



Kalpana Chawla Space Academy

Path from dream to reality does exist

In association with



Project supported under the CSR initiative
of Narayan Bhargava Group



Vidya Niketan Education Trust and
Adv. Bapusaheb Bhonde High School



The Genesis

Inspired by Dr Kalpana Chawla and Dr APJ Abdul Kalaam, the troika of Dr Pujary, Shri Madhav Bhonde and Shri Narayan Bhargava embarked on the journey of promulgating scientific education across India. They made a tryst with destiny to form an alliance for laying the foundation of Kalpana Chawla Space Academy (KCSA) under the Vidya Niketan Education Trust, Lonavala, Maharashtra. The scientific curriculum development expertise is being provided by Dr Pujary, school infrastructure by Shri Bhonde under the Vidya Niketan Education Trust and the KCSA infrastructure has been developed through the Narayan Bhargava Foundation. The KCSA project is now administered under the Vidya Niketan Education Trust from the premises of Advocate Bapusaheb Bhonde School, Lonavala.

Their trinity alliance has now established the Kalpana Chawla Space Academy to implement the long-term space science curriculums to develop world-class scientists. A team of eminent advisors, including ISRO scientists and educationists, support the program's mission of nurturing world-class scientists for India's space sector and embarking on the journey of Nation-building.

Nation Building Mission

As India navigates through the Amrit Kaal, the next twenty-five years will be of prime importance for the country to transition as a developed nation. Our nation's space power would prove to be one of the most important building blocks. With a strong foundation of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) talent, affordable technology development and conducive policies, India is well-positioned to leverage its space sector for growth.

The coming decade will significantly boost the space industry, driven by public-private partnerships, a thriving start-up ecosystem, and increased private sector involvement in space commercialization. This growth will require many highly skilled professionals, including scientists, engineers, astronomers, astronauts, astrophysicists, and spacepreneurs, to develop innovative space technologies and propel humanity towards interplanetary exploration and travel.

The Kalpana Chawla Space Academy (KCSA) aims to contribute to this mission by nurturing children's curiosity for space, science and technology fostering scientific skills and knowledge to develop world-class human resources for the Indian space sector. In pursuit of our mission, we are actively seeking collaborations with various institutions and eminent experts to enhance our capabilities and resources.

Vision

Nurture children to become world-class space scientists for India.

Our Ethos

Kalpana Chawla Space Academy is an ecosystem designed to explore and deepen new skills, explore passions, immerse in creativity, discover new pathways and empower individuals to become world-class Space Scientists and Professionals. Our academy encourages exploration, creativity and innovation to co-develop sustainable solutions for a better future. We ignite children's excitement for space, science, and technology with inspiring learning spaces, fostering their passion and belief in our mission.

We value teamwork, respect, and every experiment and experience. Through unique connections, collaborations, and personal growth, we create unforgettable experiences, build on strengths and discover new pathways. The academy will be a visitor attraction and promote a lifestyle that connects with nature, ensuring physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being. It would be an enabler for children in becoming energetic, creative, loving, and happy citizens, spreading peace and contributing to society's welfare.

Mission

To undertake a nation-building mission by creating a quality and proficient workforce in the domain of space, science, technology and application. Young minds will be trained to achieve holistic development, critical thinking and problem-solving ability. The intent is to catch young minds at an early stage and train them from foundation to advanced level of proficiency.

Our Values



Integrity



Continuous Learning



Innovation



Collaboration



Serving the Nation



Sustainable Development

Advisory Council



Prof. Jagdish K Math

Prof Jagdish K M, with distinguished contribution for over 40 years, as ISRO Scientist, Technology & Business Leader, Professor of Practice, Thought Leader, Social Entrepreneur, Holistic Coach & Mentor for MSME. He Specialised in Remote Sensing from IIT Bombay before joining ISRO in 1984 as Scientist, National Natural Resources Management System. A key member to establish Digital Image Processing Systems at Regional Remote Sensing Centres. Key role in design and development of innovative Remote Sensing applications for Forestry, Water, Agriculture, Watersheds, Utilities. He established and built ESRI India Global Geomatics Practice, where he designed and delivered Innovative Geomatics Solutions for Forest Management, Cadastral mapping, Crop mapping, Utilities, eGovernance. Chief Architect for Enterprise GIS for Reliance Group. RS/GIS Applications helped in saving Cost, & Time resulting in offering affordable Telecom, Infra, Retail Services for Masses, bringing Telecom and Retail revolution, bosting rapid development of India. A social Entrepreneur at heart, initiated startups in Education, Research, Health, Fintech. He continues to persue research in Space & Spirituality.



