

Second Newsletter of 2025

June – September, 2025

Smt. Indrani Balan Science Activity Centre

IISER Pune



We were delighted to host distinguished guests from Japan — Mr. Yuji Nishikawa, Advisor, and Mr. Takashi Konishi, Director & Program Officer at the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) — during their visit to IISER Pune.

July 12, 2025

[Read more](#)

In This Edition:

A Celebration of STEM and Community Impact

Join us as we look back on an exciting quarter filled with inspiring moments of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) outreach and engagement!

This issue brings together highlights from our capacity-building workshops for teachers across Maharashtra, the celebration of National Space Day and World Environment Day, and several major outreach events held at the [Science Activity Centre \(SAC\)](#) and its satellite centre, [Kalpakghar](#), at [Pimpri Chinchwad Science Park](#). You'll also find a gallery of our live online sessions streamed on YouTube and a STEM inventory showcasing the latest hands-on activities currently happening at SAC.

We take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our teachers, students, collaborators, and supporters for their continued encouragement and enthusiasm.

Explore Outreach and Training

STEM Tinkering Workshop for Teachers



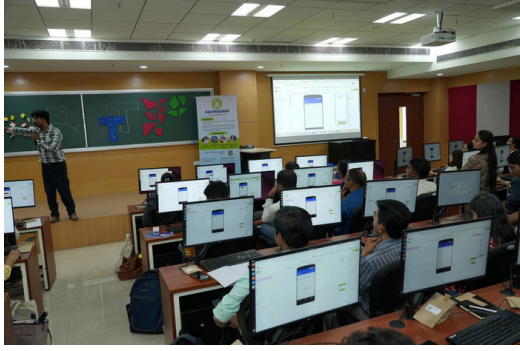
A three-day STEM Ready Workshop for Science teachers was successfully conducted at DIET Dharashiv from 10th to 12th September 2025, aiming to strengthen science teachers' capacity to adopt innovative and activity-based teaching practices. The workshop equipped 57 participating science teachers with practical skills, creative pedagogical approaches, and exposure to digital tools that can enhance classroom learning.

Also, three-day STEM Ready Workshop for 53 Mathematics teachers was organized at DIET Dharashiv from 13th to 16th September 2025, focusing on strengthening teachers' pedagogical skills through hands-on, activity-based learning approaches.

[STEM Ready Project](#) is Supported by Tata Technologies Ltd. under its CSR India initiative

[Project Journey - Watch here](#)





To promote a “*learning by doing*” approach in schools, Tinkering Hackathon Challenges were conducted at Kalpakghar, Pimpri Chichwad Science Park.

In News: [Read here](#)

The hackathon tasks included developing Android applications using [block coding](#) and building a 2V geodesic dome using simple connectors and struts, guided by an instruction manual. These activities aimed to strengthen teachers’ understanding of hands-on STEM pedagogy and inspire them to bring similar learning experiences into their classrooms. Over the course of four workshops, 200+ teachers participated enthusiastically in STEM-based activities and discussions.

[Kalpakghar - Community Tinkering Centre](#) is Supported by Tata Technologies Ltd. under its CSR India initiative

[Book a Visit](#)





***“Activity-based learning, especially the Sun–Earth–Moon and eclipse models, uplifted my spirits to innovate beyond textbooks.” -
Feedback from a school teacher.***

A total of 55 Zilla Parishad school teachers from Nashik district participated in hands-on sessions that blended low-cost experiments and interactive STEM models designed to make science learning more engaging and concept-driven. The workshop was part of a series of STEM teacher training programs conducted across Nashik district (June–September 2025) under the broader STEM Education Initiative by SAC.

STEM for Teachers’ is a collaborative initiative undertaken by IISER Pune in partnership with the MVP Alumni Ex-Staff and Well Wishers Association (MAEWA).

[Project Feedback - Read here](#)

STEM Fusion Workshop and Student Exhibition at Shillong

IISER Pune Participation under NECTAR Initiative



SAC, IISER Pune, actively participated in the “STEM Fusion” — a one-day workshop and student exhibition on Aug 18 organized by [NECTAR](#) in collaboration with the Smart Village Movement at Shillong.

The event brought together students, teachers, and innovators to celebrate hands-on learning and creativity in STEM education. The IISER Pune team (Shri. Ashok Rupner, Dr. Chaitanya Mungi, Ms. Tejal Vyas) conducted interactive STEM sessions, engaging participants with exciting hands-on activities that demonstrated the joy of learning through exploration and tinkering.



