

Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA)

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Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA) is an autonomous organization under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Karnataka, which is functioning under the Chairmanship of renowned space scientist Prof. U R Rao, Former Chairman, ISRO/ Secretary, DOS since July 2005. KSTA has been successfully implementing many programs aimed at strengthening basic science learning at various levels in an educational pyramid and bringing scientific awareness as well as popularization of science among general public. Details of major programs successfully organized across the State during 2016 –'17 are as follows:

1. Publication of Bimonthly Magazine – Vijnana Loka

A bimonthly science magazine titled Vijnana Loka is being regularly published by KSTA since 2007. During 2016-'17, 6 issues of the bimonthly magazines were published in the months of May, July, September & November 2016 as well as in January & March 2017. About 2000 copies of each issue of the magazine were printed and distributed free of cost to pre-university and science degree colleges, science centers, libraries and other organizations across the state.

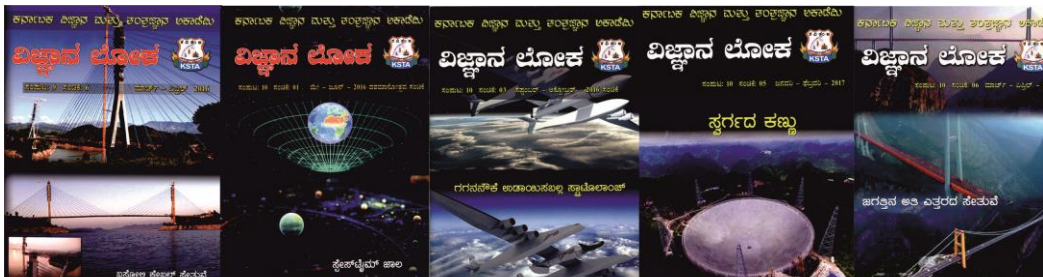


Fig. 1: Issues of Vijnana Loka Bimonthly Kannada Science Magazine

2. Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA) and Fellowships for Science Degree Students

2.1 KSTA Fellowships

KSTA Fellowships have been given to selected meritorious and talented students enrolled for basic science degree courses since FY 2006-'07. As similar kind of fellowship is being provided by the Dept. of Collegiate Education, KSTA fellowship for degree students has been discontinued from the FY 2014-'15 to avoid duplication. However, fellowships are being continued only for second and third

year students. A sum of Rs. 1000/- per month for 10 months, totalling to Rs. 10,000/- was given to second and third year students studying in the affiliated colleges of 14 universities such as Bangalore University; Kuvempu University, Shivamogga; Mangalore University; Mysore University; Gulbarg University; Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ballari; Tumkur University; Davanagere University; Karnatak University, Dharwad; Rani Chennamma University, Belgaum; Karnataka State Women's University, Vijayapura; Jain University, Bengaluru; Manipal University, Manipal and Christ University, Bengaluru. A total number of 318 fellowships were provided to science degree students (Second year B.Sc. – 157 & Third year B.Sc. -161).

2.2 Special Development Plan (SDP) Academy Fellowships

In order to encourage meritorious science degree students in backward taluks of the state as identified by Dr. D. M. Nanjundappa Committee on regional imbalance, an action is being taken to provide SDP Academy fellowships @ Rs.1000/- per month for 10 months (a total sum of Rs. 10,000/- for each student) to a total number of 810 students including students from Kalaburagi (218 fellowships), Belgaum (174 fellowships), Bengaluru (218 fellowships) and Mysuru (200 fellowships).

3. Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA) PG Science Fellowships

Post Graduate fellowships were provided to encourage meritorious students to pursue higher education in basic science after completion of their degree. For each university, 05 KSTA fellowships (one for each basic science discipline) @ Rs. 1500/- per month for 10 months totalling to Rs. 15,000/- per year were provided. A total of 102 KSTA PG Science Fellowships have been provided during the year for eligible students of: Bangalore University, Christ University, Davanagere University, Gulbarga University, Karnatak University, Mysore University, Rani Chennamma University, Kuvempu University, Mangalore University, Manipal University, Tumkur University, Vijayanagar Shri Krishna Devaraya University, Jain University and Karnataka State Women's University.

