

Newsletter: April - May 2023

Smt. Indrani Balan Science Activity Centre
IISER Pune

We at the Smt. Indrani Balan Science Activity Centre (SAC) on campus are engaged in teacher training programs, making models for activity-based teaching and learning, organising Wednesday visits for students from different schools, and outreach through our IISER Pune Science Activity Centre YouTube channel. We welcome you to read our first bimonthly newsletter!

STEM Engagements and Initiatives



STEM Ready is a new STEM Tinkering Project initiated at Smt. Indrani Balan Science Activity Centre (SAC), IISER Pune and is funded by Tata Technologies under its CSR Initiative. The goal of this project is to conduct workshops with students and teachers to enhance STEM tinkering ecosystem in schools. Under this project, a series of 5-day workshops (one workshop per week) was conducted for high school teachers facilitating an exploration of STEM ideas through hands-on activities and enabling them to set up mini tinkering labs in their schools.



SAC also initiated Pan India project with Tata Consulting Engineers (TCE) Ltd. The project "STEM Workshop: Vigyaan for promoting STEM Education" is to enhance STEM education and to orient proactive and needy school teachers nationwide. Under this CSR project, three day workshops were conducted for In-Service school teachers. During these workshops, 216 school teachers from 168 schools had participated. 7 workshops were conducted In-person at 7 different locations of TCE offices - Pune, Airoli, Bangalore, Surat, Kolkata, Jamshedpur and Noida. Each workshop was of 3 days in duration.

Both the projects are focused on improving the quality of STEM education and enhancing creative and effective learning resources for classroom teaching. Under these projects STEM resources were designed to aid the teachers to implement and co-develop more hands-on activities for teaching-learning process.

In April, the team began working on designing the resources for the upcoming online session starting from June 2023. Also, in the coming month the team will engage in preparing 98 STEM learning boxes for the schools at Kolkata, Jamshedpur and Nodia.

Follow the progress of STEM initiatives on our social pages as well: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Do you have questions about the Science Activity Centre (SAC) or need assistance signing up? Don't worry, you're not alone. [Join the SAC Team](#) on telegram for its monthly outreach events designed for educators and STEM activists who are not yet members of the community. Get your questions answered, learn more about the Outreach community of practice.

School visits to IISER Pune



Every wednesday Science Activity Centre conducts half-day workshops for school and college students of various age-groups. This involves demonstration of 20-25 science and math hands-on activities which explain some basic scientific principles from their textbooks.

In April- May 2023, 20 schools visited our campus. We had a great time with students by exploring math Puzzles and sharing Science and Math hands-on activities with magnets, light and many more fun learning activities from their Science and Math textbook. Total of 548 students and 61 teachers visited the campus.

We concluded the session by sharing the [SAC Digital Repository](#) for hands-on activities.

Student groups from schools, junior & senior colleges, universities, Non Government's Organizations (NGOs), and institutes are welcome to [visit IISER Pune](#).

Educator Professional Development (EPD) Resources

Science Activity Centre (SAC) offers an exciting opportunity for class 5th to 12th educators to access low-cost interactive science toys that can be used to teach science and math in a participative and hands-on way. With access to hands-on activities, school curriculum aligned activities and related training resources, teachers and students can use SAC resources in the classroom.

Recently, SAC team has designed the classroom resources on

- LEDs in series on breadboard [Click here](#)
- Simple closed circuit [Click here](#)
- Buttons in parallel [Click here](#)

- Buttons in series [Click here](#)

Click the links to get started.

Learn how you can use STEM hands-on activities from low-cost material that can engage students' creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration skills. [Join us](#) as we explore ways of designing new hands-on activities.

Sunday Science Demonstrations Series

This is a monthly series of Science Activity demonstrations, talks and discussions that are broadcast Live on YouTube. It is aimed at students and teachers from middle school and above to demonstrate exciting science experiments and toys that one can easily make using simple household or trash material, from the safety and comfort of your home. Each episode is based on a unique theme.



The 64th Lecture of this series was on: Us and Our Star

Speaker: Sonal Thorve, IISER Pune and Dr. Helen Mason, University of Cambridge

The episode was streamed Live on Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 11am.
YouTube live recording : [Watch here](#)



The 65th Lecture of this series was on: The Science behind Climate Change

Speaker: Dr. Apurva Barve, Centre for Resources, Maharashtra State Faculty Development Academy

The episode was streamed Live on Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 11am.
YouTube live recording : [Watch here](#)

To watch all our previous episodes: [Click here](#)

Next episode is scheduled for June 18, 2023. Do join!

For more STEM demonstrations and activities, visit the [IISER Pune Science Activity Centre Youtube channel](#)

Celebration of Special Days

The SAC holds open days and public exhibitions to mark significant days such as Science Day, Teachers' Day, Children's Day and many more!



On May 13, 2023 we celebrated Zero Shadow Day. Total 120 school students across Pune attended this event on our campus. They observed fascinating shadow

patterns at 12:31pm. A lecture and series of hands-on activities were demonstrated to explain the concept behind this fascinating phenomena.

SAC Social Connect

The SAC is engaged in outreach and science popularisation activities in various ways. In addition to holding activities for students and teachers, the Centre reaches out to the general public as well as eminent personalities in the society.



On May 10, 2023 our Director Prof. Sunil S. Bhagwat visited Science Activity Centre.



On May 31, 2023 Dr. Anil Kakodkar Chairman, Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission & Former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission visited Science Activity Centre.

Coming Up Events at SAC

Mark your calendar to stay up to date with these upcoming events to make timely SAC connections!

June 14: SAC Wednesday visit for school students and college teachers

June 18: Sunday Science series: Episode 66 will be streamed Live on IISER Pune Science Activity Centre [Youtube channel](#)

June 19 - 22: Participation in G20 Exhibition at Pune from 20th to 22nd June 2023

July 5: SAC Wednesday visit for school students and college teachers

July 12: SAC Wednesday visit for school students and college teachers

July 16: Sunday Science Series. Our 67th episode will be streamed Live on IISER Pune Science Activity YouTube channel.

[Click here](#) to subscribe to SAC for getting notification to all our upcoming events.

Already a member of the SAC community? Share these resources with teachers or STEM activists who may be interested in exploring it. Attend the regular Live session on our [Youtube channel](#) or join our [Telegram group](#) if you have questions about new features and to get one-on-one support on how you can interact with the SAC Outreach community.

Reach us at:
<http://www.iiserpune.ac.in/outreach/science-activity-centre>

If you have any questions please contact our outreach team.

Office: +91 (20) 2590 8079

To Get a quick reminder for all our coming events, [Subscribe to us](#)

Initiative by Smt. Indrani Balan Science Activity Centre IISER Pune

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