

KARNATAKA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

REVIEW OF KSTA BY THE HON'BLE MINISTER FOR S&T

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Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation and Science and Technology, Shri N. S. Bhose Raju reviewed the progress of activities and programmes of KSTA. Shri A. B. Basavaraju, Director (Technical), Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology and Managing Director, KSTePS, was present in the meeting. Dr. A. M. Ramesh, Chief Executive Officer, KSTA briefed the Hon'ble minister about the programmes of the academy.







KSTA AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND ASSOCIATESHIP

KSTA is providing fellowships, and young professionals in the field of institutional memberships and science and technology, and science associateship to recognize the communication/popularization. contributions of academicians, researchers, engineers, technologists

KSTA AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND ASSOCIATESHIP continued

Lifetime Achievement Award

In order to recognise outstanding contributions in areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture & Medicine (STEAM) and excellence in STEAM Communication as an outreach to benefit the society, KSTA has instituted Prof. C. N. R. Rao - KSTA Lifetime Achievement Award in STEAM and Lifetime Achievement Award for STEAM Communication in Kannada. Applications received in response to the call for nominations for 2023 awards are being scrutinised and final selection will be made through an expert committee with due approvals from EC, KSTA.

Fellowships

Based on recognizable individual merit and contribution to STEAM, KSTA Awards Fellowships in 12 domains of Science, Technology, Agriculture and Medicine. Applications received in response to the call for nominations for Fellowships 2023 are being scrutinised and final selection will be made through an expert committee with due approvals from EC, KSTA.

Associateship and Memberships

Academics/Researchers/Teachers/Practitioners in any branch of Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture and Medicine, working or retired from Educational/Research and related organisations including Corporate, are being admitted as Associates. Individuals who are desirous of becoming Associates of KSTA may do so by paying a fee of ₹ 1,000/- (Rupees One thousand only), and submitting a duly filled in application form available in the KSTA website (www.kstacademy.in) throughout the year. Till September 2023, 104 applicants have been admitted as Associates.

MOU AND COLLABORATIONS

KSTA has been collaborating with various colleges, institutions and universities to conduct various activities and programmes of mutual interest with each other with the following objectives:

- Inculcating scientific temper across civil society through science communication
- Facilitating technology dissemination through Academia-Farm-Industry interface, with a focus on rural areas
- Fostering innovations and entrepreneurship for societal benefits
- Organising conferences & outreach programmes
- Capacity building in frontier areas of Science & Technology

During the period April – September 2023, MOU with the following four organisations/institutions were signed and till date 60 MOUs have been signed with organisations/institutions:

Sl. No.	Organisations/Institutions	Date of MOU
1	Mount Carmel College, Autonomous, Bengaluru	17-04-2023
2	Sri Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain First Grade College, KGF	24-05-2023
3	Nagarjuna College of Management Studies, Bengaluru	27-05-2023
4	Neural Oasis AI Studios LLP, Bengaluru	03-07-2023

ALL ABOUT HUMAN BRAIN



Nadoja Dr. P.S. Shankar

human knowledge is engraved!'

the supreme commanding position in the suddenly. with the individual.

of the total body weight, it requires 1/5th tongue, nose and the skin reaches the of blood pumped out of the heart during brain and brain processes and interprets every beat and its requirement of oxygen them. Then we appreciate discretely and glucose is very high. There has to be them as sight, sound, taste, smell or a continuous supply of these vital sensation of touch, pain or temperature. substances for its activity. Anv pass through the backbone as vertebral halves are of similar size and shape. The where they unite in the form of a round and deep grooves. loop and supply blood to the different parts of the brain. On branching the into important lobes like frontal in the vessels do not communicate with each front, occipital in the back, parietal above other and are called end-arteries. Hence and temporal in the sides. They have any curtailment or obstruction in the different blood supply will have deleterious effect. impressions gathered through the eyes

are located in definite parts of the brain. it enables us to recognize the size, shape The sensations are perceived and and colour of the objects. Hence this interpreted here. Our behavior and lobe is the real eye. In the temporal lobe, personality are influenced by its activity; the centres concerned with hearing and and all our experiences are preserved speech are located. The power of speech here. Often brain is compared to the has taken the man to a supreme position telephone exchange. A variety of among living beings.

