

Career at Indian Institute of Astrophysics

The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) traces its origin to a small private observatory set up during 1786 at Madras (Chennai), which led to the establishment of the Solar Observatory in 1899 at Kodaikanal. In 1971, the Kodaikanal Observatory was made into an autonomous institution under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India. With a rich history of over 200 years, IIA is a premier institute in the country devoted to basic research, instrumentation and training in astronomy, astrophysics and related physical sciences.



Student Programmes:

A vigorous graduate program leading to Ph.D degree, summer programmes, visiting internship programme for students of others research institutions and universities are offered:

➤ **Ph.D programme:** Students selected for this programme are offered Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) initially for a period of two years and Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) for the next three years. During the first year, they undergo course work on the basics of Astronomy & Astrophysics. The students register with the Pondicherry Central University, Puducherry for their Ph.D degree.

➤ **Integrated M.Tech-Ph.D (Tech.)** programme in Astronomical Instrumentation, jointly with Calcutta University (CU) – Kolkata: The M.Tech degree programme is a two year / four semester course. The classes for the first and second semesters are being held at the Department of Applied Optics and Photonics, CU. The third and fourth semesters comprise of internship at IIA laboratories and projects at IIA, Bangalore. A student who has fulfilled the requirements for M.Tech degree and obtained the minimum CGPA may continue for the Ph.D (Tech.) programme.

➤ **Admission procedure:** Entry to the above programmes is via the national level written test conducted by IIA, Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) exam, UGC-CSIR / NET exam for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), and Joint Entrance Screening Test (JEST), followed by personal interview. Students selected under Joint Astronomy Programme (JAP) organized by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore are also eligible to join IIA for the Ph.D programme. Selected students are provided hostel accommodation, medical facilities and annual book grant.

➤ **Visiting internship programme:** Students selected for this programme work on specific projects that form a part of the ongoing research at IIA. Based on the nature of the project, the selected candidates shall be asked to work either at the main campus of IIA in Bangalore or its field stations. Regular staff members working in colleges and universities are also provided opportunity to carry out Ph.D work under Faculty Improvement Programme (FIP).

➤ **Summer Programmes:** The institute organizes summer programmes every year, wherein young students are exposed to research in Astronomy and Astrophysics. A school in Physics and Astrophysics is held every year at the Kodaikanal Observatory of the institute during May. In addition, students are also selected for independent projects at IIA, Bangalore during the months of May-July.

➤ **Other Academic Programmes:** The institute offers post doctoral fellowship, Chandrasekhar post doctoral fellowship, and visiting scientist position to young researchers.

Indian Institute of Astrophysics

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Research Programmes:

Sun and the Solar System
Stellar Physics
Extragalactic Astronomy
Theoretical Astrophysics
Astronomical Instrumentation

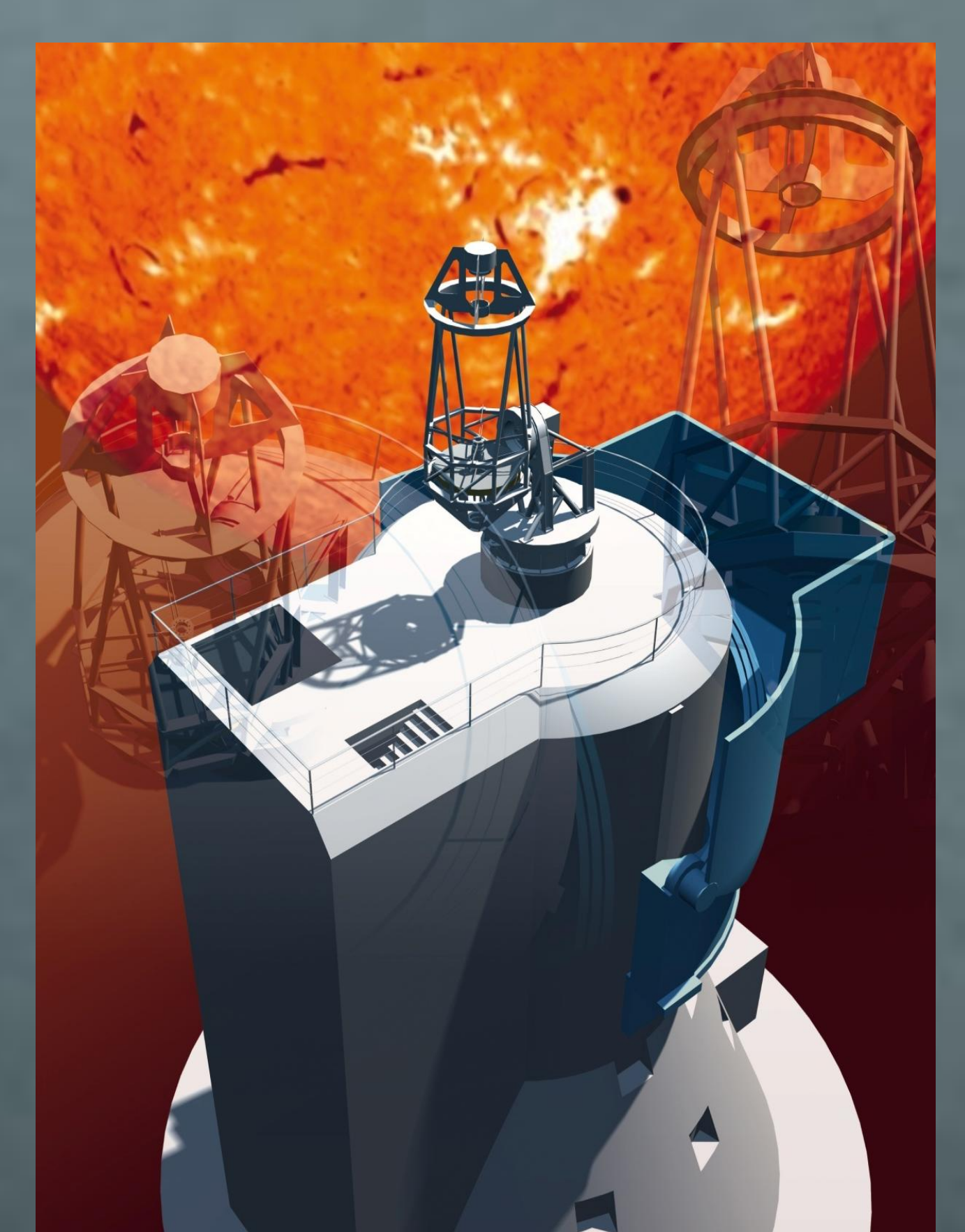
Facilities:

Kodaikanal Observatory
Vainu Bappu Observatory (VBO)
Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO)
MGK Menon Laboratory for Space Sciences
Gauribidanur Radio Observatory
Photonics Division
Electronics Division
Computer Centre
Library



Some Upcoming projects:

- **TMT: Thirty Meter Telescope.**
- **NLST: National Large Solar Telescope.**
- **ADITYA : space coronagraph for solar observations.**
- **Radio heliograph expansion project at the Gauribidanur observatory.**



Poster Credit: Prasanna Deshmukh