The workshop, supported by the Government of Meghalaya and the Ministry of Education, Government of India, aimed to inspire curiosity and promote experiential learning among school students.

Watch the success of the programme [here](#)

National Space Day Celebration - NSpD 2025

Aryabhata to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities

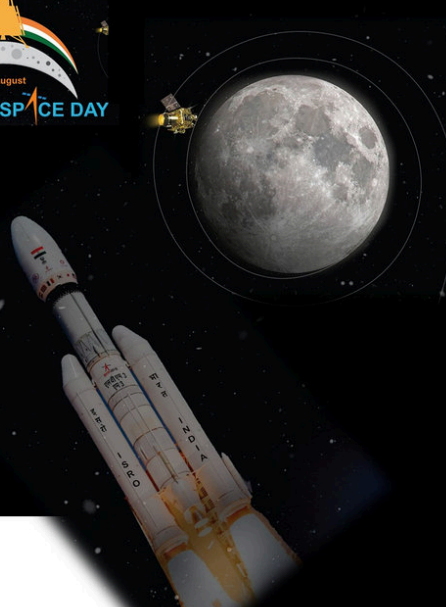
Live lecture and demonstration series
Episode – 90
National Space Day Special
**Exploring Space: A Journey
Beyond Our World**
Speaker:
Prof. Kuljeet Kaur Marhas
*Section Head, Planetary Sciences Division,
Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad*
Saturday, August 23, 2025
11.00 am to 12.00 noon
 IISER Pune Science Activity Centre

Scan the QR
code for
more details 

 **IISER PUNE**

 **TATA**
TATA TECHNOLOGIES


23 August
NATIONAL SPACE DAY



[Watch here](#)

As part of the National Space Day celebration (Aug 23), a special talk titled *“Exploring Space: A Journey Beyond Our World”* was delivered by [Prof. Kuljeet Kaur Marhas](#), a distinguished planetary scientist known for her pioneering work in planetary materials and space science research. The session, streamed live on August 23, 2025, offered fascinating insights into the mysteries of our solar system and humanity’s ongoing quest to understand the universe.

Kalpakghar (SAC satellite centre at PCSP) also hosted a full day of interactive STEM sessions from 11 am to 5 pm, featuring: Virtual Reality Moon Walk Experience – and Hands-on “Make & Take” Activity

Read the success of the programme [here](#)



Message from PCMC Commissioner

Teachers’ Day Week Celebrations at SAC and Kalpakghar

The first week of September 2025 marked a series of inspiring events celebrating Teachers’ Day and honoring educators’ contribution to STEM Education.

September 03, Kalpakghar - Community Tinkering Centre



PCMC teachers shared their presentations and feedback on implementing STEM education in classrooms, reflecting on their learning experiences and classroom innovations. Around 30 teachers were honored by Kalpakghar in the presence of Shri. Pravin Tupe, Founder Director, PCSP for their active participation and dedication to promoting experiential learning. Each teacher received a certificate and a STEM Box as a token of appreciation.

Read More [here](#)

September 04, IISER Pune Campus





Continuing the celebrations, a one-day Teachers' Workshop was conducted by SAC for teachers from Khed Taluka under the TACO Project – "STEM Hands-on for Teachers". Participants enthusiastically engaged in hands-on STEM activities designed to bring science concepts to life. Teachers were appreciated for their enthusiastic participation and contribution to advancing STEM education in their schools.

September 05 — Teachers' Day Talk

LIVE lecture and demonstration series
Episode – 91

Teachers' Day Special

Title: Teacher's Journey: From Introspection to Inspiration & Action

Speaker: Shri. Nagesh Mone
(Former Headmaster, Dravid High school Wai, District - Satara)

Friday, September 5, 2025
Time - 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

IISER Pune Science Activity Centre

Scan the QR code for more details

Watch here

The week concluded with an insightful **Teachers' Day Talk** by **Shri Nagesh Mone**, Former Headmaster, Dravid High School, Wai, District Satara, titled "*Teacher's Journey: From Introspection to Inspiration & Action.*"

Read More [here](#)

Celebrating World Environment Day 2025



World Environment Day

#BeatPlasticPollution



On the occasion of World Environment Day (June 5, 2025), the Science Activity Centre, IISER Pune, joined the global movement to #BeatPlasticPollution by inspiring everyone to take small, meaningful actions for a sustainable planet.

