



संवाद आणि कृतिगट

**Vidnyanvahini**  
फिरती प्रयोगशाळा

# Vidnyanvahini

## Pune

### 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Report

# 2023-24

Public Charitable Trust  
Registration No. E2024, Pune  
Donations Tax exempt under section 80G



Address ; Rangdeep, Plot No.20, Natraj Housing Society, Karvenagar, Pune 411052.

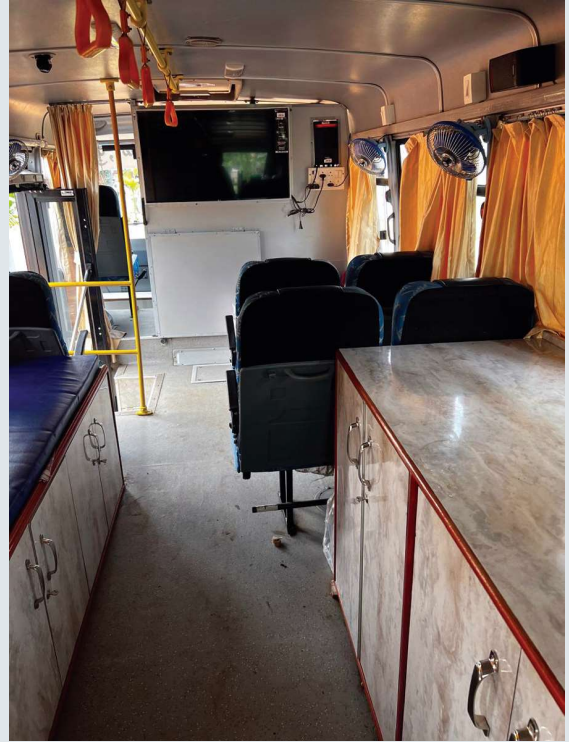
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Email: ka704phatak@gmail.com • madhu36@yahoo.com • urmila.45.sp@gmail.com

Web: <https://www.vidnyanvahini.org>

We are registered for undertaking CSR activity. Registration No. CR00033756  
Donations exempted under 80G. Unique Registration No.AAATV4749FF20211

# Activities of Vidnyanvahini







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**Founder Members:** Mrs.Pushpa Deshpande and Mr.Madhukar Deshpande  
**President :** Mrs. Kiran Phatak. **Vice president :** Smt Urmila Parchure  
**Coordinate :** Mr.Jayant Phalke.

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**Dialogue and Action Group is a group of volunteers working for Vidnyanahini (DAG)**

1. Amrite Ulhas	15. Navathe Chandrashekhar
2. Bapat Kirti	16. Pande Nandan
3. Deval Dattatray	17. Pande Preetima
4. Dixit Vinayak	18. Parchure Urmila
5. Erande Vivek	19. Parkar Shubhangi
6. Ghamande Satish	20. Phatak Kiran
7. Hegade Suresh	21. Ranade Gajanan
8. Kandalgaonkar Suvarnalata	22. Sapre Achyut
9. Khasnis Sandhya	23. Sathe Anita
10.Lohotekar Jyoti	24. Shaikh Atik
11. Mahajan Hema	25. Wagh Yashashri
12.Marathe Sucheta	26. Vartak Kalpana
13.Mhaskar Meghana	27. Yerunkar Suresh
14.Nade Sandhya	

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**Trustee**

1. Smt.Kiran Phatak, President	6. Mr. Ashok Rupner
2. Smt.Urmila Parchure, Vice President	7. Smt.Shubhangi Parkar
3. Mr. Jayant Phalke	8. Mr. Dattatray Dewal
4. Smt. Anita Sathe	9. Mr. Achyut Sapre
5. Mr. Vivek Erande	

**ABOUT VIDNYANVAHINI:**

Vidnyanvahini is the Pune based NGO with a mission to propagate scientific thinking and rational attitude in rural schools. During the school visit students perform some science experiments and observe demonstrations. In addition to school visits a few teacher training workshops are held to enhance science teaching skills among rural school teachers. An annual student camp seeks to expose rural students to a wide variety of science and technology related topics through presentations from subject experts and visits to factories, large laboratories, defence establishments etc. Several book bags are also circulated among schools to act as Mobile libraries. Vidnyanvahini is a non-profit organization constituted as a public trust and operates solely on public donations. Our expert accident-free driver for the last 28 years, Mr. Atik Shaikh is the



only paid person. All others give free voluntary services. In January Vidnyanvahini completed 28 years of service. During 2023-24 the Mobile Science Laboratory has traveled about 13,000 Kms while making 116 school visits and touching the lives of about 23,000 rural students spread over 25 districts of Maharashtra. Over the last few years Vidnyanvahini has also ventured out of Maharashtra through school visits in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.