Lord Byron has said that the dome of information will be reaching it constantly thought and the palace of the soul is in and it sorts them out. It takes decisions the head. It gets the credit because it quickly and communicates it through contains a wonderful organ- the Brain- motor system and exhibits a suitable which is considered 'a monument where response. It is a common experience while walking, if we place our foot on a Human brain is the most complex thorn or even on a soft thing in night, we structure in the body and its intricate withdraw the foot quickly or while driving development has enabled man to rise to a car if somebody comes in front we press the brakes world. It consists of innumerable nerve immediately. Though the foot feels or cells and their fibers. It weighs around eyes observe these abnormal sensations, 1300 Gms and the weight has no relation the impulses reach the brain which in mental capacity of the turn sends out the signals to the foot to act guickly. When we are awake, a variety Though the brain weighs only 1/50th of information from the eyes, ears,

The brain is well protected in the curtailment in this supply leads to death thick bony skull case and it consists of of the cells and loss of consciousness cerebrum, cerebellum and brain-stem. and paralysis of the body. Nature has The cerebrum occupies most of the taken adequate precaution to maintain a region. It forms the highest controlling constant blood supply to the brain. There centre. It is made up of two hemispheres are two arteries arising from the aorta which are separated by a deep fissure; and they pass on either side of the neck however, both halves are connected by a and reach the base of the brain. Two bridge of white fibre matter-corpus other branches from the arm vessels collosum. The soft structures of both arteries and reach the base of the brain hemisphere presents many intricate folds

Each hemisphere has been divided functions. The visual Our intelligence, memory and thinking are interpreted in the occipital lobes and

movement, expressive language and for managing spinal cord emerges like a tail through a big higher level executive functions. They are opening in the base of the skull. The medulla processing and important for somatosensory input. For example, they inform us spinal cord and it is connected with the pons about objects in our external environment through above. The nerve centres in the medulla control touch (i.e., physical contact with skin) and about the involuntary functions of the heart, respiration. the position and movement of our body parts and swallowing. It is in this region the nerve fibres (proprioception). The parietal lobes are also controlling the movement of the body cross to the responsible for integrating sensory input, and opposite side. Because of this the right cerebrum construction of a spatial coordinate system to controls the movement of the left side of the body represent the world around us. The parietal lobe is and vice-versa. The fibres from the cerebellum and vital for sensory perception and integration, cerebrum pass through the pons and it has also including the management of taste, hearing, sight, the nuclei of sixth and seventh cranial nerves. touch, and smell

speech centre is located in the left side in the right impulses. The sensations from different parts of -handed individuals, and vice-versa. You might the body terminate in thalamus deep in the brain. have observed the loss of ability to speak in right- The nerves coming from the eyes meet in the handed individuals having paralysis of the right midbrain and the fibres in the middle of the nerve side of the body. It is because the seat of the cross to the opposite side. There are also disease lies in the left hemisphere. In a majority of collection of nerve cells regulating the body individuals the left hemisphere functions as the temperature, appetite, wakefulness, sleep, water dominant hemisphere. The taste sensations are balance and sexual urge. recognized in the parietal lobe and it is through this region we can feel the consistency, size, shape back of the skull below and behind the cerebrum. and weight of a substance kept in the hand even It has two lobes and exhibits many narrow folds without seeing it. The frontal lobes are concerned simulating a kisan's turban. A bridge of tissue with our higher functions like judgment and connects the two lobes. This highly cellular decision. reasoning. emotion and imagination and a variety of abilities of the mind.

outer part of the gray matter of cerebrum and the muscles. It maintains our balance, while standing inner white matter is made up of nerve fibres. and while walking. These cells control the functions of various muscles and glands and are connected with the thinking. Goldsmith in his poem 'Deserted village' spinal cord through the brain stem.

direct connection with the brain. They have been head could carry all he knows'. numbered serially. They are sensory, motor, and mixed. There are nerves carrying sense of smell, sight, sound, taste and general sensations from face and scalp and throat. Other nerves supply the muscles of the eye, jaw, facial expression, neck and tongue. The tenth nerve is not confined to the mouth cavity and it descends into the chest and abdomen and it is concerned with the acts of swallowing, talking, slowing of the heart rate and movements of the stomach.

