

The Joy of Science



VIKRAM A SARABHAI
COMMUNITY SCIENCE CENTRE

Annual Report
2024-25

Remembering

Dr. K. Kasturirangan



24 Oct 1940 – 25 Apr 2025

VASCSC is deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. K. Kasturirangan - an extraordinary scientist, visionary policymaker and passionate educationist.

As Chairman of the VASCSC Board of Governors since 2017, Dr. Kasturirangan guided the Centre's mission to make science engaging and accessible to young minds across India. His commitment to science education popularization has left an indelible impact on generations.

As the former Chairman of ISRO, Dr. Kasturirangan was instrumental in propelling India's space programme to global heights. As the Chairman of the National Education Policy 2020 Committee, he shaped a holistic, inclusive, and forward-looking education system.

Recipient of the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan, Dr. Kasturirangan's life was dedicated to building a developed India.

Having him as VASCSC's guiding light was a privilege beyond words. His leadership will be missed. VASCSC honors his life, his service, and his enduring legacy.

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2024-25



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Chairman's Message

I am happy to see the wonderful spread of innovative STEM programmes and projects implemented by Vikram a Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC). It is a great honour to witness the growth of this pioneering institution set up by Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, who envisioned it as a collaborative space for experiential science education. Having been a student during the formative years of the Centre, I witnessed how it provides a unique opportunity to young children to satisfy their natural inclination for curiosity, exploration and creation. VASCSC's work is pertinent even as it adapts and evolves in context of the changing scenario of the education system in the country.

I pay homage to our esteemed Chairman of the Board of Governors - Dr. K. Kasturirangan, who we unfortunately lost this year. In recognition of his exceptional contributions, the Government of India had entrusted him with the Chairmanship of the committees responsible for drafting the NEP 2020 and NCF. His involvement played a pivotal role in aligning VASCSC's core science education objectives including critical thinking, inquiry-based learning, and learning by doing; with the vision of NEP 2020. Dr. Kasturirangan provided a visionary leadership and direction to the Centre with his down-to-earth and hands-on approach. His invaluable contributions to the organization will be remembered.

With the NEP 2020 recommending experiential and inquiry-based learning; VASCSC has already been ahead of the curve. Its programmes reflect a shift away from rote memorization toward critical thinking, creativity, and exploration. The ongoing activities encompass the latest trends in science education; yet still adhering to its mandate of promoting understanding of fundamental scientific concepts, encouraging process of inquiry, stimulating interest, improving quality of science education and making clear the role of science in society. The activities for teachers and students are providing them exposure and access to hands-on mode of STEM learning

The role of VASCSC is central to preparing children for a world facing the challenge of climate change. Integration of climate change education with STEM is the way forward for creating a generation of eco champions who will shape a sustainable planet. STEM education will provide them with indepth understanding of the issue, and equip them with tools and skills to create effective solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Simultaneously, STEM can develop employability skills for the expanding green jobs market. VASCSC is placed strategically to promote STEM education as a driver of sustainability.

I would like to compliment the Director and team VASCSC for their excellent work. The valuable guidance of the Board Members is specially appreciated. I would also like to thank the donors, project partners, students, teachers and well-wishers for their consistent support to the Centre. My best wishes to everyone for future endeavors.



Kartikeya V. Sarabhai
Chairman
VASCSC Standing Committee

Director's Message

It gives me great pleasure to present the work of our Centre through this Annual Report. With our strong commitment to STEM education, we carried forward our regular programmes with the same zeal as our new initiatives.

India lost one of its finest scientists and educationists, Dr. K. Kasturirangan, who also served as Chairman of the VASCSC Board of Governors. His passing is a deep loss, and we pay tribute to his invaluable contributions to science, education, and to our Centre.

In line with the vision of NEP 2020, VASCSC continued to promote hands-on STEM learning for students. With CSR support from long-standing and new partners, we sustained several popular initiatives while also strengthening our infrastructure. This included establishing new Physics and Emerging Technology labs, constructing a seminar hall, and upgrading our library and other labs. These facilities will greatly enrich the STEM learning experience for children.

As India advances toward Viksit Bharat 2047 and a green economy, it is projected that 35 million green jobs will be created. Building a strong ecosystem for green skills, combining sustainability know-how with digital fluency, has become essential. STEM plays a vital role here, equipping young people to address environmental challenges. With support from TIPL, we set up another Emerging Tech Lab and conducted workshops on future technologies. We also promoted hands-on STEM learning for youth pursuing B.Ed. programmes.

The E-STEM approach, integrating environment with STEM, is central to preparing youth for climate resilience and sustainability. India's Net Zero 2070 target cannot be achieved without equipping students with such skills. As recipient of the Global E-STEM Award 2024 by NAAEE, VASCSC carried out activities with schoolchildren to build environmental literacy for a sustainable future.

VASCSC successfully set up 43 STEM labs (WAAH CSCs) across Gujarat under our partnership with WAAH Foundation. The WAAH Science Laureate Awards, now in their fourth edition, continue to honour innovators and researchers whose work benefits society.

Our Science Shop continues to provide quality STEM material at affordable prices, with several national agencies sourcing our TLMs for their education projects and labs. In alignment with NEP 2020, we also developed the Maths Lab Package – Middle to strengthen mathematics learning at the middle stage.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our former Chairman, Late Dr. Kasturirangan; to Shri Kartikeya Sarabhai, Chairman of the Standing Committee; and to all Board Members for their invaluable guidance. I thank my team for their dedication, and our well-wishers, partners, donors, teachers, and students for their constant support and encouragement.



Dilip Surkar
Executive Director, VASCSC

Introduction

Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC) was founded by India's prominent scientist Dr. Vikram Sarabhai in 1966. This pioneering 'Community Science Centre' was established to encourage scientific thinking and innovative science teaching. It originated as 'Group for Improvement of Science Education (GISE)' in 1963 from PRL, Ahmedabad. The institution was renamed 'Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre' in 1971, following Dr. Sarabhai's demise, to honour his legacy.

VASCSC's objectives are to promote among students, teachers and the public:

- an understanding of fundamental concepts involved in Science Education
- the acquisition of scientific knowledge, insights as far as possible by the process of inquiry through experiment, audio-visual media and other means
- the ability to solve problems
- to stimulate interest in the principles of science and scientific method among students of schools & colleges, by giving them the necessary encouragement and exposure
- to be concerned with the role of education and ways of improving science education, in relation to the individual and the community as a whole
- to help make clear the social implications of science and technology.

The core of its philosophy is to take students out of the rigid framework of textbooks and encourage them to think, explore and create. Over the years, the Centre has blended formal and non-formal education techniques to develop innovative methods that enhance students' understanding of science and mathematics, making learning enjoyable & enduring.

VASCSC has been at the forefront of innovative science education, having pioneered several concepts that have become mainstream. These include an interactive exhibition space, open laboratories, Mathematics Laboratory, Science Playground, active integration of computers in science education, and the development of interactive educational programmes.

The Centre's commitment to fostering love for science across various segments of society is reflected in its symbol. The five arrowheads symbolize groups viz. teachers, students, researchers, administrators, and community, while VASCSC is represented by Delta - the mathematical symbol of change. VASCSC strives to drive meaningful transformation in science education by providing a common platform for these groups.