### **MOBILE SCIENCE LABORATORY (MSL)**

The flagship project of Vidnyanvahini is the mobile science laboratory in the bus. The bus is cleverly designed to find space for working tables, lab apparatus, audio-visual equipments like DVD player, laptop, inverter ( powered by the engine battery), portable generator, sitting space and a wash-basin.

This year, Vidnyanvahini replaced the old bus and acquired a new third bus from the donation given by Shri Ambegaonkar. This is our third bus in 28 years. For the interior furnishings of the bus, Cummins india Pune, provided financial support and for the projector, TV, generator, etc., A.R.A.I. donated the necessary funds.

### **Dialogue & Action Group (DAG)**

The strength of Vidnyanvahini is a group of committed volunteers consisting of retired scientists, engineers, pharmacists and science teachers collectively called Dialogue and Action Group (DAG). All members of DAG group meet periodically to review performance and discuss operational changes. Subject group members ( Physics, Chemistry and Biology) meet more frequently to decide about the topics and experiments. The Annual meeting is utilized to review the activities of previous year, make the plans for the activities of next year, review of the list of the schools and outstation visits, decide on changes to curriculum and experiments etc.



THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2023 TO MARCH 2024.

### About School Visits

Every day (Monday to Friday) the MSL carries a team of 6 to 7 members of DAG to the selected school. Priority is given to small rural High schools, which lack science laboratories. During the tightly organised full-day session, students perform some science experiments in groups of four to five and observe demonstrations. The theoretical principles underline the experiments are explained to them with the aid of educational audio-visual material and/or models.

### Vidnyanvahini Activities at-a-glance

● Mobile Science Laboratory Visits to rural schools	116
● Number of schools visited twice in a year	28
● Number of visits to unaided or partly aided schools.	11
● Number of students who benefited by the MSL.	22,851
● Number of outstation visits lasting 5-6 days.	10
● Number of Kms logged by the MSL.	12,837

### Outstation Visits :

Apart from visits to schools in and around Pune (which are covered during a single day) Vidnyanvahini also undertook out-of-town visits. These visits were sponsored by the organisations/schools in those places and were used to cover rural schools in the surrounding areas.



PLACE	DATES	DAYS	NO. OF SCHOOLS	NO.OF STUDENTS BENEFITED
1.Rajgurunagar	20 June to 28 June	6	13 Z.p.schools	353
2. Andur	16 July to 22 July	5	5 1 melava	613 180 - 190
3. Islampur	22 August to 26 August	5	5	363
4. Rajgurunagar	14 Sept tp 16 Sept	3	3	465
5. Shevgaon	8 Oct. to 12 Oct.	4	4	428
6.Chiplun	16 Oct. to 19 Oct.	4	4	228
7. Chiplun	5 Dec. to 9 Dec.	5	4	363
8.Tarale	10 Dec. to 16 Dec.	5	5	515
9. Solapur (Mohol)	8 Jan. to 12 Jan	5	5	1022
10. Chiplun	23 Jan. to 25 Jan.	3	3	301

### Science Centers :

Apart from Vidnyanvahini's Mobile Science Laboratory which travels all over Maharashtra, we started stationary science centers at few places with an objective of making science-facilities available to students studying in the nearby places around the location of the center. Accordingly Vidnyanvahini has established three science centers with the help of local NGOs at the following places.



## **1.Andur Science Center**

Vidnyanvahini center in Andur village has science-based models and good facilities for performing science experiments. At this center Mr. Prasanna Kandale and Mr. Balaji teach and explain science through experiments to the children who come along with their teachers from many surrounding schools. Apart from this, in schools located at long distances or on hilly roads, they carry the material for experiments themselves and teach there. Vidnyanvahini Pune group makes it a point to go to Andur for a week every year, to teach and explain many basic concepts in science with the help of scientific apparatus/models.