The midbrain, pons and medulla oblongata

The frontal lobes are important for voluntary together like a stalk form the brain stem and the interpreting oblongata appears as the expanded end of the

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The midbrain is situated between the pons and Though the cerebral hemispheres are alike, the cerebrum. It acts as a relay station for the sensory

The little brain, cerebellum is situated in the control, structure is connected with cerebral hemispheres above and spinal cord below. It co-ordinates all the The important nerve cells are located in the movements performed by different groups of

We use our brain for all our activities and has summed up its functions as 'And still they There are 12 pairs of cranial nerves which have gaz'd, and still the wonder grew: that one small

- Nadoja Dr P S Shankar

Emeritus Professor of Medicine Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences KBN University, Kalaburagi drpsshankar@gmail.com

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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

New enzyme – PET46 for Plastic degradation

Every year nearly 400 million tons (MT) of plastic waste is being generated worldwide. India generates around 3.4 MT of plastic waste annually. While, Karnataka generates around 0.296 MT every year. Major contribution of plastic to our State comes from Bengaluru which generates around 600 tons of plastic waste every day and that amounts to 0.22 MT per year.

The plastic pollution is increasingly affecting us with severe health, environmental, social and economic consequences. We have been successful structurally, the enzyme differs significantly from in handling only 10% of the plastic waste generated those previously discovered. It has the ability to through the 3Rs - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle approach. degrade both very long-chain PET molecules, Hence, governments, researchers, industry and known as polymers and short-chain PET molecules, other stakeholders are exploring other methods for known as oligomers, which means that degradation solving plastic problem.

Ruth Schmitz-Streit at German's Christian-Albrechts different mechanism for substrate binding. potential to degrade polymers such published their recently paper in Communication Chemistry journal. The research group have discovered a new genetic resource from deep-sea belonging to the archaea and described this PET degradation enzyme as PET46.

Although, 80 different PET degrading enzymes were known, most of which were found in bacteria or 10.1038/s42004-023-00998-z Journal information: fungi. However, the present research contributes to a better understanding of the ecological role of deep-sea archaea and the possible degradation of PET waste in sea.

The PET46 has many unusual properties and

A research group under the guidance of Professor Among other things, PET46 uses a completely An Kiel University has shown, for the first time, that unusual 'lid' of 45 amino acids above the enzyme's microorganisms from the deep sea have the active center are crucial for binding. The as biochemical properties of PET 46 make it a very Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) commonly called interesting enzyme both for marine and terrestrial as PET. The research group have highlighted the plastics degradation. The PET46 is found to be special feature of the PET degrading enzyme in more efficient at 70°C when compare to other the enzymes

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Reference: Pablo Perez-Garcia et al, An archaeal lidcontaining feruloyl esterase degrades polyethylene terephthalate, Communications Chemistry (2023). DOI: **Communications Chemistry**



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can be continuous.

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New hope for treating paralysis after spinal cord injury

A research team from University of California, Federal Institute of Technology, Swiss and Harvard University have successfully restored the functional activity after spinal cord injury. The research team published their findings in Science journal in September 21, 2023.

The same team had suggested a treatment method to trigger the axons, the tiny fibers that link nerve cells, to regrow after spinal cord injury in rodents and demonstrated that nerve fibers can be regenerated after spinal cord injuries in their publication in Nature journal in 2018.

When the spinal cords of mice and humans are successful in restoring motor function after partially damaged, the initial paralysis is followed by the extensive, spontaneous recovery of motor function. However, after a complete spinal cord injury, this natural repair of the spinal cord doesn't occur and there is no recovery. Meaningful recovery after severe injuries requires strategies that promote the regeneration of nerve fibers. Their observations using single-cell nuclear RNA sequencing not only exposed the specific axons that must regenerate, but also revealed that these axons must reconnect to their natural targets to restore motor function.

