

## INDIAN NATIONAL MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD (INMO)

“Mathematical Olympiad” is basically a talent search programme for the pre-university students. The main purpose of the programme is to encourage students to develop their mathematical ability. Through this programme a nationwide search is made every year to spot talented students in the field of Mathematics

In India, this programme is a major initiative undertaken by the National Board for Higher Mathematics (NBHM). On behalf of NBHM this programme is organized every year by Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), Mumbai. HBCSE has been organizing this programme since 1988. This programme is the earliest programme from amongst other similar programmes organized now for different science subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Astrophysics. INMO programme is the only programme which leads to participation of Indian students at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) which was started way back in 1959 and is held in different countries every year (In India it was held in 1996). There are more than 100 participating countries. Indian performance has always been satisfactory.

### **Organization, conduction and training**

For the selection of the talented students the tests are held throughout the country on a single day with a single paper. The questions asked are really challenging and they measure the students capacity for original critical thinking.

For holding and selecting the most talented the country has been divided in 23 regions in addition to three groups (CBSE, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Sangathan). Each region is assigned a regional coordinator who organizes the tests for I and II stages. The students belonging to these three groups have an option to take the test through Regional Coordinator.

### **Stage I (RMO)**

The stage is called Regional Mathematical Olympiad or RMO in which students of the region appear at the test. Students of class XI are eligible for this test, however, students from lower classes IX and X) can also appear (at the discretion of the Coordinator) at this test which is a 3 hour written test. On the basis of this test certain number of students are selected for stage 2.

### **Stage 2 (INMO)**

Those students who have cleared the first stage take another test in the region for stage 2. The question paper is uniform through the country and the level of questions is a little higher. This test is for 4 hours. On the basis of the test 30-35 students from all over the country are selected. These students are called INMO awardees and receive a certificate of merit.

### **Stage 3 (IMOTC)**

This stage is International Mathematical Olympiad Training Camp. The INMO awardees are called for a month long training camp as a preparation for International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO). The participants are given rigorous training by experts in subject of IMO syllabus at HBCSE, Mumbai. They have to face a number of tests there before a team of 6 is chosen for IMO. These 6 also go through 10 day Pre departure camp for IMO.

### **Scholarship**

INMO awardees who successfully complete IMOTC and who chose Mathematics one of the subjects in their UG studies are eligible for NBHM scholarship of Rs. 4000/- PM (likely to be increased) throughout their UG studies. If they continue further Master's degree an enhanced scholarship is awarded to them.

In addition to above there is a Nature programme for those who do not continue their studies directly to Mathematics. The details are available with NBHM.

### **Programme in Rajasthan**

In Rajasthan INMO programme is being run successfully since its inception in the country. A good number of students from all over Rajasthan take part in this RMO. IN Rajasthan this RMO is held at about 8 to 10 centres situated at district headquarters. About 15 students are selected from amongst nearly 1000 students for INMO which is held at Jaipur only. Last year three students from this region were selected as INMO awardee.

This year, RMO will be held on first Sunday of December 2014 and the INMO shall take place on first Sunday of February 2015.

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