4. Karnataka Science and Technology Academy Conferences

4.1 Signature Event

Ninth Annual Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA) Conference was successfully organized during 20-21 December 2016 on the theme "**Science, Technology and Innovations in the 21st Century**" in association with Christ University, Hosur Road, Bengaluru.

The conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka **Shri Siddaramaiah** on 20th December 2016. Hon'ble Minister of Planning & Statistics

and Science and Technology **Shri M R Seetharam** and Hon'ble Minister Bengaluru Development and Town Planning **Shri K J George** graced the occasion as Chief Guests. **Prof. U R Rao**, Chairman, KSTA /Former Chairman, ISRO delivered keynote address, while **Smt. V Manjula**, Principal Secretary to Govt., Dept. of IT, BT and S&T graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. **Dr Fr. Thomas C Mathew**, Vice Chancellor, Christ University, Bengaluru, presided over the function. **Dr. H Honne Gowda**, Special Director (Technical), DST/CEO & Member Secretary, KSTA gave an overview of the conference and welcomed dignitaries to the program, while **Dr. Anil Joseph Pinto**, Registrar, Christ University proposed vote of thanks.



Renowned space scientist **Padma Shri Shri A S Kiran Kumar**, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Gol, Bengaluru was conferred “**Academy Lifetime Achievement Award**” in the inaugural function of the Conference. The award included a cash of Rs. 1.00 lakh, a gold medal and a citation.



Fig. 4: KSTA Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Shri A S Kiran Kumar, Chairman, ISRO

Ten special lectures were delivered by distinguished scientists, eminent technocrats and renowned educationists on topic related to theme of the conference.

More than 200 research posters were presented by Postgraduate/Research Students, teaching faculty and scientists from across the state in the poster exhibition of the Conference.

A panel of experts evaluated the posters and selected best posters for cash prize in physical & mathematical sciences, chemical & life sciences, interdisciplinary

sciences and engineering sciences. Two prizes were given for each discipline (I Prize – Rs. 10,000/- and II Prize – Rs. 7,500/-). More than 1000 delegates including teaching faculty of universities and colleges, degree and PG science students, science writers, officers of line departments and representatives of government autonomous organizations participated in the conference.

4.2 KSTA Conference in Ballari

Second KSTA conference of the year was organized on the theme "**Impact of Science and Technology on Society and Economy**" during **8 - 9 March 2017** in association with the Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University (VSKU), Ballari at Dr. Joladarasi Doddanagowda Rangamandir, Ballari. The Conference was inaugurated by Shri K C Kondaiah, Hon'ble Member, Legislative Council, while Prof. K M Kaveriyappa, Hon'ble Member, KSTA/Former Vice Chancellor, Mangalore University was the Chief Guest. Prof. M S Subhash, Vice Chancellor, VSK University, Ballari presided over the function. Dr S A Patil, Member, KSTA/Registrar (Evaluation) VSKU welcomed dignitaries and delegates to the conference, while Dr T M Bhaskar, Registrar, VSKU proposed out of thanks. Dr A M Ramesh, Scientific Officer, KSTA and Dr K M Lokesh, Conference Co-ordinator were present on the occasion.

More than 800 delegates including teaching faculty of universities and colleges, degree and PG science students, science writers, officers of line departments and representatives of government autonomous organizations participated in the conference. In the technical session, nine distinguished talks were delivered by eminent scientists and technocrats on various aspects of the theme of the conference.

Also, an opportunity was provided for researchers to present their research posters in research areas such as physical and mathematical sciences; chemical and life sciences; interdisciplinary sciences and engineering sciences. Two best posters in each subject category were selected by a panel of experts for cash prize (First Prize Rs. 7,500/- & Second Prize Rs. 5,000/-).