The Centre houses well-equipped labs in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Electronics, Model Rocketry, Astronomy, Emerging Technologies, Mathematics, and Computer. It also features a Science Playground, Library, Workshop, and Science Shop, creating an enriching environment for exploration and learning. Its commitment to enhancing the quality of science education and popularization has been widely recognized through prestigious awards, including:

- The 'National Award for Outstanding Efforts in Science & Technology Communication' by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India (2008).
- 'The Times of India Social Impact Award' for Education (2011).
- 'Mahatma Award for Social Good & Impact' by the Mahatma Foundation (2023).



Annual Programme

The Annual Programme is implemented throughout the year with the aim of fostering interest and nurturing children's curiosity in STEM. These subjects are presented in a clear and engaging manner, ensuring accessibility for young learners. The programme emphasizes the significance of science in everyday life, demonstrating its practical relevance. Various instructional methods including demonstrations, experiments, projects, science shows, hands-on activities, are employed to facilitate comprehensive learning among children.

Open House

The Open House programme offers the visitors a unique opportunity to explore the Centre's facilities and engage with various STEM topics. Visitors can access the well-equipped laboratories, interact with hands-on exhibits, browse the library, and experience an exciting journey of discovery.



School Visits

The School Visit programme offers an engaging and interactive learning experience for school groups visiting the Centre, fostering their curiosity and enthusiasm for STEM. Facilitated by a dedicated team, the programme features specially designed sessions such as Science Shows, demonstrations, hands-on experiments, group activities, educational games, innovative teaching learning material, and guided exploration of the Centre's facilities. The initiative aims to inspire students and cultivate their interest in science; encouraging deeper exploration and conceptual understanding. They are introduced to the various activities of the Centre and motivated to participate in its regular programmes. Whenever possible, takeaway materials are provided to both students and schools. For many institutions, a visit to VASCSC becomes an integral part of their educational trips. Many students return independently after their initial visit and actively engage in the Centre's ongoing activities. Likewise, schools often continue their association by participating in events and other programmes following their visit.

3487 students and 351 teachers from 59 schools participated in the School Visit activity in the reporting year. This comprised school groups from Ahmedabad as well as other places. The students belonged to different grades starting from pre-school to higher secondary. Many institutional groups also visited the Centre and they were engaged in interactive sessions according to their level.

Student Visits

The Centre's laboratories are well-equipped to support school-level practicals, providing students with the opportunity to conduct curriculum mandated experiments or explore their own innovative ideas. Under the Student Visits programme, students independently utilize the lab facilities for performing practicals and investigatory projects. The Centre ensures access to necessary equipment, materials, and expert guidance for school projects, science fair projects and for trying out innovative ideas. A dedicated team of educators facilitates these sessions, fostering hands-on learning experiences. In total, 2910 students from various schools conducted practicals and projects in the Centre's laboratories during the year.

School Science Forum

The School Science Forum (SSF) is a year-long programme based on school curriculum, offered for std. 5 to 9 students. During the reporting year, 903 students from various schools participated. Many students have been continuing in the programme year after year due to the valuable hands-on learning experiences gained.

SSF was initiated as an intervention to provide children with hands-on experience for developing interest and conceptual understanding in STEM. These formative years play a crucial role in shaping a child's inclination and aptitude for the subject, and the right interventions can inspire them to pursue higher studies and careers in science. Since its inception in 2011, SSF has consistently attracted strong participation, making it one of the most sought-after programmes of VASCSC.

Aligned with the school curriculum, SSF ensures that students gain practical experience of the topics they study in school while receiving continuous guidance throughout the year. This approach helps them build a deeper, long-lasting understanding of concepts in science and mathematics, ultimately supporting their academic growth. The programme encourages students to explore beyond the classroom and

develop a positive attitude toward these subjects.

Sessions were conducted in the different labs by Centre's trained team. For each standard, around 30 sessions of two hours each were conducted weekly. To strengthen foundational concepts, SSF covers a diverse range of topics from disciplines such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Electronics, Astronomy, Emerging Technologies, and Model Rocketry. The activities are designed not only to enhance comprehension but also to nurture critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The admissions process for the 2024-25 academic year was also launched, with students enrolling in advance to secure their participation.

Day	No. of Batches of SSF				
	Std. 5	Std. 6	Std. 7	Std. 8	Std. 9
Tue	2	2	2	2	-
Wed	1	1	1	1	1
Thu	2	2	2	2	1
Fri	1	1	1	1	1
Sat	2	2	2	2	2
Sun	2	2	2	2	1



Summer Programme



The school summer vacation provides an excellent opportunity for students to engage in creative and innovative pursuits. VASCSC offers the highly popular Summer Programme whose USP is its activity-based approach and diverse selection of topics and themes. A wide range of modules is designed to cater to the varied interests and age groups of children. This programme features interactive, hands-on modules focused on STEM, allowing participants to explore and learn in an engaging and fun-filled manner. Emerging trends are incorporated to ensure that children gain exposure to the latest in STEM. Sessions are conducted in the Centre's well-equipped labs and learning spaces, guided by expert resource persons.

The Summer Programme 2024 was conducted during 23 Apr - 8 Jun 2024 and offered total 116 batches of 45 different modules for children. The response to the programme was excellent, with 2187 participants. The programme was primarily conducted at VASCSC campus. Some modules were conducted at VIKSAT, Ahmedabad campus as well.

As in previous years, a detailed programme schedule was compiled into a brochure for wide dissemination, and to ensure maximum participation. Information was shared through the Centre's website, social media, and notice boards. Positive word-of-mouth from past participants played a key role in promoting the programme. A dedicated helpline was made available to address inquiries from interested students.

The modules were designed for standards 1 to 12. Each module lasted one to two weeks, providing opportunities for exploration, creativity, and learning through experiments, model-making, games, and interactive activities. The programme covered an array of fascinating themes, including Astronomy, Aeronautics, Biology, Chemistry, Computers, Electronics, Mathematics, Model Rocketry, Physics, and Robotics. Several new modules were introduced based on the latest scientific trends and participant feedback. This ensured an engaging learning experience for participants from all age groups.

"The programme was very nice. The teachers' coordination and other things were excellent. I would like to give this workshop and science centre 5 stars!"



