

4th BINA workshop

"Moving forward with the Indo-Belgian cooperation in Astronomy"

First announcement

Venue: Dept. of Physics, University of Calicut (India)
Dates: 4-7 November 2025
Email: binaconsortium@gmail.com

Scientific Rationale

The Indo-Belgian collaboration in Astronomy and Astrophysics was formally established in 2014 by creating the Belgo-Indian Network for Astronomy and Astrophysics (BINA). This initiative aimed to unite Indian and Belgian partner institutes, supported financially by the Department of Science and Technology (DST, India) and the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO, Belgium). Over the past decade, this collaboration has led to three successful bilateral programs between the two countries. Today, BINA has become a symbol representing efforts to promote Indo-Belgian ventures in astronomy and space sciences.

The first two formal collaborations, BINA and BINA-2, were spearheaded by astronomers from the Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB; Brussels, Belgium) and the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES; Nainital, India), in partnership with numerous institutes and universities from both countries. These programs aimed to strengthen the collaborative potential between Indian and Belgian astronomers across a broad range of observational astronomy. The third bilateral initiative, resulting from a joint call between the two countries, introduced a more focused program. This initiative, led by ROB on the Belgian side and the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL; Ahmedabad, India) on the Indian side, is titled "Belgo-Indian Projects on Precision Astronomical Spectroscopy for Stellar and Solar System Bodies" (BIPASS). BIPASS emphasizes utilizing astronomical facilities accessible to both nations, focusing on spectroscopic studies to achieve key scientific outcomes. The program provides funding to facilitate research visits between India and Belgium, fostering closer collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Over the past decade, three BINA workshops have been organized:

- 1st: "Instrumentation and Science with the 3.6-m DOT and 4.0-m ILMT Telescopes", held from 15–18 November 2016 in Nainital (India) and hosted by ARIES. ([website](#); [summary](#); [proceedings](#))
- 2nd: "BINA as an Expanding International Collaboration", conducted from 9–12 October 2018 in Brussels (Belgium) and organized by ROB. ([website](#); [proceedings](#))
- 3rd: "Scientific Potential of the Indo-Belgian Cooperation", held from 22–24 March 2023 in Bhimtal (India) and once again hosted by ARIES ([website](#); [proceedings](#))

These workshops have played a crucial role in strengthening ties between Indian and Belgian astronomers, fostering collaboration, and driving advancements in astronomy.

Continuing the tradition of the BINA workshops, the fourth edition is being organized by the Department of Physics, University of Calicut, Kerala, India. This workshop aims to unite collaborators from both countries, offering a platform to present the outcomes of their joint research and foster meaningful discussions. Ample time will be dedicated to interactive sessions to encourage the exchange of ideas and future planning. The proceedings of the workshop will be published in the Bulletin de la Société Royale des Sciences de Liège (a peer-reviewed, open-access online journal).

Given logistical constraints, we anticipate being able to accommodate approximately 100 participants in person. With this first announcement, we invite you to **mark your calendars** and **express your interest** in participating by filling out this [online form](#). If you have trouble submitting the form, you may **email** us at binaconsortium@gmail.com. Initially, participation in the 4th BINA meeting will be by invitation, extended in response to entries submitted via the form indicating your interest in attending.

Below is the tentative timeline leading up to the meeting:

- The second announcement, the opening of registration and abstract submission (mid-February 2025)
- End of abstract submission (March/April 2025)
- Selection of abstracts for poster and oral presentations (May/June 2025)
- **4th BINA meeting: 4-7 November 2025**
- Receipt of full paper for the proceedings (7th December 2025)

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