The team, in their new study published in Science, first used advanced genetic analysis to identify nerve cell groups that enable walking improvement after a partial spinal cord injury. Then used chemical signals to attract and guide the regeneration of these axons to their natural target region in the lumbar spinal cord. Mice with anatomically complete spinal cord injuries regained the ability to walk, exhibiting gait patterns that resembled those quantified in mice that resumed walking naturally after partial injuries. This observation revealed a previously unknown condition for regenerative therapies to be



Credit: Pixabay/CCO Public Domain

neurotrauma.

The research team opinioned that the study will unlock the framework to achieve meaningful repair of the injured spinal cord and may expedite repair after other forms of central nervous system injury and disease. The research team hope that the understanding and re-establishing the projections of specific neuronal subpopulations to their natural target regions holds significant promise for the development of therapies aimed at restoring neurological functions in larger animals and humans.

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Reference: Jordan W. Squair et al, Recovery of walking after paralysis by regenerating characterized neurons to their natural target region, Science (2023).

PROGRAMS CARRIED OUT DURING 2ND & 3RD QUARTERS (APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2023)

Workshop On "Cyber Security & Its Importance in Educational Institutions"

KSTA, in association with Karnataka State Higher Education Council, organised a two-day workshop on "Cyber Security and Its Importance in Educational Institutions" on 15 &16 June 2023. A total of 96 participants from various Universities/Colleges/ Educational Institutions across the State participated in this workshop. The workshop had expert talks related to Cyber Security & Supply Chain Risk Management, Cyber Intelligence, Cyber Terrorism and Cyber Forensics, Cyber Security for Mobile devices, Online Research and publications, Cyber Security for Universities

and Academic Institutions, Cyber Security in Drones, Mobility and Aerospace, Career opportunities in Cyber Security.

The workshop was inaugurated by Col. Prof. Y.S. Siddegowda, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, Karnataka State Higher Education Council and Dr. Rajeev Chetwani, Director,

Directorate of Information Systems Program Office, ISRO, Bengaluru graced the occasion as the Chief Guests. Dr. A. M. Ramesh, CEO, KSTA presided over the function. Eminent scientists/technocrats delivered talk on cyber security during the technical sessions. At the valedictory function, Sri Sreenath Ratnakumar, Scientist, ISRO graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Urban Management and Water Conservation Workshop

KSTA actively participated in the organisation of a statelevel conference titled "Urban Management and Water Conservation" to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Raman Research Institute (RRI) and the Silver Jubilee of Environment Association Bangalore (EAB) at RRI Campus. As a part of the program, KSTA had organised state-level essay competition on the theme "Green Cities for Sustainable Future" in Kannada and English for undergraduate and postgraduate science students, and a



quiz competition was also organised. The conference was attended by around 150 participants comprising of research students, faculty and researchers from various educational institutions and universities. The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Prakash Chauhan, Director, National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad. Dr.

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Souradeep, Director, Raman Research Institute was the Guest of Honour. EAB President Dr. R. G. Nadadur, Secretary Sri Bhaskar Murthy and Administrative Officer of RRI Shri V. S. Naresh were also present.





Vijnana Vahini

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Intellectual Property Rights and Entrepreneurship Development

KSTA, in collaboration with Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST), organized a five-day faculty development programme on 'Intellectual Property Rights and Entrepreneurship Development' during July 11 to15, 2023. The program was restricted to around 40 participants. The program was inaugurated by Dr. U.T. Vijay, Executive Secretary, KSCST, while Dr. A M Ramesh, CEO, KSTA presided over the function.









Audio – Video Editing Training Workshop

KSTA organized a Five-day certification program on "Audio-Video Editing" for students, research scholars, teaching faculty and general public during August 29 - September 02, 2023 at KSTA premises. The intake was restricted to 40 participants for better interaction and to aid effective practical sessions.

The program was inaugurated by Dr. Noor Samad Abbalagere, Agricultural Officer, Commissionerate of Agriculture, Bengaluru/Science Writer/Film Actor/ DD Chandana News Anchor. Sri Vilas K., Young Film Director graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Dr. A.M. Ramesh, CEO, KSTA presided over the function.