Under this program, students from schools connected to the Rural Science Center participated in hands-on experiments at the center. Using the facilities available at the center, students conducted experiments related to their curriculum. In the academic year 2023-24, 22 schools connected to the Science Center participated, with 550 students benefiting from the center's resources, averaging 4 visits per student. Additionally, 240 students benefited from the science workshops conducted by the science team during school visits. As per the program's schedule, experiments were conducted for students of grades 9 and 10.

### **Vidnyan jatra:**

On February 28, National Science Day, Hello Medical Foundation, Foundation for Community of Learners (FCL), and Vidnyanvahini jointly organized a two-day science festival at the Rural Science Center, Andur, on January 4-5, 2024. The program was chaired by Dr. Kranti Rai, Executive Director of Hello Medical Foundation, and inaugurated by Dr. Arvind Natu, former Director of IISER Pune, along with other dignitaries including Sulabha Vidhate, education expert, Prapti Umagal, science activist, Vanita Ruline, project head of FCL, and Bharati Kulkarni, headmistress of Sevadhanitt School. The festival was inaugurated with a display of the Chandrayaan-3 launch,





created by Atharv Santoshkumar students of Zilha Parishad School, Andur, including Santosh Kumar Somase.

Dr. Arvind Natu's guidance, presented with the help of a projector, was novel and impressive for students, teachers, and attendees. He expressed that the science festival organized by the Science Center, with various innovative programs for rural students, is inspirational for students. He opined that if such initiatives continue, scientists can also emerge from rural areas.

On the occasion of the two-day science festival, various programs were organized at the Rural Science Center, Andur, for students from grades 5 to 9, including:

- Science material exhibition
- Essay competition
- Quiz
- Elocution competition
- Stargazing
- Bird watching tour
- Snake friendship program

These programs were conducted to promote scientific curiosity and enthusiasm among rural students.

## **2. Islampur Science Center**

In this center students from schools come to perform experiments in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. Some times the material /apparatus are taken by the teachers to their schools, on returnable basis, whenever they teach a particular topic. In addition to these, our volunteers either from Pune or devoted teachers in and around Islampur, who



have come forward to work for the center honorarily. Dr. Anil Mali has provided three rooms in his hospital / bungalow for use of the centre's activities. Mr. Vinayak Dixit one of the DAG members is taking an active role in the activities of the center.

### **Activities of the center in this year :**

In collaboration with the Walwa Taluka Panchayat Samiti, Islamapur and the Islamapur Science Center, an initiative was launched to instill scientific thinking among students in primary schools within the taluka. Various science experiments were demonstrated at different primary schools, encompassing a total of 17 primary schools. Teachers from each school actively participated in this initiative, benefiting a total of 1,959 students. Additionally, experiments from the science curriculum were demonstrated and conducted by students of 10 secondary schools in the Islamapur area, benefiting a total of 935 students.

On February 25th, the Islamapur Science Center, in association with the Giants Group of Pearl Islamapur and the Taluka Science Board, organized a "Science Exhibition" at M. Phule School, Islamapur. Students from various schools presented a total of 30 scientific models. Several science teachers, parents, Pearl Group members and students attended the event. The models were evaluated by Mr. P. H. Patil, Mrs. Ashwini Patil, Mr. Anil Patil, Mr. V. S. Dixit, and Mrs. Sarika Deshpande. Six award-winning models were selected, and the successful students were honored with prizes and certificates.

The program received excellent support from headmasters and teachers. To mark the International Year of Millets, a workshop for 15 students was conducted at the Science Center, guided by Professor Patil and Professor Raskar from K.B.P. College, Islamapur. Additionally, at the Islamapur Science Center, a ceremony was held to honor students who excelled in their 10th, 12th, and competitive examinations, with the participation of



18 students and their parents. In August 2023, an exhibition showcasing the available materials at the Science Center was organized. Mr. Chaudhary, the Vice President of the Central Committee of the Giants Group, visited the exhibition, learned about the science channel's initiatives, and praised their work.

