current Affairs | 13 Aug 2025

Why in News?

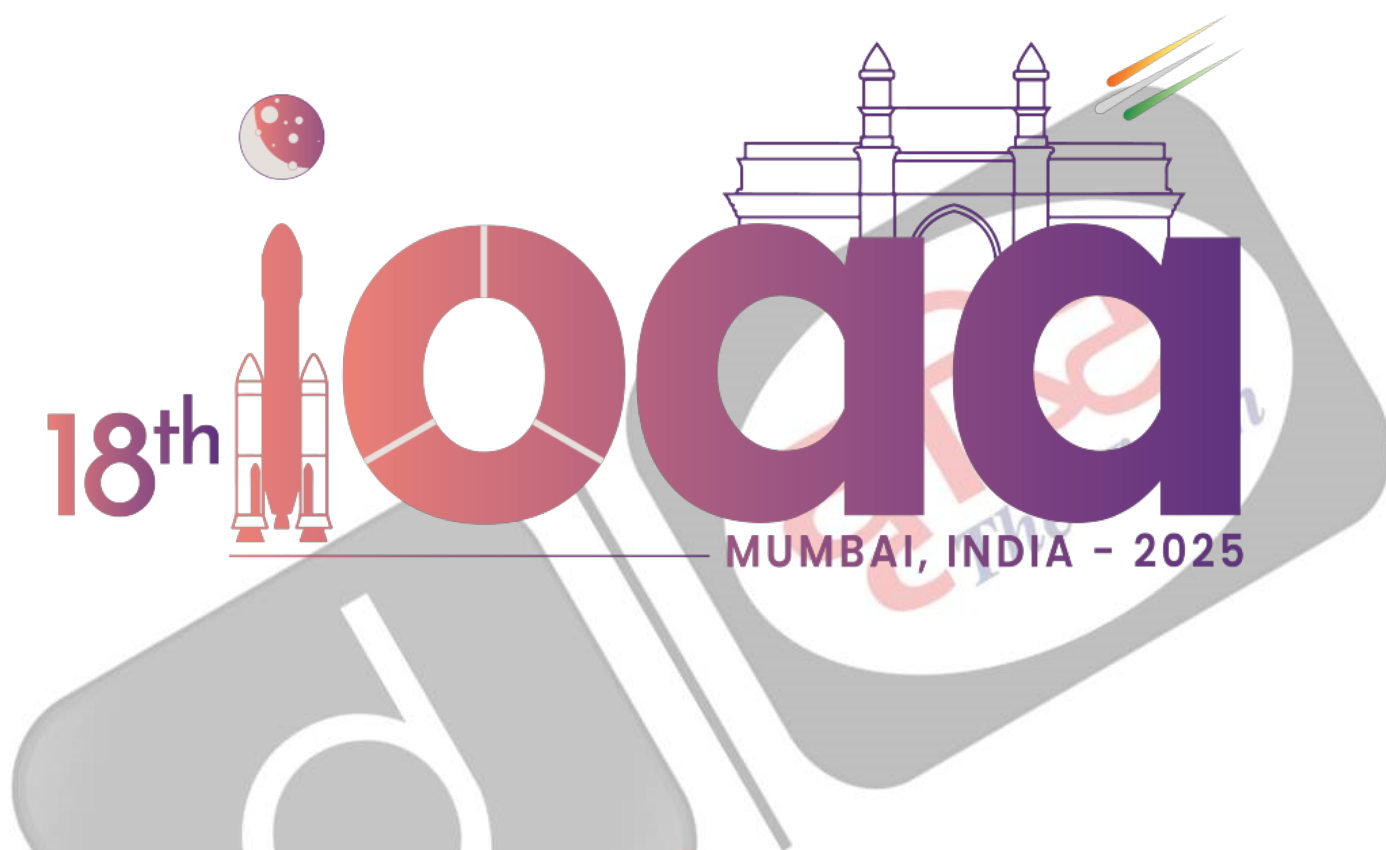
The **18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA)** is being held at Mumbai, India, from 11th to 21st August 2025.

- This is the **second time that India is hosting the IOAA**, after the **2016 edition in Bhubaneswar**.

Key Points

- **About:** The **IOAA** is an **annual competition** for secondary school students (Classes 10 to 12), featuring a rigorous selection process to qualify for the **international level**.
 - The IOAA was **conceived in 2006** to address the increasing global interest in astronomy among high school students, with its **first edition** held in **Chiang Mai, Thailand, in 2007**.
- **Organiser:** The event is organised by the **Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE)**, an autonomous institution under the umbrella of the Department of Atomic Energy.

- It is also supported by the Government of India through its [Department of Atomic Energy \(DAE\)](#) via the **Vigyan Pratibha Project** of HBCSE.
- **Theme of the Olympiad:** The theme for this year's event is '**Vasudaiva Kutumbakam**', reflecting the ancient Indian idea that **"the world is one family under the one sky"**.
- **Logo:** The **IOAA 2025 logo** features the **Gateway of India**, a [GSLV rocket](#) representing [India's lunar mission](#), a spider symbolizing telescopes in the letter **"O"**, tri-coloured comets above the Gateway, and a colour scheme inspired by the [Milky Way galaxy](#).



- **Participants:** The Olympiad has attracted **over 300 high school students** from **64 countries**. During the event, students participate in several **challenging exams** covering **theoretical, observational, and data analysis** aspects of astronomy.

Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE)

- HBCSE is a **National Centre of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research**, which is a Deemed University in Mumbai.
- HBCSE is the **nodal centre** of Olympiad programmes in mathematics, physics, astronomy, chemistry, and biology.
- Another important programme of HBCSE is the **National Initiative on Undergraduate Science (NIUS)**, concerning tertiary science education in India.

Astronomy

- Astronomy is the science that **studies celestial objects** such as stars, planets, comets, galaxies, and the universe as a whole.

Astrophysics

- Astrophysics is a branch of astronomy that **uses the principles and laws of physics** (such as gravity, thermodynamics), to **understand and explain the physical processes** that govern how celestial objects behave, form, and evolve.

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/14-08-2025/jammu-&-kashmir/print>