Chitrarth Rai
Participant

Summer Programme 2024 Modules

Name of Module	Level	Total No. of Seats	No. of Batches
Know Our Universe	Std. 6 - 8	60	3
Space Explorers	Std. 3 - 5	60	3
Telescope Making and Handling	Std. 7 - 9	30	2
Astronomy with Python	Std. 8 - 12	15	1
Space Telescope and Data Analysis	Std. 8 - 12	15	1
Certificate Course in Amateur Astronomy	Std. 8 - 12	15	1
Little Biologist	Std. 1-3	140	7
Bioscience Exploration	Std. 4 - 6	80	4
Microscopic Exploration	Std. 6 - 8	60	3
Biology Investigation	Std. 7 - 10	30	2
Chemistry Investigation	Std. 9 - 10	20	1
Fun with Chemistry	Std. 5 - 8	120	6
Chem 4 Kids	Std. 1 - 4	160	8
TechnoFun	Std. 3 - 4	72	4
Coding for Kids	Std. 4 - 5	36	2
Robotics - Juniors	Std. 5 - 6	15	1
Robotics - Seniors	Std. 8 - 10	30	2
Android App Development for Beginners	Std. 7 - 9	18	1
3D Printing and Designing	Std. 6 - 7	36	2
Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Beginners	Std. 7 - 9	54	3
Design and Build Circuit Board	Std. 8 - 10	15	1
Home Automation for Beginners	Std. 8 - 10	15	1
Beyond Reality: Exploring AR, VR, & AI	Std. 8 - 9	15	1
Electronics for You	Std. 5 - 6	60	4
Electronics World	Std. 7 - 8	45	3
Joy of Mathematics	Std. 4 - 5	80	4
Maths is Fun	Std. 6 - 7	40	2
Maths Around Us	Std. 8 - 9	40	2
Vedic Maths	Std. 8 - 12	40	2
Fun with Physics - Junior	Std. 5 - 6	80	4
Fun with Physics - Senior	Std. 7 - 8	60	3
Aeromodelling & Rocketry - Junior	Std. 3 - 5	60	3
Making of Solid Propellant Rocket Fuel	Std. 6 - 12	40	2
Aeromodelling - Advanced	Std. 6 - 12	40	2
RGB-P	Std. 5 - 7	40	2
Book Buddies	Std. 4 - 6	45	3
Curious Minds	Sr. KG	60	3
Nature Explorers	Std. 2 - 3	40	2
Nanotech - Juniors	Std. 2 - 5	35	2
Nanotech - Seniors	Std. 6 - 9	15	1
Science is Fun Summer Camp	Std. 1 - 2	125	5
STEM Summer School	Std. 4 - 5	25	1
Wonder Quest	Std. 4 - 5	20	2
Satellite Prototype	Std. 6 - 12	40	2
Advanced Water Booster Rockets	Std. 6 - 12	60	2



VASCSC collaborated with We Are All Humans (WAAH) Foundation for popularizing science and promoting innovative research in science for society. Under this partnership, the following major initiatives were undertaken:

WAAH Science Laureate Awards

The WAAH Science Laureate Awards were launched in 2022. The Awards aim to encourage the youth and scientific community by recognizing their scientific research towards addressing societal issues and work on its innovative solutions for these. The

awards also strive to encourage young aspirants to pursue science and continue their higher studies and research in various scientific fields and overall development of society.

This year, the third edition of the WAAH Science Laureate Awards 2024 was implemented. Entries were received from different parts of Gujarat. Best four entries, each from the Senior and Junior Laureate categories; and two best entries from the Young Laureate category were selected through a rigorous evaluation process.

List of WAAH Science Laureates 2024

Name of Awardee	Name of Project
Senior Laureates	
Prof. Hitesh Patel	Point of Care Diagnostic Kit for TB Diagnosis
Aditiben Deshani	Easy Eco Tools
Zenab Darban	Advanced Hydrogel Solutions for Effective Wound Healing
Dr. Bharat Makwana (special category)	NPK Measurement & Automatic Fertilizer Dispensing Technology
Junior Laureates	
Panchal Kirtan	Smart Helmet
Aaditya Agarwal	AGRIMITRA
Pushkar Patel	Creating Ecological Maps of Trees for Urban Planning
Sanchit Garg (special category)	Development of a Full Duplex Sign Language & Speech Converter
Young Laureates	
Neel Shah	Solar Bike and Electrostatic Motor
Samrat Hardik	Production of Bioplastic Using Banana Peel

The Award ceremony was held on 3 Jan 2025 at CEE, Ahmedabad. Dr. Anil Bhardwaj, Distinguished Professor & Director, Physical Research Laboratory; Dr. Pankaj S. Joshi, Distinguished Professor & Founding Director, International Centre for Space & Cosmology, Ahmedabad University; Shri Kartikeya V. Sarabhai, Chairman, VASCSC Board of Governors; Shri Prafulbhai Amin, President, WAAH Foundation; and Shri Dilip Surkar, Director, VASCSC; graced the occasion as honorable guests at the Award Ceremony. The Laureates along with their mentors were awarded with citations and scholarship or fellowship totaling Rs. 6,00,000 amount.

WAAH Community Science Centre (WAAH CSC)

The WAAH CSCs are in a sense communal STEM labs which have been established in selected schools and institutions across Gujarat. The prerequisites for the school for hosting the CSCs are that it should be serving underprivileged children and have adequate space and basic infrastructure. The vision is to set up 100 WAAH CSCs across Gujarat, of which 43 have been set up and operationalized so far.

WAAH CSCs are committed to providing hands-on learning opportunity to children for STEM understanding. This facility provides a platform to nurture innovative ideas and make STEM learning engaging, interactive, exciting, and meaningful for the children. It is a unique learning lab for developing skills like problem-solving, critical thinking and creative thinking among the students and the community.

WAAH CSC is equipped with STEM learning resources consisting of over 150 Teaching Learning Material (TLM) such as models, teaching aids, large and small interactive exhibits, kits for performing experiments and demonstrations, equipment, puzzles, panels, charts, templates, publications, etc. The facility is utilized for performing curricular and co-curricular science education activities. Here, regular hands-on STEM sessions are conducted for students of host school. The host institutions also facilitate visits and conduct activities for nearby schools and community. Teachers from the WAAH CSCs are provided regular training and hand-holding sessions for carrying further its activities.

"The main reason I decided to take admission in class 9 was the WAAH CSC visit that our school organized in class 8. That visit made me realize that if science is taught through this centre, subjects like Math and Science would become easier to understand than others and this has indeed come true. Each topic is simplified for us through experiments and activities conducted in the CSC. I especially enjoy the hands-on experiments and activity workshops here, as they spark curiosity and make learning exciting. For the first time in my life, my desire to learn Mathematics and Science in such an engaging way is being fulfilled every day, and this truly feels like a boon for us. Thank you!"



Dhanga Bushra
Std. 9, Ashish Vidyalay, Kesharpura



List of WAAH CSCs set up in 2024-25

Name of WAAH CSC	Name of Host School	Taluka, District
WAAH CSC - Verabar	Shree H. P. Joshi High School, Verabar	Idar, Sabarkantha
WAAH CSC - Jamalpur	F. D. High School, Jamalpur	Ahmedabad
WAAH CSC - Amrapur	Motibhai Chaudhari Pradarshan Khand, Grambharti, Amrapur	Mansa, Gandhinagar
WAAH CSC - Dehgam	Dehgam International School	Dahegam, Gandhinagar
WAAH CSC - Gozaria	Shri Somabhai Dosaldas Patel Higher Primary School, Gozariya	Mehsana
WAAH CSC - Goraj	Eklavya Model Residential School, Goraj	Waghodiya, Vadodara
WAAH CSC - Anjar	Shah Zakariya (Hajipeer) Sec. & Higher Sec. School	Anjar, Kachchh
WAAH CSC - Nilpar	Sushil Shishu Shala, Sontekri	Rapar, Kutch
WAAH CSC - Berna	Nootan High School, Berna	Himmatnagar, Sabarkantha
WAAH CSC - Kadoli	Sheth Shri P. N. Mehta High School, Kadoli	Himmatnagar, Sabarkantha
WAAH CSC - Bhanvad	Purusharth Vidhyaniketan	Bhanvad, Devbhoomi Dwarka
WAAH CSC - Veraval	Ashirvad Vidyamandir	Veraval, Gir Somnath
WAAH CSC - Sardarnagar	Sadhu Vaswani School, Sardarnagar	Ahmedabad
WAAH CSC - Gavada	Sheth C. V. Vidyalaya, Gavada	Vijapur, Mehsana
WAAH CSC - Bhavnagar	Takshashila Vidhyapith	Bhavnagar
WAAH CSC - Bhadresar	Sheth J. J. Desai High School, Bhadresar	Idar, Sabarkantha
WAAH CSC - Prantij	Our Own High School, Prantij	Prantij, Sabarkantha
WAAH CSC - Napa	Bachcho ka Ghar, Napa	Borsad, Anand
WAAH CSC - Nandotra	Shrimati S. B. Doshi High School, Nandotra	Vadgam, Banaskantha
WAAH CSC - Aslali	Shree U. L. Patel High School	Daskroi, Ahmedabad