### **3. Chiplun Science Center :**

With the cooperation of Sevasadhana Sanstha, Ketaki, Chipalun, Vidnyanvahini has started a science center in Chipalun. Vidnyanvahini has provided laboratory material to this center. Two sanvadaks from Vidnyanvahini stay there for a week and conduct their program in schools in nearby villages. This year, Vidnyanvahini's coordinators visited Chipalun three times for a week, and conducted Vidnyanvahini's activity in 12 schools.

### **Vidnyanvahini Science Day Activities**

#### **Science Day - Khodad**

This year, following the pandemic, it was unanimously decided to participate in the exhibition for National Science Day, to be held in Khodad on February 28 and March 1, 2024. Each department held meetings to decide on a theme. The theme for the Physics group was "Sensors," showcasing functional devices demonstrating the use of sensors at home and in factories. The Chemistry group's theme was "pH Level," demonstrating natural and chemical indicators, as well as testing the pH of soap and shampoo. The Biology group's theme was "Millets," displaying various millet samples along with informative, illustrated charts.

Children eagerly conducted experiments, and a large number of students, teachers, and parents from various age groups attended the exhibition with great enthusiasm.



### **Science Day : Satara**

A two-day science event was held in Satara district to commemorate National Science Day. Our two Sanvadak Mr. Deval and Mr. Dixit conducted the program. The event featured science through experiments, the creation of scientific instruments, and interaction with 8th and 9th standard students.

On February 28th, demonstrations were given to the students of Sharadabai Pawar Secondary and Higher Secondary Ashram School, Jakatwadi, showing them how various scientific instruments can be made from easily available materials.

On the 29th, an entertaining program called "Science through Experiments" was presented to the students. A total of 120 students from Savitribai Phule Primary School and Sathi S.M. Joshi Secondary Ashram School, along with all the teachers from both schools, were present. After the program, the students enthusiastically shared their reactions.

### **Shibir :**

The shibir is organised in Pune for 10th standard students from various rural schools in Maharashtra since 1996. The shibir helps the students to widen their knowledge horizon by exposing them to a diverse range of experiences through visits to industries, defence units, laboratories, lectures from experts, introduction to activities such as competitions on essay writing, yoga, archery etc. This year Vidnyanvahini could not organise this shibir activity due to some reason.

### **Mobile library :**

To encourage the habit of reading among students Vidnyanvahini has been circulating book bags among schools. Each bag contains about forty books on science and related subjects and kept in a school for a term. So far the books were for 8th to 10th standards, but from 2020 we have included some books for 5th to 7th standards also.



**List of Donors :**

**Donations 1,00,000 and above :**

- 1) M/S The Atomotive Reserch Association Of India
- 2) M/S Rama Purushottam Foundation
- 3) Mr. Ravindra Apte
- 4) Mr. Anand Sharangpani

**Donations Rs. 50,000/- and above :**

- 1) Ms. Shubhangi Parkar
- 2) Pravin Masalewale Trust

**Donations Above Rs. 10,000/-**

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Mr. Ajit Phatak.     | 2) Ms. Swapna Kulkarni |
| 3) M/S Natu Foundation. | 4) Ms.Poorva Jogalekar |
| 5) Ms. Gouri Salvekar.  | 6) Mr. R.K. Deodhar    |
| 7) Mr. R.K. Deodhar.    | 8) Ms. Sushama Thakar  |
| 9) Mr. M joshi          |                        |

**Donations upto Rs. 10,000/**

- 1) Mr. Shashidhar P. Erande
- 2) Mr.Kanad Javahire
- 3) Mrs. Sanjivani B. Thanedar
- 4) Bhogavati Sanskruti Mandal
- 5) Mr. B. R. Deshpande
- 6) Mr. C. Nawathe
- 7) Ms.Rajani P. Umrani
- 8) M/S Innerwheel Club
- 9) Padmavati Vidyamandir (prathamik and madhyamik), Maval





- 10) Navamaharashtra Madhyamik Vidyalay Pune
- 11) Mr. Shrikant S. Chaphekar
- 12) Mrs. Vashishali Washikar

### **Foreign Donors List**

- 1) Mr. Rahul Navathe.
- 2) Mr. Nikhil Sane
- 3) Mr. Suhas Shingade.
- 4) Mr. Amit Jadhav
- 5) Mr. Sagar Kalasa.
- 6) Mr. Sudan Puranik
- 7) Mr. Shrikant P. Vinchurkar.
- 8) Ms. Shilapa Jais
- 9) Mr. Parag Sathe

### **Benefactors**

Numerous donors and well-wishers have been helping Vidnyanvahini through contributions in cash and in kind. We are grateful for their generous gesture and the trust they have reposed in Vidnyanvahini. Some of the prominent benefactors are mentioned below.

