



Vidnyanvahini
फिरती प्रयोगशाळा

Vidnyanvahini

Pune

30th Annual Report
2024-25

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



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We are registered for undertaking CSR activity. Registration No. CROO033756
Donations exempted under 80G. Unique Registration No.AAATV4749FF20211

Vidnyanvahini [Shibir]



Tunnel scanning electron microscope at IISER



Rifle shooting
at War-Memorial
Museum



Expert's Lecture



संवाद आणि कृतिमट

Vidnyanvahini
फिरती प्रयोगशाळा



Visit to Empress Botanical Garden



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

Dialogue and Action group is a group of volunteers working for Vidnyanvahini (DAG)

1. Amrute Ulhas	14. Natu Ravindra
2. Bapat Kirti	15.. Pande Nandan
3. Dewal Dattatray	16. Pande Preetima
4. Dixit Vinayak	17. Parchure Urmila
5. Erande Vivek	18. Parkar Shubhangi
6. Ghamande Satish	19. Phatak Kiran
7. Hegade Suresh	20. Ranade Gajanan
8. Kandalgaonkar Suvarnalata	21. Sapre Achyut
9. Khasnis Sandhya	22. Sathe Anita
10. Lohotekar Jyoti	23. Shaikh Atik



11. Mahajan Hema	24. Wagh Yashashri
12. Marathe Sucheta	25. Vartak Kalpana
13. Navathe Chandrashekhar	26. Yerunkar Suresh

Trustees

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, defense establishments etc. Vidnyanvahini is a non-profit organization constituted as a public trust and operates solely on public donations.

In January Vidnyanvahini completed 29 years of service. During this period the Mobile Science Laboratory has traveled about **3,82,475 Kms** while making **3,816** school visits and touching the lives of about **4,29,383 rural students** spread over Maharashtra. Over the last few years Vidnyanvahini has also been venturing 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 equipment like DVD player, laptop, portable generator, sitting space and a wash-basin.



Dialogue & Action Group (DAG)

The strength of Vidnyanvahini is a group of committed volunteers consisting 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 meet more frequently to decide about the topics and experiments. The Annual meeting is arranged to review the activities of the previous year, make the plans for the activities of next year, review the list of the schools and outstation visits, decide on changes to curriculum and experiments etc.

THIS REPORT SUMMARISES THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2024 TO MARCH 2025

About School Visits

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 daily organized full-day session, students perform some science experiments in groups of four to five and observe demonstrations. The theoretical principles underlying 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 schools	158
Number of schools visited twice in a year	25
Number of students who benefited by the Vidnyanvahini.	8,867
Number of outstation visits lasting 5-6 days	07
Number of outstation visits lasting less than 5 days	01
Number of Kms logged by the Mobile Science Laboratory	10428

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 to cover rural schools in the surrounding areas.



Place	DATES	DAYS	NO. OF SCHOOLS
1.Ashti/Beed	30th June to 5th July, 24	6	4
2. Andur	21st July to 27th July, 24	7	5
3. Chiplun	i)20th Aug. to 25th Aug.24 ii)31st Dec.24to 3rd Jan 25	6 4	5 4
4. Islampur	22nd Sept.to 28th Sept.24	7	5
5. Kadegaon	01st Dec. to 7th Dec. 24	7	5
6. Satara	29th Dec. to 04th Jan. 25	7	5
7. Tarale	26th Jan.to 01st Feb. 25	7	5



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 teaches and explains science through experiments to the children who come - with their teachers from many surrounding schools. Apart from this, they carry material for experiments and teach in the schools located at long distances or on hilly roads. 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 participate 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 32 schools connected to the Science Center participated, with 801 students benefiting from the center's resources.



2) Islampur Science Center

In this center students from schools come to perform experiments in physics, chemistry, and biology. Some time the material/apparatus take to their schools, on a 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 center's activities. Mr. Vinayak Dixit, one of the DAG members, is taking an active role in the activities of the center.

A total of 1,661 students from Standards VIII to X across 16 schools benefited from this center this year.