WAAH Science Fellowship

This programme was initiated this year for strengthening and hand-holding of the WAAH CSCs. Two WAAH Science Fellows were selected who served their fellowship at WAAH CSCs in Ahmedabad and Mehsana clusters, with each cluster having 5-6 schools. The Fellowships also aims to build the capacity of science educators by providing them with the necessary exposure and training to develop their skills for effective communication.

Participation of Underprivileged Children

Support was provided to deserving underprivileged school students to facilitate their participation in VASCSC programmes. The motive was to make quality science education accessible for them. The fee of SSF was subsidized for std. 5-8 students from Thaltej Prathmik Shala, Ahmedabad which enabled them to participate in the year-long programme.

Science Wall Planner 2025



The development of 2025 Wall Planner of VASCSC was supported by WAAH. The Planner was based on the theme 'International Year of Quantum Science & Technology' and contained important scientific information. 2000 copies of Planner were printed and disseminated among WAAH CSCs and stakeholders.

"Children not only understand how different models work but also learn to create their own with the help of these demonstrations. Through such models, they can prove formulae and explore concepts independently. Thus, with the setting up of WAAH CSC, children have started acquiring practical knowledge through real experiences, making learning more engaging and meaningful."



Ranipa Prashant K.
Incharge, WAAH CSC Vachchu
Anudanit Nivasi Prathmik Shala, Devbhoomi Dwarka

VASCSC initiated this project titled 'Emerging Technologies in School Education' with the support of Truetzschler India (TIPL) CSR. This one-year project was initiated in Dec 2024.

The objective was to enhance the infrastructure and programmes offered by VASCSC's Emerging Tech Lab (ET Lab). The project included the following two components :

1. Setting up New Emerging Tech Lab at VASCSC

VASCSC's existing ET Lab is providing underprivileged children with opportunities to learn about latest technologies and develop their 21st century skills. Setting up a new ET lab will ensure expanding its reach to more students and teachers. The process will include restructuring of existing arrangement and adding new equipment, instruments and amenities. The new lab will be equipped with modern and some high-end instruments and resources such as displays, gadgets, tools, and safety equipment. The space allocated for the new lab will undergo modifications to reflect the latest trends; ensuring it provides the environment to foster learning and innovation. The ET lab shall focus on areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Drone Technology, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, Robotics, Automation, 3D Printing, Coding and Software Development.

During the year, a new space was identified and developed for the new ET lab. The lab's layout was



developed and lab equipment procurement process was initiated.

2. Hands-on Workshops on Emerging Technologies

These workshops were conducted in schools catering to underprivileged children, to acquaint the students with some emerging technologies and initiate their learning in this field. These were one-day workshops, mainly covering technologies relevant for school curriculum such as AI, 3D Printing, Introduction to sensors, Micro:bit microcontroller, through hands-on engagement of students. 17 workshops out of proposed 20 workshops were conducted in the reporting year. 1155 students and 40 teachers from 17 schools participated in these hands-on, engaging workshops.

Workshop Summary

Workshop Date	Participating School	Workshop Location	No. of Students	No. of Teachers
18 Jan, 22 Feb 2025	Swash Charitable Trust, Ahmedabad	VASCSC	36	3
29 Jan 2025	Sheth C. V. Vidhyalaya	Gavada, Mehsana	43	2
30 Jan 2025	Nest Public School (Guj. Med.)	Ahmedabad	85	2
31 Jan 2025	Nest Public School (Eng. Med.)	Ahmedabad	60	2
1 Feb 2025	My Own High School	Ahmedabad	86	2
5 Feb 2025	PM SHRI Smt. K. B. Shah Anupam Primary School	Vithoda, Mehsana	71	2
13 Feb 2025	Shri J. H. Mehta High School	Santrampur, Godhra	44	2
19 Feb 2025	Samatra Primary School	Samatra, Bhuj	81	2
20 Feb 2025	Shri M. K. M. S. Higher Secondary School	Mankuva, Bhuj	70	3
29 Feb 2025	PM SHRI Kadi Primary School No. 2	Kadi, Mehsana	69	2
5 Mar 2025	Shri Krishna Vidyalaya	Ahmedabad	72	3
6 Mar 2025	Khamdrol Primary School	Khamdrol, Junagadh	66	3
11 Mar 2025	Zanzarda Primary School	Zanzarda, Junagadh	60	3
12 Mar 2025	PM SHRI Branch Primary School,	Nadiad	60	2
18 Mar 2025	Chanchalba Primary School	Khedbrahma	85	3
20 Mar 2025	Haripar (Pal) Primary School	Rajkot	65	2
21 Mar 2025	Vajdi Vad Primary School	Rajkot	62	2
	Total		1155	40



In collaboration with Kostwein CSR, VASCSC implemented the project 'STEM Hands-on Education for Pre-Service Teachers & School Students.' The following two activities were conducted under the project:

1. STEM Workshops for Pre-service Teachers

STEM hands-on training workshops were conducted

to develop the capacity of pre-service teachers for STEM hands-on education. 8 such workshops, of two-day each, were conducted in different locations of Gujarat. The pre-service teachers included students of B. Ed. and M. Ed. courses from various colleges. 436 students and 27 faculty members from 21 institutions participated in the workshops. The details are given in the following table:

Workshop Dates	Location	Participating Colleges	No. of Participants	
			Teacher Trainees	Faculty
16 - 17 Jan 2025	DIET Kathlal	DIET Kathlal	49	4
24 - 25 Jan 2025	Lokbharti Adhyapan Mandir, Sanosara	Lokbharti Adhyapan Mandir, Sanosara	81	2
29 - 30 Jan 2025	DIET Vadodara	DIET Vadodara M. C. Parmar B.Ed. College, Vadodara	43	3
4 - 5 Feb 2025	D. D. Choksi College of Secondary Education, Palanpur	D. D. Choksi College of Sec. Education, Palanpur Shri C. K. Mehta College of Primary Education, Palanpur Shri P. K. Mehta College of Special Education, Palanpur Shri K. J. Mehta College of Pre-Primary Education, Palanpur Smt. S. P. Kothari Eng. B.Ed. College, Palanpur	52	6
6 - 7 Feb 2025	S. V. College of Education, Kadi	S. V. College of Education, Kadi Soorajba College of Education, Kadi	51	4
18 - 19 Feb 2025	The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda	Dept. of Education (CASE), The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara	47	4

