

The fourth quarter at a glance

January - March 2024
Smt. Indrani Balan Science Activity Centre
IISER Pune



We welcome you to read our fourth quarterly newsletter. In this edition, we have significant outreach events, teachers' workshops, school visits to campus and glimpses of National Science Day celebration with highlights of new STEM activities happening at SAC. As we reflect on the past quarter, we extend our gratitude to each one of you for being an integral part of this incredible journey.

Exploratory Tinkering Workshops

This quarter, a total of 5 batches (239 teachers) from Pune region have completed the enriching 5-day tinkering workshop, acquiring valuable tinkering skills. These workshops had a positive impact on teachers' understanding, confidence, and ideas regarding STEM Tinkering concepts and the use of Tinkering Labs in classrooms.

Participants expressed newfound enthusiasm for implementing innovative teaching practices, leveraging Tinkering Lab resources, and enriching the learning experiences of students. The workshops were perceived as valuable professional development opportunities that equipped educators with practical skills, theoretical knowledge, and creative ideas to enhance STEM education in schools.



Project activities are highlighted in this [video](#).

IISER Pune in collaboration with TATA Technologies Limited (TTL) and Pimpri Chinchwad Science Park (PCSP), has completed year one of the project "STEM Ready – setting up of Community Tinkering Centre" at PCSP.

Under this joint program, the project team conducted hands-on tinkering workshops for the selected teachers from schools around PCMC regions. We additionally engaged in hands-on demonstrations for the Science Park visitors, visits of school students, screening of SAC Sunday sessions, and celebration of National Science Day. The number crossed to around 8,500 participants from PCMC, Ahmednagar, Buldhana and Khed region who

directly benefited from the workshops.

Project activities are highlighted in this [video](#).



Follow for more updates, success stories, and inspiring moments from the STEM Ready project on our social page as well.

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School visits to our campus

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

From January - March 2024, a total 15 schools visited our campus. More than 750 students, around 35 school teachers and 20 UG teachers from various government colleges in Maharashtra visited the SAC and STEM Ready tinkering lab.



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

School visits to Pimpri Chinchwad Science Park

Under our recent collaboration with Pimpri Chinchwad Science Park, four school visits were conducted in which 315 school students from PCMC region visited the Science Park for a hands-on tinkering session by the SAC team.



School visits to Pimpri Chinchwad Science Park are highlighted in this [video](#).

STEM for Teachers

Hands-on Tinkering workshops at IISER Pune campus

Modules and hands-on activities developed under the project are documented on the STEM Ready website. The [website](#) contains topic-wise activities for teachers along with various videos, simulations, and other useful resources that are curated under relevant topics. The website acts as a repository of activities, simulations, and additional reading materials for teachers and provides a means for quick revision of various STEM concepts.



Hands-on Tinkering workshops at Pimpri Chinchwad Science Park

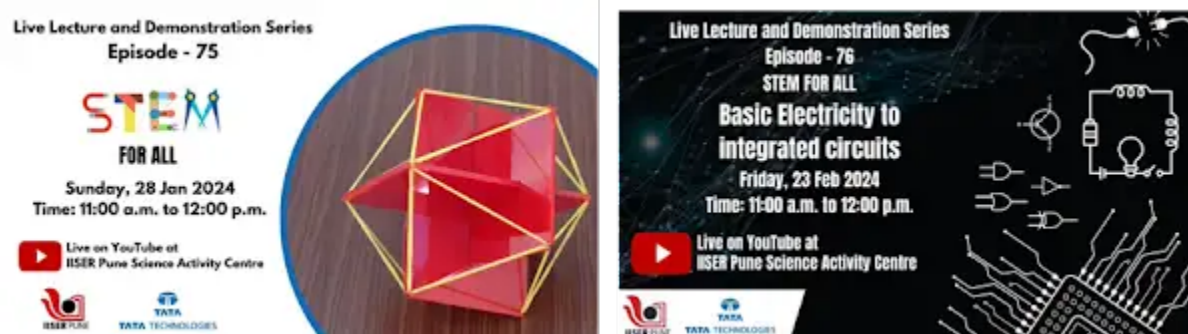
Half day workshops were conducted for more than 230 teachers from nearly 100 schools from PCMC, Ahmednagar, Buldhana and Khed region. Project team along with the coordination from PCMC Education Office identified nearly 200 teachers from the PCMC region and nearly 30 teachers from Ahmednagar, Buldhana and Khed region participated during school visits to Science Park.