Dr. Vyankatesh Gambhir

With 34 years of experience as an Retd. Associate Professor at Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, he led numerous collaborative projects with the Govt. of Maharashtra, Pratham, and UNICEF. He authored books published by renowned institutions like HBCSE, Oxford University Press, and CSIR. As the architect of "Yes, You Can Do It," he showcased the program at Indian Science Congress and Children's Science Congress. He served as the Team Leader of Indian teams in the International Junior Science Olympiads and appeared on radio shows running successfully for 15 years and 100+ educational programs on television, answering science curiosity questions. Recognitions include Marathi Vidnyan Parishad, Homi Bhabha Award, and Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Rashtra Chetna Award.



Dr. Pandit B. Vidyasagar

With a distinguished career spanning forty years, he served as Professor and Head of the Physics Department at Savitribai Phule Pune University and as Vice-Chancellor of SRTM University, Nanded. Recognized for his expertise in photosynthesis and space physiology, he has made notable research contributions at national and international levels. He held important positions and chaired committees established by UGC, State Government, and the University. With an impressive publication record of 100 research papers, 20 books, and over 500 articles and lectures, he is also engaged in science communication through 25 radio talks and 25 science-related films. Having supervised 18 PhD and 19 M.Phil students, he has been honoured with prestigious awards, including Best Teacher, National Leadership Award, and associateships by ICTP, Trieste, Italy. Additionally, he serves as a board trustee for Vidya Niketan Education Trust.



Dr. Sanjay Bapurao Pujari

Inspired by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam and Dr. Kalpana Chawla, Dr. Pujari established the Dr. Kalpana Chawla Science Centre in Karad to promote science and space education. With 33 years of teaching experience, he utilizes innovative methods like puppetry, drama, and science-based magic shows. Through the 'Science on Wheels' program, he ensures space education reaches rural children. His efforts in popularizing science have earned him prestigious accolades, including the National Award for Popularization of Science by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and the prestigious M.V. Chiplunkar Award from the Department of Physics, Savitribai Phule Pune University, and the Sanman Puraskar from Marathi Vigyan Parishad Mumbai, among others.

Advisory Council



Mr Narayan Bhargava

Mr. Narayan Bhargava, Founder & CMD of Narayan Bhargava Group (NBG), established the group with a focus on identifying people's problems and creating solutions. With a background in commerce and as a qualified Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant from Sydenham College of Commerce & Economics, Mr. Bhargava ventured into entrepreneurship, defying traditional norms. Guided by strong ethical values, he has developed NBG into a reputable and successful business solution provider, earning the trust and respect of both customers and employees. Additionally, Mr. Bhargava serves as a board trustee for Vidya Niketan Education Trust associated with the KCSA project and supports social causes through CSR initiatives of Narayan Bhargava Group and the Narayan Bhargava foundation.



Adv. Mr. Madhav S. Bhonde

Mr Madhav S Bhonde, an advocate by profession, dedicated himself to realizing the vision of his late brother, Shri Bapusaheb Bhonde, by helping establish an exemplary school. Under his guidance, the school has flourished into a renowned institution known for its exceptional education standards. The school boasts of eco-friendly infrastructure, incorporating water harvesting and solar panels. Since 2004, Mr Bhonde is serving as the Chairman of Vidya Niketan Education Trust, responsible for the administration of Adv. Bapusaheb Bhonde High School, an English medium school located in Lonavala, Maharashtra. Additionally, he has contributed to the community as a Councilor of the Lonavala Municipal Council.



Mrs. Radhika Madhav Bhonde

She holds a degree in electrical engineering and is currently serving as a trustee, secretary and a Sanskrit language instructor for Vidya Niketan Education Trust since 2010. The school has attained greater heights of excellence under her leadership. Being a multifaceted personality, she is a Geeta Pariwar trainer for all levels, president of the Vasant Vyakhyanmala Samiti in Lonavala, and vice president of the Ram Mandir Trust in Lonavala. She is a gifted speaker with a strong command of Marathi and Sanskrit languages.

Pedagogy

The pedagogy adopted includes minimal classroom teaching with maximum focus on activity-based experiential learning built around hands-on training, fieldwork, projects for the application of knowledge and continuous improvement of skills, internships, seminars, quizzes, role plays, group work, debates and discussions, and creative activities such as drama and puppetry. The principle adopted would be “Learning is more important than teaching”. The focus is on learning outcomes. Evaluation methods will involve performance-based continuous assessments. Experts at the national and international levels would be involved in this unique program. Our pedagogy would be in alignment with the current New Education Policy and incorporate any future changes introduced by the government.