Workshop Dates	Location	Participating Colleges	No. of Participants	
			Teacher Trainees	Faculty
4 - 5 Mar 2025	Shree P. M. Patel College of Education (B. Ed.), Anand	Shree P. M. Patel College of Education, Anand Shri N. H. Patel College of Education, Anand Christian College of Education, Anand Shri I. J. Patel B.Ed. College, Mogri Shri N. R. Patel B.Ed. College, Karamsad Shri. R. P. Anada College of Education, Borsad Sardar Patel College of Education, Bakrol	64	2
11 - 12 Mar 2025	DIET, Bharuch	DIET, Bharuch Satyam College of Education, Bharuch	49	2
	Total	21 Colleges	436	27

In the workshops, an experiential learning opportunity similar to an actual STEM class for students, was presented to the participants. This was intended to equip them with knowledge and skills for effective STEM teaching in schools. Incorporation of hands-on methodology in STEM education engages the students and develops their interest and understanding. A similar methodology was used in the sessions. The participants were engaged in activities like model making and performing experiments, in the hands-on sessions. They prepared simple and low-cost teaching learning material using easily available material. Some demonstrations of innovative experiments and activities developed by VASCSC were carried out. Information on how to effectively use the models

prepared by them, and the TLM was given. A good response was received from the participants.

2. School Group Visits to VASCSC

The objective of the activity was to promote STEM learning among students and teachers. Participation was by pre-registration where groups enjoyed curated STEM sessions. Students spent half a day at VASCSC and participated in different activities such as hands-on activities, demonstrations, games and puzzles, outdoor activity, and visit to Centre's labs and quadrangle. Sessions based on Artificial intelligence, Robots, Sensors, 3 D printing were popular among the students. 2057 students and 101 teachers from 22 schools participated in this activity.



"It's hard to believe how quickly the two days passed, as each session was so interesting and useful. The topics covered were ones we had often wondered about, how they can be explained or demonstrated to convey their complexity. However, through this program, those concepts became much clearer. We now feel confident that we can apply what we've learned and also understand how to teach these topics more effectively in the future."



Divya P. Raval
Student (B.Ed. Sem 2)
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda



With support from Jane Goodall Institute India (JGII), VASCSC implemented the project titled 'STEM for Environment: Hands-on Workshops for Environmental Education'. 506 students and 24 teachers from 8 schools and institutions across Gujarat participated in the workshops conducted under the project.

8 full-day workshops, primarily targeted at students from Std. 6-9 were conducted across Gujarat. Engagement in these interactive workshops provided experiential learning of STEM for developing students' understanding of curriculum-based concepts, with focus on environment. Essential skills like collaboration, experimentation, observation, critical thinking, creativity, application, and problem solving, were cultivated. VASCSC provided materials and tools required for performing the workshop activities

to the participants, as well as resource material to schools for follow-up and extension activities, so as to reinforce learning.

Some of the demonstrations and activities conducted during the workshops include Ecological Pyramid, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR), Bioconnect Learning Cards, Types of Plastic, Waste Segregation, Nature Treasure Hunt, Observing Nature Under Microscope, Biomimicry - Sustainable Solution for a Better Life, Making Recycled Paper, Making Seed Bomb, Nature Business Game, Understanding the Causes and Effects Of Pollution, Understanding and Calculating Carbon Footprint, Animals and Us - Storytelling, Birds Around Us, and Acting Out Loud - Skit. These were developed and conducted based on assessment of the respective schools' s requirements.

Workshop Summary

Date	Name of School/Institution	Location	No. of students	No. of Teachers
13 Feb 2025	DIET Santrampur	Santrampur, Dist. Godhra	68	4
18 Feb 2025	Shri U. L. Patel High School	Aslali, Dist. Ahmedabad	62	2
25 Feb 2025	PM Shri Branch School	Chaklasi, Dist. Nadiad	60	2
28 Feb 2025	Ashish Vidyalaya	Kesharpura, Dist. Banaskantha	76	2
4 Mar 2025	A. G. Teachers College	VIKSAT, Ahmedabad	50	3
6 Mar 2025	Khoda Primary School	Sanand, Dist. Ahmedabad	72	2
12 Mar 2025	Jepur Pay Center School	Vijapur, Dist. Mehsana	65	5
18 Mar 2025	DIET Ahmedabad (City & Rural)	VIKSAT, Ahmedabad	53	4
Total Participants			506	24



VASCSC was a winner of the 2024 Global E-STEM Awards given by Pratt & Whitney and North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). Under the award provisions, VASCSC proposed to conduct 20 E-STEM workshops for schools catering to underprivileged children in Gujarat. These workshops integrated environment education with STEM, for sustainable future. In this year, 12 workshops were conducted out of the proposed 20; with participation of 783 students and 34 teachers from 12 institutions.

The focus of the workshops was to impart environment integrated STEM education to students through hands-on methodology, to sensitize them about

environment. Effort was made to equip the participants with knowledge and problem-solving abilities necessary to address environmental challenges for a sustainable future. Using an interactive approach, attention was brought to the scientific aspects of climate change and other environmental issues through hands-on activities, games and discussions.

VASCSC provided the material to each participant to perform activities and prepare models during the sessions. Grade-appropriate activities were curated to provide a rich learning experience to students. A set of resource material was given to the school for follow-up sessions, to reinforce the learning.

Workshop Summary

Date	Name of School	Location	No. of Students	No. of Teachers
23 Jan 2025	Gavada Primary School	Mehsana	57	3
28 Jan 2025	Gamdi Primary School	Anand	66	2
6 Feb 2025	Untava Primary School	Untava	70	2
11 Feb 2025	Mota Chapra Primary School	Ahmedabad	46	2
12 Feb 2025	F. D. School	Ahmedabad	60	6
14 Feb 2025	Ropada Primary School	Ahmedabad	60	3
19 Feb 2025	Shree Deshalpar Primary School	Bhuj	85	2
20 Feb 2025	Mankuva Kanya Prathamik Shala	Bhuj	70	3
5 Mar 2025	Joshipara Primary School	Junagadh	65	1
6 Mar 2025	Sardarpara Primary School	Junagadh	56	2
20 Mar 2025	Smt. S. R. H. Primary School	Navsari	83	2
21 Mar 2025	Sheth N. H. Girls High school	Gandhinagar	65	6
		Total Participation	783	34

VASCSC conducted a new programme titled 'Young Science Innovators' at Shardamandir Vinaymandir during the period Dec 2024 - Mar 2025, with support from Shardamandir Trust. The aim was to enhance design thinking, creativity, problem solving and collaboration among the school's students.

The objective of the programme was to develop among std. 7 students, competencies like design thinking and elaborated problem solving; to encourage their original ideas and developing these into projects; and to enhance teamwork and communication skills. The main goal was helping students to generate original ideas and convert them into practical and functioning S&T projects. The programme methodology included the following phases:

Phase 1: Introduction and Initial Selection

Phase 2: In-Depth Learning Sessions

Phase 3: Project Development and Execution

Phase 4: Presentation and Display

An aptitude test was developed to select students for the programme. 100 students of std. 7 appeared in the test, from which 25 students were selected for participation in the programme based on their aptitude.