STEM Friday Series



Shifting Sunday sessions to Friday was a hit, with students and teachers now enjoying live sessions in school, creating more space for STEM in the classroom.



Episode 75: STEM For All - Streamed live on Jan 28, 2024.

[Click here](#) to view the recorded session.

Episode 76: STEM FOR ALL: Basic Electricity to Integrated Circuits - Streamed live on Feb 23, 2024.

[Click here](#) to view the recorded session.

Watch all our previous episodes on [IISER Pune Science Activity Centre YouTube channel](#).

Next episode is scheduled for May, 2024. Join us for more fun facts and STEM habits!

India Science Festival at IISER Pune

On Jan 21, SAC conducted a Tangram puzzle competition at the India Science Festival at IISER Pune. It was a fantastic show with an engaged audience, active participation, and live demonstrations of exciting hands-on activities by our team.



The glimpse of the tangram puzzle competition can be [watch here](#).

National Science Day Celebration

NSD event at IISER Pune campus

The theme for this year was "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat". The day was celebrated with the participation of students from schools, colleges, universities, researchers with their families and friends at our campus. Our Director, Prof. Sunil Bhagwat inaugurated the event in the presence of Padma Shree awardee Shri Arvind Gupta ji and Mr. Shrikant

Purohit, Sr. Vice - President at TATA Technologies Ltd.



The numerous hands-on-activities developed at SAC were displayed on this day in the open space by many school students who volunteered for it. Also, our Teaching Associates & Ph.D. scholars from various departments participated in the event and explained various fundamental scientific concepts to the visitors. As the day concluded it was a big surprise to see that IISER Pune was visited by around 9,000 visitors from various parts of Maharashtra.



Key activities conducted during the event: Public Talks by our faculties & IISER students, Science Project exhibitions, display of SAC activities, puzzle zone, STEM games, Day Time Astronomy by our Akashganga club and Online quiz conducted by Dr. Ashish Arora, faculty IISER Pune

More details are highlighted [here](#).

The NSD talks were recorded and can be seen [here](#).

NSD event at Pimpri Chinchwad Science Park

On February 28, National Science Day was celebrated as a special event at Science Park under the STEM Ready project. The National Science Day event, spanning three days from 26th - 28th February, 2024, was a significant initiative aimed at promoting scientific awareness and fostering a spirit of inquiry among participants.

More insights on event activities are highlighted [here](#).



The event featured various competitions, Public Talk by IISER Faculties and exhibitions promoting STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) and importance of science in day-to-day lives. The event received great response from different schools and more than 2000 visitors around Pune region.



Director's visit to Science Park along with IISER Pune faculties and Tata Technologies delegates

The glimpse of NSD celebration is highlighted in the video [here](#).

New and Noteworthy at SAC



On Feb 16, it was our pleasure to connect with Honourable Mayor Michael Mainelli and officials from City of London Corporation, British Deputy High Commission during their visit to IISER Pune .



On Feb 09, [Prof. Binay Panda](#) from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi visited SAC along with Prof. Nagaraj Balasubramanian, IISER Pune.



On Jan 21, we had a great day with special guests Aravinda Pillalamarri and Ravi Kuchimanchi. They shared their inspiring journeys of working with various NGO's. They even shared the story about making the famous Indian film Swadesh based on his life.



On Jan 19, we had a pleasure to interact with unique groups/staff from libraries across Maharashtra. They participated in hands-on math and science activities and were enthused with educational resources at SAC making an enriching experience for both the groups.



On Jan 11, we showcased our SAC activities to Shri. Dhiren Mathur, Director General of Audit, with an engaging discussion on fostering curiosity through hands-on learning.



In January, the team had an encouraging conversation with Mr. Arvind Patkar, founder of famous Manovikas Publication. During the discussion he urged us to consider publishing with Manovikas.

Upcoming Events at SAC

STEM For All YouTubeLive Session in May, 2024.

School visits at SAC every wednesday from April 2024.

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

Visit [SAC Event Calendar](#) to know about 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.

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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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