In addition to the regular activities, the center organized various programs such as a science exhibition and a model-making workshop. The center also conducted and evaluated several competitions, including an essay competition and an elocution competition. Furthermore, practice tests were arranged for the students.

3) Chiplun Science Center:

With the cooperation of Shri Vinit Waghe from Sevasadhana Sanstha, Ketaki, Chiplun, Vidnyanvahini has established a science center in Chiplun. Vidnyanvahini has also provided laboratory materials to this center. Two teachers from Vidnyanvahini stay there for a week at a time and conduct educational sessions and programs in schools in nearby villages. This year, during two visits, two representatives from Vidnyanvahini, Pune guided 737 students from Classes 8 to 10 across nine schools.



In addition, the following activities were carried out at Chiplun Science Center:

Teacher’s Training Workshops – A workshop was organized for science teachers in Chiplun taluka. A total of 32 teachers and a few school principals attended. The training, conducted from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., covered topics such as Physics, Chemistry, and the Journey of Science. Hands-on activities were also provided. Overall, the response from the teachers was very positive.

Handicraft Workshop and fun with science program –A handicraft-related workshop was organized for the students of Sawarde High School. Simultaneously, in a large hall, a program called “Fun with Science” was conducted for about 300 students. Both activities lasted for three hours. As the program was projected on a large screen, all students were able to clearly watch and understand the experiments.

Shibir (Students’ Camp – June 2024)

Vidnyanvahini resumed its tradition of organizing the Residential Science Camp after a gap of four years due to the pandemic. The 2024 camp was conducted from 19th to 22nd June 2024 at Sumitra Sadan Pune, with active participation of 32 students and 8 teachers representing different districts, particularly from rural areas.

Key Activities & Highlights

Cultural Inaugural Program: The camp began with “Mee Savitribai Phule”, a one-act performance by Ms. Meghna Zhuzhum, which inspired participants with Savitribai’s journey and determination.



Field Visits:

- Empress Botanical Garden – Tree identification and classification session by Mrs. Archana Pande.
- Southern Command War Memorial – insights into the valour and history of the armed forces.
- IISER, Pune – exposure to advanced research and science laboratories.
- Pune Metro – practical experience of modern transport systems.

Expert Lectures: Renowned speakers delivered lectures on diverse topics such as:

- Temples of Cambodia & Environment – Dr. Ajit Vartak
- Electric power distribution and management – Mr. Jayant Kawale
- Mountaineering Experiences – Mr. Umesh Zirpe (Everest climber)
- How We Hear – Mr. Sandeep Phatak
- Mobile Pollution – Mr. Kaustubh Mudgal
- All About Birds – Mr. Rajgopal Patil
- Scientific Concepts – Mr. Jayant Phalke

Yoga & Fitness:

Morning yoga sessions were conducted by Ms. Ranjana Deol.

Competitions & Cultural Programs:

Students actively participated in essay competitions and presented songs, dances, speeches, and skits during the valedictory program.



The concluding ceremony was graced by Mr. Pravin Dixit (Retd. DGP, Maharashtra Police) and Mr. Solanki (Chairman, GMRT Khodad). The dignitaries emphasized the importance of scientific education and discipline in shaping future citizens. Prizes for competitions were distributed, and closing remarks were given by Chairperson Ms. Kiran Phatak and Vice Chairperson Ms. Urmila Parchure.

The camp was an enriching and memorable experience for all participants. It successfully fulfilled its aim of igniting curiosity, promoting hands-on science learning, and fostering a scientific temperament among rural students. The collaborative efforts of Vidnyanvahini's coordinators, volunteers, and expert speakers ensured the success of this residential program.

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.

- 1) M/S Saraswat Hitwardhak Mandal, Mumbai have provided staunch support for many years by sponsoring school visits and teachers workshops in Ratnagiri and Raigad district of the Kokan belt in the State.
- 2) Shri Amber Naik and his associates have been preparing the financial accounts and audit report of Vidnyanvahini at concessional rates for many years.
- 3) 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.