These students were divided into 5 teams, with each team working on one innovative STEM project. VASCSC team organized one-and-half-hour sessions twice a week, to provide the necessary guidance for developing the participants' ideas into functioning projects. Once the projects were completed, an event for project presentation was organized in the school on 12 Mar 2025. The participating teams showcased their projects to other students, teachers, parents and trustees. Around 800 visitors attended the event.

Projects developed under the Young Science Innovators programme

Project Title	Objective	Team Members
ProSafe	Design a smart helmet	Meshwa, Krish, Ayush, Dhruvil
Burglar Alarms	Develop a burglar alarm system for houses	Krishna, Vrunda, Parth, Pratik
Blindness Buddy	Develop a device that alerts blind person by audio feedback	Riya, Palak, Anshul, Dhvanit
The Test of Briliants	Design a board game to help in the curricular studies	Amir, Dhruvi, Krisha, Jaival
Magic Mold	To make upcycled objects from old, non-usable clothes & epoxy resin	Krishna, Dharmi, Jahanvi, Hiya, Bhumi



New Physics Lab at VASCSC

Partner
Systronics

A new and improved Physics Lab was established at the Centre this year with support from Systronics India CSR. The existing physics lab facility at VASCSC was around 50 years old and contextual upgradation was the need of the hour. Repair and maintenance had been carried out from time-to-time to upgrade it. However, the growing demand from students and need to align with the current trends, necessitated setting up a new Physics lab.

VASCSC allocated a recently constructed hall for the new lab. The space for the new lab underwent modifications to reflect the latest trends, ensuring that it provides the necessary environment to foster learning and innovation.

The new lab was equipped with new and modern equipment, instruments, gadgets, resources, tools, etc. as required in current context in areas such as mechanics, waves, sound, optics, magnetism, electricity, heat, thermodynamics, electronics and robotics. Upgradation of ICT infrastructure included latest computers & peripherals, high speed internet, Wi-Fi router, software upgradation, backup devices, interactive screens, etc. This enhanced facility is providing support to the lab team for conducting activities efficiently and catering to more participants. The lab is being used by higher secondary schools students to perform school-level project and practicals; and for annual programme sessions.



With support from DCM Shriram Industries (Daurala Organics Unit) CSR, upgradation of VASCSC Library was carried out.

VASCSC library was established in 1972 and since then it is being regularly utilized by students, teachers, and the general public. VASCSC library is open for all and caters to around 5000 users annually. It houses a collection of over 15000 books and numerous journals, magazines, CDs, and DVDs; From time to time, collection development and resource enhancement has been carried out in the library to provide the users with best possible access to scientific books, journals, magazines and more.

Today's evolving educational practices, changing reading habits and digital shift called for modernization of the VASCSC library, to ensure its relevance and alignment with the vision of NEP 2020. In light of this, upgradation of the Library's infrastructure and collection was carried out. The Library has been

reinvented in current context as a welcoming space for engaging with knowledge. The following upgradation and developments tasks were carried out:

- Renovation & reorganization of the space, improved furniture, AC, better lighting, display and storage
- Expansion of book collection, periodicals, reference books, e-books, and digital content
- Installation of new ICT infrastructure and networking capabilities
- Development of web-based, digital library services
- Audio-visual facilities
- Provision of internet facilities for users

The Library upgradation has been a welcome step among its regular users who are finding it spacious, attractive and more conducive space for reading and study. It is serving as an open, inclusive and tech-enabled facility that fosters curiosity, learning and reading habits among children and adults alike.

"When I came earlier at this library, I felt like it was very congested and the sitting area was small. Now, when the library is renovated, it is very easy to find books and we have more space for reading books or for doing any other work. The selection of shelves and white paint on wall suits the vibe of the library. I could find my liked genre of books easily in this new arrangement of library. The book selection is also good. I would like to see some more biographies because I love to read."



Dhyan Bhatt
Std. 9 student





Kuehne+Nagel CSR continued its support to VASCSC for advancing STEM education for sustainable development. In the reporting year, their support enabled significant infrastructural and educational developments across the Centre. The activities carried out under this partnership include the following:

1. Building Extension

VASCSC's activities are conducted in its various labs, auditorium, seminar halls, etc. which can accommodate limited number of participants at a time. Many of these activities need bigger spaces for their implementation. Some activities like school group visits, demonstrations, exhibitions or public lectures, require large spaces/halls for simultaneous use. Hence, it was necessary to build additional spaces. To cater to this need, a new Hall was constructed on the ground floor through this support. The new Hall will be very useful to accommodate large gatherings and activities such as lectures, astronaut briefings, demonstrations, and exhibitions.

2. Upgradation of STEM Labs

The laboratories at VASCSC: Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Model Rocketry, Astronomy, Computers, Electronics, Mathematics, Emerging Technologies required upgradation. Minor upgradations have been carried out in these labs over the years. However,

upgradations in lab interiors, furniture and fixtures, and ICT facilities were necessary. To fulfil this requirement, lab upgradation was carried out which included reinforcement with new instruments, tools, gadgets, furniture, ICT facilities, etc. to ensure a high-quality, hands-on learning experience for the users.

3. Quadrangle Upgradation

Upgradation of the Quadrangle, interactive exhibition space at VASCSC, was carried out to develop it further as an engaging space for the visitors. It underwent renovation, maintenance and expansion. The upgradation and addition of new exhibits based on latest trends and technologies gave it a new look; which is enhancing the visitor experience greatly. The library which is an extension of the quadrangle space, also underwent renovation and upgradation.

4. STEM TLM Development

Development of innovative TLM is a core activity of VASCSC and it is consistently bringing out new TLM, in addition to improving the existing ones. Some STEM TLM were developed under this project viz. Science Gallery - Mathematics (Eng, Guj), Science Gallery - Physics (Guj), Great Mathematicians of the World - Set Of 26 charts (Eng), Messier Objects (Set of 16 charts), Water Booster Model Rocketry Manual, and Single Stage Rocketry Manual.

STEM Education Infrastructure Development

Partner
Mirae Asset Foundation

A new partnership was initiated with Mirae Asset Foundation under their Education Infrastructure Support Program. This collaboration provided support to VASCSC's lab infrastructure and facilities. This partnership enabled vital upgradation to STEM labs, directly enhancing the learning environment for thousands of students and visitors to the Centre. The initiative focused on the following aspects:

1. Lab Equipment & Gadgets

This included upgradation of STEM labs with modern scientific instruments, tools and technology. It has provided students with improved and advanced hands-on learning opportunities.

2. Lab Consumables & Supplies

This aspect covered the procurement of essential materials such as chemicals, reagents, tools, DIY kits, safety equipment, and other supplies to support high-quality, hands-on STEM activities.

3. Lab Spaces Upgradation

This component covered the renovation and modernization of labs. It included waterproofing, electrical rewiring, plumbing, flooring, new furniture and fixtures, safety installations like fire extinguishers; and signage improvements to create efficient and student-friendly environment. The Chemistry,

Mathematics, and Model Rocketry Labs were the primary beneficiaries of this support, and they underwent major repairs and upgradation. These interventions not only enhanced the aesthetics and usability of the spaces but also ensured compliance with safety and educational standards.