[Watch here](#)



The Army School, Pune visited Pimpri Chinchwad Science Park to celebrate environmental awareness through STEM-based activities with Kalpakghar team. The event featured a series of engaging sessions, including hands-on activities, an environment-themed quiz, and a lively Make & Take corner, where students created eco-friendly models to take home.

School visits to our campus



From June to September 2025, a total of 1074 school students and 63 school teachers from various schools and colleges across Maharashtra visited the campus. During their visit, students had the opportunity to engage directly with experts:

- Dr. Krishanpal Karmodiya, Associate Professor, Biology and
- Dr. Aparna Deshpande, Associate Professor, Physics & SAC Faculty In-Charge



Visitors also explored state-of-the-art research facilities at IISER Pune, including STM, NMR, and supercomputing labs, gaining hands-on exposure to cutting-edge scientific techniques

[Visit IISER Pune](#)

STEM - Classroom Resource for Schools



[Two-Piece Tetrahedron Puzzle](#)



[Four 'T's In a Circle Puzzle](#)



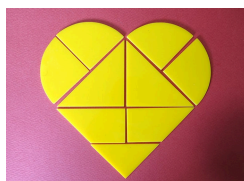
[Square to Octagon Puzzle](#)



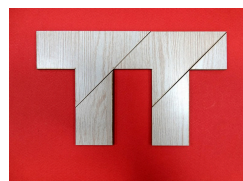
[Octagon to Square Puzzle](#)



[Four 'T's In a Square Puzzle](#)



[Heart Puzzle: Area of a Square and Circle](#)



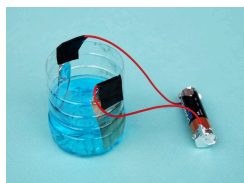
[Pi Puzzle](#)



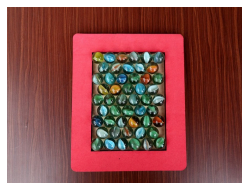
[Four Pieces Rectangle Puzzle](#)



[Five pieces
square puzzle](#)



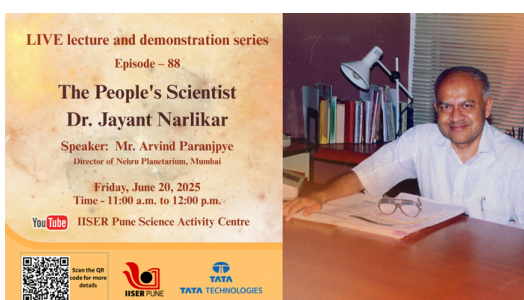
[Electroplating!](#)



[Closed packing
of spheres](#)

[View Digital Repository of Hands-on Activities](#)

Friday STEM series on Youtube



The People's Scientist: Dr. Jayant Narlikar
by Mr. Arvind Paranjpye (Director, Nehru Planetarium, Mumbai)

Streamed live on Jun 20, 2025

[View here](#)



Discovery of Einstein's lenses at your fingertips by Dr. Anupreeta More
(Research Faculty at IUCAA Pune)
Streamed live on Aug 8, 2025

[View here](#)

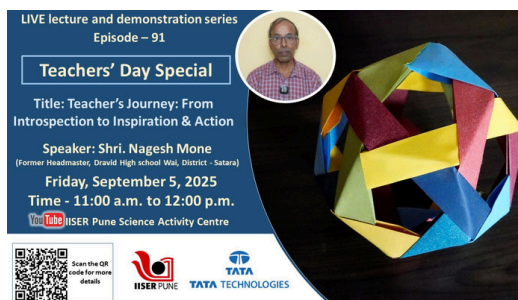


National Space Day Talk

Exploring Space: A Journey Beyond Our World by Prof. Kuljeet Kaur Marhas (Section Head, Planetary Sciences Division, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad)

Streamed live on Aug 23, 2025

[View here](#)



Teachers' Day Talk

Teacher's Journey: From Introspection to Inspiration & Action by Shri. Nagesh Mone

(Former Headmaster, Dravid High school Wai, District - Satara)