- 4) Mr. Abhijeet Bora of Genetic Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. has been sponsoring our students shibir.
- 5) Mr. Ajit Phatak has been assisting us in designing charts, tables etc. whenever we require, devoting his valuable time for Vidnyanvahini without any cost to us. He may be regarded as one of the members only.
- 6) 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 organization.
- 7) Mr. Vinit Kenjale has helped us by providing a good place for parking our MSL vehicle free of any charge.
- 8) Mr. Lohotekar helped us with the layout and design of this Annual Report.

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.



Donors List :

Donor's Name	Amount
a) Rama Foundation	2,00,000.00
b) Shri. Laxmi Pravin Masalewale	1,17,782.00
c) Smt. Jai Kelkar	1,00,000.00
d) Shri. Anand Sharangpani	1,00,000.00
e) Shri. Navathe	60,000.00
f) Shri. Ajit Phatak	30,000.00
g) Mrs. Gauri Salvekar	30,000.00
h) Smt. Pradnya Deshpande	25,000.00
i) The Maharashtra Executive&Trustee Co.Pvt. Ltd.	25,000.00
j) Shri. R.K. Deodhar	20,000.00
k) Smt. Sushama Thakar	20,000.00
l) Mrs. Shalamli Soman	18,000.00
m)Mr. Rushikesh Agashe	17,656.00
n) M/S Gauri Technologies Pvt.Ltd.	11,000.00
o) Mrs. Anjali Gujar	10,000.00
p) Bhogawati Sanskrutik Mandal	10,000.00
q) Kamala vinayak sarvjanik Sanskrutik Trust	10,000.00
r) Mrs. Kirti Bapat	5,001.00
s) Shri. Vivek Agashe	5,000.00
t) Mrs. Mohini Mukund Joshi	5,000.00
u) Vidyavikas Prashala, Kasarwadi	3,100.00
v) Smt. Parchure Urmila	1,500.00
w) Donations One Thousand And Below	4,150.00
<u>Donations in FCRA Account</u>	
a) Rahul Navathe	59,775.00



b) Ramaya Baskar	16,174.00
c) Sharda Balotia	16,156.00
d) Rohit Dongaonkar	12,742.00
e) Amit Sabane	8,517.00
f) Niritha Pandhe	8,517.00
g) Ajay Zare	4,054.00
h) Anurag Bhatnagar	14,977.00
i) Akhilesh Bapat	3,231.00
j) Sanket Pawar	3,146.00
k) Nitin Patil	2,629.00
l) Nikhil Sane	2,427.00
m) Shripad Joshi	2,123.00
n) Samiksha Subhedar	2,000.00
o) Abhilash Barbade	878.00
p) Janhavi Katre	500.00
q) Pratik Gavali	425.00

Dr. Madhukar and Pushpa Deshpande, both founder members of Vidnyanvahini, have been guiding us from the beginning.



Mr. Jayant Phalke -

Shri. Jayant Phalke passed away on 1st September 2024. He was one of the founding members of Vidnyanvahini. He will always be remembered as a guiding light of Vidnyanvahini. He dedicated his time, energy and intellect to make science accessible and enjoyable for students across Maharashtra. His deep understanding of Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, combined with his gift for explaining concepts in simple Marathi, inspired countless young minds.

Beyond his scientific passion, Shri. Phalke was known for his love of sports — table tennis, badminton and volleyball — and for his unique musical talent of playing melodious tunes on the whistle. His ever-curious mind, cheerful presence and gentle sense of humour brought warmth and enthusiasm to every Vidnyanvahini activity.

His handwritten notes and articles remain a valuable treasure. We fondly remember him with gratitude and affection.

Mr. Govind Gadgil -

Mr. Govind Gadgil passed away on 4th September 2024. He was one of the founding members of Vidnyanvahini. He was very popular among students with his electric train as quite a few rural students had never seen trains.