Core Support for STEM Education

Partner
Career Mosaic

Career Mosaic CSR partnered with VASCSC to extend support towards the Centre's core STEM education programmes. This collaboration played a vital role in enhancing the impact of VASCSC's flagship activities aimed at students, teachers, and general public. The project grant supported several ongoing programmes and facilities of the Centre, as follows:

Annual Programmes: Support towards activities such as Open House, School Science Forum, School Visits, Student Visits, and Open Astronights, offering experiential learning and engagement opportunity.

Summer Programme: Support for development of Summer Programme modules, conducted during the summer vacation. It was aimed at nurturing curiosity in children through hands-on learning.

Vignan Drashti: Support for development and publishing the Vignan Drashti - a Gujarati bimonthly science magazine. Vignan Drashti focuses on making

STEM fun, accessible and engaging especially for young readers from all parts of Gujarat.

Library: Operational support was provided for the Library in terms of procuring new books.

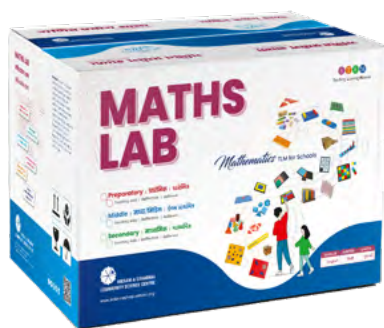


STEM Teaching Learning Material

Teaching Learning Material (TLM) development is a major activity of VASCSC. This material is developed with the objective of making STEM teaching learning process lasting and easy for teachers and students. This TLM is suitable for primary and secondary school level, for both classroom and individual use. Kits, books, charts, models, exhibits, puzzles etc. developed by the Centre's team are disseminated by VASCSC Science Shop. The manuals and books are available in English, Gujarati and Hindi. The TLM is in demand from all across India.

In the reporting year, manuals were developed in Tamil for some of the models. Revamped versions of Great Mathematicians of the World was published. The following new TLM was developed in FY 2024-25:

Maths Lab Package - Middle



Maths Lab Packages developed by VASCSC have received an outstanding response from across the country. Initially available as two separate packages for primary & secondary levels, the Maths Lab packages were reorganized to align with recommendations of NEP 2020 and redeveloped for preparatory, middle and secondary school levels. The preparatory & secondary packages were developed in the previous year while the Maths Lab package for middle level (Std. 6-8) was developed in this year.

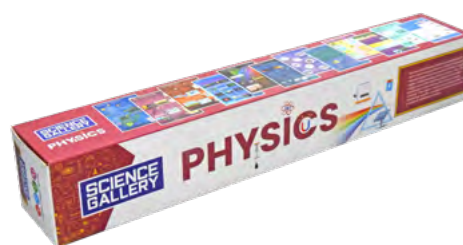
The Maths Lab middle package contains a set of mathematics teaching aids, carefully selected based on the topics from the the syllabus, to make the teaching process interesting and engaging. It includes user manual, with a detailed description of each model and its use. It contains 40 TLM and 43 activities and is useful for setting up a Maths Lab in schools or conducting activity-based mathematics sessions.

Science Gallery

Science Gallery series consists of sets of posters based on different science subjects. Each set consists of 12 charts of size 18" x 25" each and includes interesting topics from the school curriculum. Simple

language and relevant graphics are used to make it child-friendly. It can be displayed in classrooms, labs or school corridors. It can be used individually for imparting scientific concepts and the entire set as a science exhibition module. The following sets were published under the Science Gallery banner:

Science Gallery – Physics: Both English & Gujarati versions were developed. Topics included Energy: An Introduction, Non-renewable Energy, Renewable Energy, Light, Laser Technology, Fibre Optics, Lenses, Waves, Greek Alphabet in Physics, Circuit and Connections, Basic Electronic Components and Sensors.



Science Gallery – Chemistry: Gujarati version was published, covering topics such as Avogadro's Number, Atomic Mass and Atomic Weight, Mole and Mole Fraction, Molarity and Molality, Normality and Formality, Exceptional Elements, Crystals and Lattice Structure, Happiness Chemicals, Flame of a Candle, Green Hydrogen, Electrochemistry, Quantum Dots.

Science Gallery - Biology: Gujarati version was published, covering topics such as Planet Earth, Oceans, Climate Change, Biogeochemical Cycles (3), Food Web, Adaptation in Animals, Under the Microscope (2), Microbes, and Human Body.

Maths Gallery



The Maths Gallery was published in both English and Gujarati. It consists of 12 charts of size 18" x 25" each, and covers interesting mathematics topics from the school curriculum. These charts can be used individually for imparting concepts, and the entire set as a science exhibition module. Topics covered include BODMAS, Synonyms of Mathematical Operations,

Divisibility Rules, Types of Angles, Fraction, Decimal and Percentage, Data Handling, Properties of Triangle, Types of Quadrilaterals, Properties of Polygons, Circles, 3D Shapes, and Meru Prastaar.

Messier Objects

This is a set of 16 charts selected from the Messier catalogue of deep-sky objects. These charts are intended to help the beginner in Astronomy to identify different types of celestial objects present in the universe. Messier Objects M1, M8, M16, M17, M27, M30, M31, M42, M45, M51, M57, M81, M82, M87, M104, and M106 are included in the set.

Science Wall Planner 2025

Science Wall Planner is a unique theme-based publication where the year planner is complemented with useful scientific information. It is a large format chart of size 36" x 23" which can be displayed on notice board, panel or wall in schools or institutions. The 2025 Wall Planner was developed on the theme 'International Year of Quantum Science & Technology' and supported by WAAH.

Vignan Drashti



This is a Gujarati bimonthly magazine published by VASCSC since 25 years. Six volumes were published in the reporting year. This popular magazine is replete with information, pictures and illustrations, and is brought out in colourful, A3 size, eight-page format. It contains articles, activities, experiments, latest in science, puzzles, science toons and amazing facts. It can be kept in library or put up on notice board for multiple readers to access it at a time.

In this year, KHS Machinery CSR supported the annual subscription of Vignan Drashti to 2000 schools serving underprivileged children across Gujarat.

Model Rocketry Handbooks

Revised editions of two Model Rocketry Handbooks were published: (i) Single Stage Solid Propellant Model Rockets (ii) Water Booster Model Rockets. These were aimed at students as supplement to the model rocketry activity. The handbooks contain

information like different types of model rockets, various parts of the model rocket, how to fabricate and launch model rockets, experimenting with new designs, and the related scientific principles.

Hand Battery Model



This interactive model demonstrates how chemical energy is converted into electrical energy through redox reactions. It contains two different metal plates connected with wire and a voltmeter. When hands are placed on the metal plates, a small electric current is detected by the voltmeter.

Law of Inertia

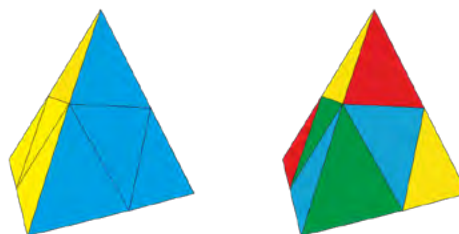
This interactive model demonstrates the Newton's First Law of Motion.