- M/S Saraswat Hitwardhak Mandal, Mumbai have provided staunch support for many years by sponsoring school visits and teachers workshops in Rantnagiri and Raigad district of the Kokan belt in the State.
- Shri Amber Naik and his associates have been preparing the financial accounts and audit report of Vidnyanvahini at Concessional rates for many years.
- The Vidyarthi Sahayak Samiti Pune has helped by providing lodging facility at their hostel at concessional charges for Vidnyanvahini's Vidnyan Shibir year after year.



- In addition to the a few Indian Corporates and Charitable Trust as well as many individual Donors have made generous financial donations to the Vidnyanvahini. A list of donors is enclosed.
  - Mr. Ajit Phatak has been assisting us in designing charts, tables etc. whenever we require, devoting his valuable time for Vignanvahini without any cost to us. He may be regarded as one of the members only.
  - Our volunteers Ms Pushpa Palkar, Mr Ulhas Vaishyampayan, Mr. Govind Gadgil, Ms. Rege, Ms. Shailaja Joshi, Ms. Pradnya Deshpande, Ms. Nalini Mungel who are not active now in Vidnyanvahini 's activities due to health or other problems are regularly in touch with us and are eager to understand / know the progress of the organisation.
  - Mr. Vinit Kenjale has helped us by providing a good place for parking our MSL vehicle free of any charge.
  - Mr. Ashok Prabhu has been helping us in many ways such as repairing PPTs and providing guidance from time to time.
  - Mr. Mhaiskar Makarand and Rasika Kale-Kelkar have been managing Vidnyanvahini's website very well all long.
  - Mr. Lohotekar helped us with the layout and design of this Annual Report.
  - Dr. Madhukar and Pushpa Deshpande, both founder members of Vidnyanvahini, have been our guide from the beginning.
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## Obituary

Vidnyanvahini mourns the loss of its well-wishers.

**Shri Ambegaonkar**, a devoted supporter of Vidnyanvahini, passed away in 2023. He provided generous financial assistance for the organization to acquire a new bus. We pay heartfelt tributes to him.

We also mourn the passing away of two DAG members **Smt. Malati Deulgaonkar** and **Smt. Sushama Kelkar**, in 2023. Their contributions to Vidnyanvahini, especially during its initial stages, were immense. With great enthusiasm, they taught science to rural students.

The Vidnyanvahini family offers its sincere condolences to their families and remembers their selfless service.





THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950			
SCHEDULE VIII			
Name of the Trust : Vidnyan Vahini			
Registration Number: E - 2024 / Pune			
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024			
Funds and Liabilities	Amount(Rs)	Fixed Assets	Amount(Rs)
<b>Trusts Funds or Corpus</b>	<b>96,19,970</b>	<b>Immovable Properties - (at cost)</b>	<b>11,33,240</b>
Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	96,19,970	Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	11,33,240
Add: During the year	-	Additions during the year	-
		Less : Sales during the year	-
		Less : Depreciation upto date	-
<b>Other Earmarked Funds (Schedule 2)</b>	<b>63,494</b>	<b>Movable Fixed Assets</b>	
(Created under the provisions of the Trust deed or scheme or out of the Income)		Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	2,62,943
Opening Balance	63,494	Additions during the year	-
ADD: During the Year	-	Less : Sales during the year	-
Less: Transfer	-	Less : Depreciation upto date	41,786
			2,21,157
<b>Loans (Secured or Unsecured)</b>		<b>Investments</b>	<b>61,38,232</b>
From Trustees		Bank fixed Deposits	61,38,232
From Others			
Add : During the year			
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>93,200</b>	<b>Loans (Secured or Unsecured) :</b>	
For Expenses		Loan Scholarships	-
For Advances		Other Loans	3,45,024
For Rent and other deposits			3,45,024
For Sundry Credit Balance		<b>Advances</b>	
For Provision	93,200	To TDS	-
		To Trustees	-
		To Employees	-
		To Contractors	-
		To Others	-
		To Deposits	11,00,000
			11,00,000
		<b>Income Outstanding</b>	
		Interest Receivable - Refund	1,706
		Interest	2,34,721
		Other Income - cheque in hand	-
			2,36,427
		<b>Cash &amp; Bank Balances</b>	
		(a) In Current / Saving account	7,67,219
		(b) Cash Balance	31,744
			7,98,963
		<b>Grant Receivable ( From ICSSR )</b>	
<b>Income and Expenditure Account</b>		<b>Income and Expenditure Account</b>	
Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	1,96,379	Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	3,81,533
Less : Appropriation if any	-	Less : Surplus	#REF!
Add : Surplus	-	Add : Deficit	-
Less : Deficit	-		
	1,96,379		
<b>Total (Rs.)</b>	<b>99,73,043</b>	<b>Total (Rs.)</b>	<b>99,73,043</b>