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 2025

Particulars	Amount(Rs)	Particulars	Amount(Rs)
Expenditure in respect of properties:-	39,154	By Donations is cash or kind	10,60,049
Rates, Taxes, Cess	-	By Interest [accrued]	
Repairs and Maintenance		On Securities	-
Depreciation	34,634	On Bank Fd	4,64,507
RTO Taxes paid	4,520	On Bank Account (Saving Bank)	15,574
Vehicle Insurance	-	On Income Tax Refund	
		On FCRA Saving	-
		Other Income	-
Depreciation [by way of provision or adjustment]	-	By Misc Income	
Establishment Expenses	-		
Remuneration to Trustees	-		
Remuneration [in case of a math] to the head of the math including his household expenditure, if any	-		
Legal Expenses	-		
Audit Fees	-		
Contribution and Fees	-		
Amount written off			
(a) Bad Debts	-		
(b) Loan Scholarships	-		
(c) Irrecoverable Items	-		
(d) Other items	-		
Miscellaneous Expenses	4,156		
Expenditure on objects of the trust	9,36,878		
(a) Religious			
(b) Educational	9,36,878		
(Schedule 7)			
(c) Medical Relief			
(d) Relief of poverty			
(e) Other Charitable objects		By Transfers from Reserve	
Surplus carried to Balance Sheet	5,59,942	By Deficit carried over to Balance Sheet	-
Total (Rs.)	15,40,130	Total (Rs.)	15,40,130

Ambar Naik & Associates

Chartered Accountants
ICAI FRN - 137450W

Ambar S Naik
Membership No. 157493
Place : Pune
Date :22/09/2025
UDIN : 25157493BMJAXQ5510



For **Vidnyan Vahini**

Trustee

Place: Pune
Date :22/09/2025

Trustee

Place: Pune
Date :22/09/2025

विश्वस्त

Vidnyanvahini, Pune
"Rangdeep" 20 Natraj Society
Lane No:10, Karvenagar
Pune 411052

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 2025

Funds and Liabilities		Amount(Rs)	Fixed Assets	Amount(Rs)
Trusts Funds or Corpus		96,19,970	Immovable Properties - (at cost)	11,33,240
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	-
Other Earmarked Funds (Schedule 2)		63,494	Movable Fixed Assets	
(Created under the provisions of the Trust deed or scheme or out of the Income)			Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	2,21,157
Opening Balance	63,494		Additions during the year	-
ADD: During the Year	-		Less : Sales during the year	-
Less: Transfer	-		Less : Depreciation upto date	34,634
				1,86,524
Loans (Secured or Unsecured)			Investments	64,38,232
From Trustees			Bank fixed Deposits	64,38,232
From Others				
Add : During the year				
Liabilities			Loans (Secured or Unsecured) :	
For Expenses			Loan Scholarships	-
For Advances			Other Loans	3,52,787
For Rent and other deposits				3,52,787
For Sundry Credit Balance			Advances	
For Provision			To TDS	-
			To Trustees	-
			To Employees	-
			To Contractors	-
			To Others	-
			To Deposits	11,00,000
				11,00,000
			Income Outstanding	
			Interest Receivable - Refund	1,706
			Interest	3,30,148
			Other Income - cheque in hand	-
				3,31,854
			Cash & Bank Balances	
			(a) In Current / Saving account	8,70,537
			(b) Cash Balance	26,613
				8,97,150
			Grant Receivable (From ICSSR)	
			Income and Expenditure Account	
			Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	-
			Less : Surplus	-
			Add : Deficit	-
Total (Rs.)		1,04,39,786	Total (Rs.)	1,04,39,786

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

For Vidnyan Vahini

Ambar Naik
Ambar S Naik
Membership No. 157493
Place : Pune
Date : 22/09/2025
UDIN : 25157493BMJAXQ5510



Trustee *S. Prasad*
Place : Pune
Date : 22/09/2025

Trustee *S. Prasad*
Place : Pune
Date : 22/09/2025

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Vidnyanvahini, Pune
"Rangdeep" 20 Natraj Society
Lane No:10, Karvenagar
Pune 411052

Vidnyanvahini [Shibir]



संवाद आणि कृतिगट

Vidnyanvahini
फिरती प्रयोगशाळा

Activities of Vidnyanvahini



Vidnyanvahini
फिरती प्रयोगशाळा