Basic Electronics



This plug-and-play kit is useful for understanding various concepts from basic electronics through hands-on experience. Some projects that can be performed using this kit are Buzzer Beatbox, Photo Sensitive Night Lamp, LED Brightness Control Tuner, Variable Speed Control of DC Motor, RGB LED Exploration, Light Intensity Alarm, and Interactive Touch-sensitive Circuit.

DIY Templates



New Do-It-Yourself (DIY) templates were developed viz. Big Tetrahedron, Acid Base (Guj) and Understanding Pie (Guj).

Additional Activities

Advanced B.Sc. (Physics)

VASCSC in collaboration with Gujarat Science Academy and St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad; organized the Advanced B.Sc. (Physics) Summer Programme 2024 during 11-31 May 2024 at St. Xavier's College. This residential programme was aimed at motivating students towards research and careers in Physics. The programme included interactive lectures, designing & building experiments, exposure to research institutes like IPR, PRL, ISRO, problem solving, assignments, career guidance, etc. The lectures were taught by scientists from IPR, PRL and Ahmedabad University. 31 students from science colleges of Gujarat were enrolled after undergoing a rigorous selection process.

Emerging Tech Workshop



VASCSC conducted an Emerging Technologies workshop on 3-4 Sep 2024 at the Institute of Advanced Research (IAR), Gandhinagar. 35 engineering students participated in the workshop. They were introduced to the latest emerging tech along with AI based hands-on model making.

Maths Olympiad Preparatory Course

In response to growing demand from students, VASCSC initiated a preparatory course for Mathematics Olympiad for std. 5-6 students. As part of the course, 12 sessions of one-and-half hour each were conducted during 21 Sep - 10 Nov 2024.

Astronomy Events

Exciting astronomy events were organized, as follows:

- Star Gazing event on 26 May 2024 for a group of 52 students from 5 States as a part of ISRO's YuViKa 2024 programme.
- Workshop on telescope handling titled 'Focus' was conducted on 27 Dec 2024, in which 20 students participated.
- An event was organized for Planetary Alignment

Observation at VASCSC on 24 Jan 2025, to witness the rare alignment of planets - Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. Over 300 enthusiasts participated.

- On occasion of National Science Day on 28 Feb 2025, VASCSC conducted Astronight event, in which around 250 people participated.

Science Outdoors



This popular programme was conducted for students of std. 5-7 on 8 Nov 2024. Participants embarked on a curated trip to a farm in Balinta village of Anand district. The outdoors served as a great means to explore scientific concepts such as farm ecosystem, sustainable farming, bird watching, etc. through observation, games and hands-on activities. 32 students participated in the programme.

Teachers Training Workshops



A STEM hands-on workshop was conducted during 27-28 June 2024 at Maan Ashram School, Palghar, with support from Child Help Foundation. Around 30 govt. school teachers from the district participated.

Dr. Vikram Sarabhai's 105th Birth Anniversary

VASCSC team remembered Dr. Sarabhai on occasion of his 105th birth anniversary on 12 Aug 2024. The day started with a prayer, followed by School Visits and Open House. The Open House was fun event to showcase Centre's facilities and activities. It included attractions such as Activity Booths, Exhibition, Open

Quiz, Viewing through Telescope, Flight Simulation, and Science Show. Around 600 children and other visitors participated in programme.



Collaboration with CEPT University

VASCSC in collaboration with ThinkKOSH at CEPT University, conducted the following two activities:

- STEM Studio programme was conducted during 27 May - 1 Jun 2024 to encourage students of std. 8-12 to explore STEM. 16 participants learnt about emerging technologies, electronics, GIS mapping, 3D printing, augmented reality, laser cutting, design thinking, project planning, and entrepreneurship.



- On occasion of National Space Day on 23 Aug 2024, a national poster making competition for students was conducted, under two categories: std. 5-8 & std. 9-12. Total 148 entries were received from across India. 2 winners were awarded in each category.

Session in 6th ICSE 2024

VASCSC participated in the 6th International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE) held at New Delhi during 19-20 Sep 2024. Jointly with the organizers of ICSE – Mobius Foundation, VASCSC conducted a panel discussion on 'Integrating STEM, NEP 2020, and STI Policy for Sustainability Education in India' on 19 Sep 2024. Dr. T. Ramasami, Former Secretary, Dept. of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India chaired the panel while the panelists included Dr. Neelima Jerath, Former DG, Pushpa Gujral Science City; Dr. B. C. Sabata, Former

Director, Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Combating Climate Change, Govt of Delhi; Dr. Nisha Mendiratta, Executive Director, Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum; Shri Chander Mohan, Former Head, NCSTC, SEED, KIRAN Div., DST, Govt of India. The session was moderated by Shri Dilip Surkar, Director, VASCSC.



STEM Labs in Schools

STEM Lab is an interactive learning space designed to boost students' curiosity to explore these subjects. In addition to WAAH CSCs, STEM labs were set up by VASCSC at TATA Steel Foundation, Jamshedpur and Sharda Mandir School, Ahmedabad.

Representation in Various Forums

Science Shop participated in the following events:

- At the NGO Mela hosted by Capgemini India at GIFT City, Gandhinagar on 23 Oct 2024.
- At the International Conference on Education for Sustainability Action hosted by CEE, Ahmedabad during 9-11 Jan 2025. Centre's stall was visited by Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Dept. of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India.

Shri Dilip Surkar, Director, VASCSC is serving as Board Member of the Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA).

Shri Dilip Surkar was the Chief Guest at the following events/programmes:

- Induction Programme of EY's DISHA Scholarship Program on 21 Sep 2024 at EY, Ahmedabad
- Annual Day programme of Shanti Asiatic School, Bopal, Ahmedabad on 18 Dec 2024
- Young Science Leaders 2024 Finale event organized on 20 Dec 2024 by L&T Kharel.

Ms. Megha Saklani is serving as member of the National Steering Committee, CANSA India.

Partnerships & Collaborations

VASCSC is thankful to all its donors and partners



Department of Science & Technology
Government of India



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- Gujarat Science Academy
- St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad
- CEPT University, Ahmedabad

- Institute of Advanced Research, Gandhinagar
- Sheth C. N. Vidyalaya
- Mobius Foundation
- Child Help Foundation
- Centre for Environment Education
- VIKSAT

VASCSC CSR Registration No. CSR00007333

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(as on 31 Mar 2025)

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Ahmedabad

Member Secretary

Shri Dilip Surkar
Executive Director
Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre
Ahmedabad

As per the requirement of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, VASCSC has an Internal Committee which has been constituted in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the said Act, to provide protection against sexual harassment of women at workplace and for the prevention and redressal of complaints of sexual harassment and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto. During this year no complaint of Sexual Harassment was reported at VASCSC. VASCSC has included the brief introduction of the provisions of the above Act as part of its orientation programme for the new joiners. The Anti Sexual Harassment Policy is in place.

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- State Bank of India

Our Auditors

- Asim Mehta & Associates
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**VIKRAM A SARABHAI
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