For **Ambar Naik & Associates**  
Chartered Accountants  
ICAI FRN - 137450W

*Ambar Naik*

Ambar S Naik  
Membership No. 157493  
Place : Pune  
Date : 15/09/2024  
UDIN : 24157493BKCQLD6437



For **Vidnyan Vahini**

*V. S. Parthiv*  
Trustee

Place : Pune  
Date : 15/09/2024

*V. S. Parthiv*  
Trustee

Place : Pune  
Date : 15/09/2024

विश्वस्त

Vice President  
Vidnyanvahini  
Public Charitable Trust  
Reg. No: E-2024 Pune



THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950			
SCHEDULE IX			
Name of the Trust : Vidnyan Vahini			
Registration Number: E-2024/Pune			
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended on 31st March 2024			
Particulars	Amount(Rs)	Particulars	Amount(Rs)
To Expenditure in respect of properties:-	1,41,921	By Donations in cash or kind	11,56,149
Rates, Taxes, Cess	-	By Interest [accrued]	
Repairs and Maintenance	14,400	On Securities	-
Depreciation	-	On Bank Fd	4,01,799
RTO Taxes paid	-	On Bank Account (Saving Bank )	26,476
Vehicle Insurance	-	On Income Tax Refund	26,026
		On FCRA Saving	-
		Other Income	4,00,000
Depreciation [by way of provision or adjustment]	-	By Misc Income	18
To Establishment Expenses	-		
To Remuneration to Trustees	-		
To Remuneration [in case of a math] to the head of the math including his household expenditure, if any	-		
To Legal Expenses	-		
To Audit Fees	-		
To Contribution and Fees	-		
To Amount written off	-		
(a) Bad Debts	-		
(b) Loan Scholarships	-		
(c) Irrecoverable Items	-		
(d) Other items	-		
To Miscellaneous Expenses	2,717		
To Expenditure on objects of the trust	16,00,987		
(a) Religious			
(b) Educational	16,00,987		
(c) Medical Relief (Schedule 7)			
(d) Relief of poverty			
(e) Other Charitable objects			
		By Transfers from Reserve	
To Surplus carried to Balance Sheet	2,50,443	By Deficit carried over to Balance Sheet	
<b>Total (Rs.)</b>	<b>20,10,468</b>	<b>Total (Rs.)</b>	<b>20,10,468</b>
For <b>Ambar Naik &amp; Associates</b> Chartered Accountants ICAI FRN - 137450W		For <b>Vidnyan Vahini</b>	

Ambar S Naik  
Membership No. 157493  
Place : Pune  
Date : 15/09/2024  
UDIN : 24157493BKCQLD6437



*[Signature]*  
Trustee  
Place: Pune  
Date: 15/09/2024

*[Signature]*  
Trustee  
Place: Pune  
Date: 15/09/2024

विश्वस्त

Vice President  
Vidnyanvahini  
Public Charitable Trust  
Reg. No:E-2024 Pune



# Activities of Vidnyanvahini



विज्ञान वाहिनी



संवाद आणि कृतिगट

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विज्ञान वाहिनी



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