In the valedictory function, Dr P S Shankar, Member, KSTA was the chief guest, while Prof. M S Subash, Vice Chancellor, VSKU presided over the function. Prof. K H Shivaprasad, Dean, Faculty of Science, VSKU welcomed dignitaries, while Shri V K Srinivas, Scientific Officer, KSTA proposed vote of thanks.



Fig 5: KSTA Conference Inaugurated by Shri K C Kondaiah, Hon'ble MLC at VSK University, Ballari

5. Open Lecture Series For Science Degree Students

In order to create interest in higher education and research in frontier areas of S&T as well as to develop excitement about scientific advancements among basic science degree students, eminent scientists and renowned experts were invited from reputed R&D institutes of the State to deliver lectures. During FY 2016-17, KSTA successfully organized 7 open lecture series programs in association with the following science degree and engineering colleges at different places:

Sl. No.	Institutions & Places	Date
1	MES First Grade College, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru	19 September 2016
2	Govt. Women's First Grade College, Holenarasipura	14 October 2016
3	Jawaharlal Nehru National College of Engineering, Shivamogga	10 November 2016
4	SDM First Grade College, Ujire	12 January 2017
5	JSS Women's First Grade College, Chamarajanagar	2 February 2017
6	Sri Gavisiddeshwara Arts, Science & Commerce First Grade College, Koppal	18 February 2017
7	Smt. V G Women's First Grade College, Kalaburagi	28 March 2017



Fig 6 & 7 : Open Lecture Series Program for Science Degree Students held at MES First Grade College Bengaluru & Govt. Women's First Grade College, Holenarasipura

6. Publication of Illustrative Science Booklets for Primary & High School Students

Small illustrative booklets on latest trends in science and technology, which are related to the school curriculum will be published in Kannada for the benefit of 5th to 10th standard students (Eg: Books related to satellite, global warming etc.). The main objective of the program is to enhance the understanding of the subject matter as well as to create interest in learning of science and technology among students through publication of attractive booklets of 16 to 32 pages with simple explanation in Kannada having colourful and illustrative pictures. In this context, as per the request of KSTA, authors have submitted draft booklets on titles such as ಬೆಳಕು, ರಸದೂತಗಳು, ಹವಾಮಾನ ವೈಪರೀತ್ಯತೆ & ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳು. These booklets have been evaluated by experts and the same will be published during FY 2017-18.

7. Special Lectures by Scientists from Abroad

The aim of the programme is to provide an opportunity for science PG students and teaching faculty to get an idea about research that is being carried out in foreign institutions by inviting scientists visiting from abroad to Bengaluru to deliver special lectures. In this context, two special lectures were organised by KSTA in association with the Karnataka Association for the Advancement of Science (KAAS) and Department of Physics, Bangalore University by inviting following two eminent Physicists from the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, USA:

- I. **Speaker : Dr. Chandrashekara M. Bhat**
Title : “Particle Accelerators at the Energy and Intensity Frontiers”
- II. **Speaker : Dr. Pushpalatha C. Bhat**
Title : “Higgs Boson Discovery and the Future of Particle Physics”

8. Organization of District Level Science Mela Programs

District-level science melas were organised in backward taluks under the special development program to bring awareness among students about scientific advancements as well as to develop scientific way of thinking. In this context, two special lectures were delivered by eminent scientists in the mela. In addition, to promote creativity among students competitions such as science model exhibition and science quiz were organized. During the current financial year, two similar science melas were successfully organized in association with the following colleges:

Sl. No.	Institutions & Places	Date
1	Government First Grade College, Harihara	22-24 March 2017
2	HPPC Government First Grade College, Challakere	23-24 March 2017



Fig 8 : District Level Science Mela Inaugurated by Shri D. S. Ramesh, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Davanagere at Government First Grade College, Harihara

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