Streamed live on Sep 5, 2025

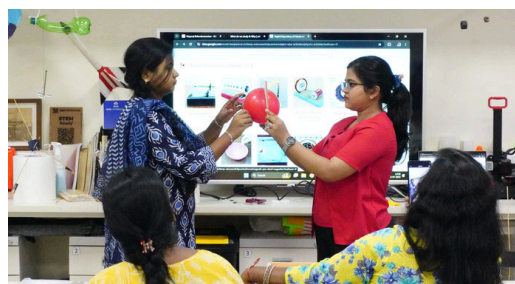
[View here](#)

New and Noteworthy at SAC



On June 1: Honoured to Welcome Padma Shri Awardee Popatrao Bapuji Pawar at Kalpakghar. He is Known as the visionary sarpanch of [Hiware Bazar](#)—a green and prosperous model village through community-driven water management.

On July 4: A one-day STEM workshop was conducted with teachers from Jharkhand in collaboration with Vigyan Ashram Pabal. Teachers were engaged in hands-on science and math activities, promoting experiential learning in classrooms.



On July 07: Our Kalpakghar team participated in the Citizen Science Expo 2025, Pune Knowledge Cluster at IISER Pune. We connected with many inspiring individuals working in citizen science programs and showcased our outreach initiatives to enthusiastic visitors.



On July 11: Dr. Vijay Borges, Project Director, Coding & Robotics Education in Schools ([PMU - CARES](#)) from the Government of Goa, visited IISER Pune. We discussed foundational skills in computational thinking, design thinking & collaboration for schools across Goa.



On July 12: Distinguished guests from Japan Yuji Nishikawa, Advisor, and Takashi Konishi, Director & Program Officer at Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), visited SAC. Our team had the opportunity to interact with them and showcase STEM activities.

On July 13: Visit of Shri. Umeshkumar Mote, Registrar & Dr. Shalini Sharma (Incharge, [SMC](#)) to Kalpakghar PC Science Park. We had enriching discussions on inquiry-driven activities to strengthen outreach and impact for schools at PMC Pune.



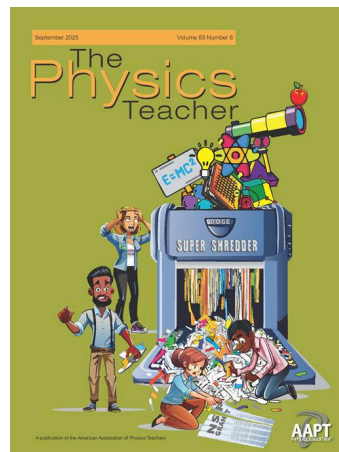
On July 30: Visit of [Shri A. S. Kiran](#) Kumar, renowned Indian space scientist and former Chairman of ISRO, to the IISER Pune campus. Our team had an opportunity to interact with him, showcase our hands-on activities, and engaged in meaningful discussions on STEM education.



On Aug 15: Kalpakghar team had the privilege of interacting with the PCMC Commissioner and presented him the book "Indian Science Transforming India" on the occasion of Independence Day. He also appreciated our ongoing STEM initiatives at Science Park.

On Sep 01: An article titled “IISER Low-Cost Hands-on Activities for Grade School”—highlighting the Science Activity Centre’s (SAC) digital resources and engaging science learning tools—was published in the Wibsight column of the prestigious AAPT journal *The Physics Teacher* (Phys. Teach. 63, 523, 2025)

Read the article [here](#).



On Sep 16: As part of the iRISEforIndia project under the Capacity Building Workshop – Level 2 for Early Career Researchers (ECR), around 60 PhD students from across India visited SAC. The session focused on hands-on STEM activities and sparked meaningful discussions on innovative teaching methods for science education.

On Sep 26: Dr. Aparna Deshpande, Faculty In-Charge of SAC was featured in an episode of the podcast [Pratidhvani – Humanizing Science](#), hosted by Prof. G.V. Pavan Kumar of IISER Pune.

Explore her research in physics and science education [in this conversation](#).



[Watch here](#)

Upcoming Events at SAC

- October 13th -19th - [Mathematical lantern workshops](#) at Kalpakghar
 - October - Friday Science Series, Live streaming from SAC
 - From October 22 onwards, school visits to campus (every wednesday)
 - December 2025 - Teacher Training workshop at Nashik
-

Already a member of the SAC community? Share these resources with teachers, students 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

Join Us

Subscribe to Us

Reach us at:

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

If you have any questions, please contact our outreach team.

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To Get a quick reminder for all our coming events.

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