Our program emphasizes the importance of collaboration and teamwork as key skills to co-develop solutions on a global scale rooted in the local context and addressing multiple stakeholders. Hence, we focus on developing emotional intelligence, social skills, and the ability to integrate diverse perspectives to design solutions. Physical education holds equal importance, promoting sportsmanship, resilience, and overall well-being. Spiritual development is nurtured, instilling values of righteousness, benevolence, and the welfare of humanity. Yoga is integrated as a means to cultivate a healthy mind and body.

Program Design

KCSA is launching a special training program from August 2023 to April 2024 at Adv. Bapusaheb Bhonde High School, Lonavala. We have selected 25 dynamic students from the school after a rigorous selection process for the program. The workshops shall be held after regular school hours for four hours.

For the academic year 2024-25, the students studying in 6th standard (2023-24) shall be eligible to appear for the KCSA Pan-India entrance test. We shall start inducting the students from 7th standard into a four-year residential program. The selection of the students would require clearing a Pan-India entrance test and a series of other selection rounds. The batch size would be of 50 students. The selected students will be admitted in Adv. Bapusaheb Bhonde School (Maharashtra State Board) for 7th Standard. The students shall attend regular school while the KCSA curriculum shall be delivered post regular school hours for four hours. The details regarding the selection criteria and seat availability will be announced later. We plan to establish separate infrastructure complementing our pedagogy and program delivery needs along with a residential facility by mid-2024.

We are also considering extending the program to higher secondary Science stream students for deriving long-term benefits from the program. Our recruitment process for well-qualified faculty has begun, and they will receive capacity-building training to align with our unique pedagogy and program design.

Program Delivery

The Kalpana Chawla Space Academy offers a comprehensive curriculum covering subjects like science, mathematics, astronomy, rocketry, robotics, STEM, environmental science, remote sensing, bio-diversity, and foreign languages – German and French along with Sanskrit.

Our approach combines theory with hands-on activities, role plays, problem-solving, project work, and group activities to enhance analytical and critical thinking skills. Quizzes, discussions, and debates promote conceptual clarity and reinforce learning. Creative activities such as puppetry and drama are incorporated to improve teaching outcomes.

We aim to facilitate student participation in ISRO's Young Scientist Program (YUVIKA) and establish institutional tie-ups for student visits to ISRO, DRDO, scientific tours, and industrial visits, subject to approvals. The program will feature renowned national and international experts as visiting faculty and teacher trainers, ensuring continuous teacher training to maximize learning outcomes.



Future Prospects For Students

The students would be trained to develop a scientific temper and equipped with higher-order skills required to meet the space-based domains' future training and educational needs. We expect students to continue to pursue their higher education in the science stream to be able to make technical contributions to the Indian space sector. However, as per the New Education Policy, students would be free to choose cross-stream subjects. It is a positive step towards developing a multidisciplinary approach to learning.

The residential program would be delivered up to the Secondary (Xth) standard. However, considering the need of the sector, extending the program till the Higher Secondary (XIIth) standard for Science stream students is under consideration. We are actively considering strategic alliances with institutions of repute to chart out the higher education and career paths for students groomed by KCSA along with robust internship programs.

Infrastructure for Program Delivery





KCSA Infrastructure



KCSA Infrastructure





KCSA Infrastructure

Get in touch with us for your little APJ Abdul Kalam & Kalpana Chawla



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of Narayan Bhargava Group

NBG is a prominent service group with leading brands such as N.S. Bhargava & Co, Calibehr, MyBranch, Gromaxx, Nexes, Pan Atharva, Narayan Bhargava Foundation, and MyBranch Infra. These brands are built on unwavering values of Customer Centricity, Ethical Business Practices, Respect for People, and Transparency. NBG fosters a professional environment driven by innovation, process expertise, and stakeholder value creation. The Kalpana Chawla Space Academy is supported through its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative.



Vidya Niketan Education Trust and
Adv. Bapusaheb Bhonde High School

Vidya Niketan Education Trust founded in the year 1996 administers Adv. Bapusaheb Bhonde School, Lonavala. Under the dynamic leadership of Adv. Madhav Bhonde, the school has developed into an institution of repute delivering quality education for decades. The school has a beautiful eco-friendly campus with a strength of 2100+ students.

PROGRAM CONNECT

Website : www.kcsa.org.in
Email : contact@kcsa.org.in

PROGRAM LOCATION MAP

Adv. Bapusaheb Bhonde High School
S no 54. H no 3. C S No 202/ 1A Bhangarwadi,
Lonavla, Maharashtra - 410401, India



Scan this QR for location