STEM Fair

KSTA organized science а "STEM programme titled FAIR" (Science. Technology, Mathematics) Engineering & from May 16 to 18, 2023. More than 350 high school and preuniversity students participated in the programme. As a part of the program, Mobile Planetarium Shows, Space on Wheel, Science Films and 3D Scitech Movies Shows, as well as science model exhibition competitions were organized.



The best models were awarded with cash prizes and certificate. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Bikram Pradhan, Scientist, ISTRAC, a subsidiary organisation of ISRO. Shri H. L. Srinivas, URSC, ISRO was the Guest of Honor. Dr. A M Ramesh, CEO, KSTA presided over the inaugural function.

Digital Content Generation for high school students

Digital teaching & learning contents are being developed for the high school students in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology as per the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board (KSEEB) syllabus and are being distributed in the form of DVD to the selected Government High Schools across the State. DVDs comprising of 22 lecture/experiments were posted to 350 Schools





PUBLICATIONS

Compendium of Webinar Lectures

KSTA, in association with KSTePS, is conducting Science Talent Search Program for Pre-University Students. A compendium of 184 pages comprising of 125 talks delivered by the resource experts on various topics in field of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology, Engineering and Agriculture was presented in August 2023. Around 400 copies of the same are being distributed to program beneficiary students





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Biotechnology Laboratory Manual

KSTA organized a Skill Vigyan Program in Life sciences/ Biotechnology, a Faculty Training Program, sponsored by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India through Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), a unit of Dept. of Electronics, Information Science, Biotechnology & Science and Technology, Government of Karnataka for the benefit of Pre-University Lecturers, Researchers and Faculty members from Colleges. Universities and Research Institutions from the State of Karnataka. A laboratory manual comprising various experiments conducted during the training workshop was published.

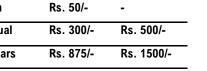


Vijnana Loka — Bimonthly Magazine

Vijnanal Loka issues for the month of April, June, August & September were published and sent to subscribers including preuniversity and science degree colleges. centers. libraries and other science organizations across the state. The e-copy of the same are available on KSTA website.

One can get the hard copy through subscription. Please fill your details in the subscription form available on the website and send the same along with payment details to our email: vijnanaloka@gmail.com

Subscription	Individual	Institution
Each	Rs. 50/-	-
Annual	Rs. 300/-	Rs. 500/-
3 Years	Rs. 875/-	Rs. 1500/-



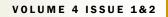
Subscription details are as follows:

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SCAN & PAY





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Study Visits to KSTA

KSTA has a science park, a studio and a state-of-the-art auditorium at its premises. An opportunity is being provided to school and college students to visit KSTA and its facilities. During these visits, science films and 3D shows on science subject are being screened. Also, various out door models help students to understand scientific concepts through hands-on, minds-on way of learning.

Live streaming of Chandrayan 3 Vikram Lander Landing

Live streaming of Chandraya 3 soft landing on moon was organised on August 23, 2023. Around 115 preuniversity students witnessed the soft landing of Vikram Lander on moon



Visit of Sri Swamy Vivekananda Higher Primary School, Bengaluru

About 140 High School students from Sri Swamy Vivekananda Higher Primary School visited KSTA on September 06, 2023. Students are guided to understand the various concepts of science and technology using various out door models through hands-on, minds-on way of learning.



Upcoming Programs in FY 2023-24

National Conference on Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development: KSTA is organizing a National Conference on "Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development" during 22-24 November 2023. The conference will have distinguished talks by eminent domain experts on topics related to the focal theme. The conference delegates include postgraduate students, research scholars, teaching faculty, and scientists from across the Country. An opportunity is being provided to delegates to present their research papers and working models that align with the focal theme. Four best research papers and working models each will be selected and awarded cash prizes and a certificate of recognition.

The last date for submission of an extended abstract of the paper/working model is November 16, 2023 (Thursday). The selected authors will be invited to make presentation in the conference. Further, the selected papers will be published in a special journal with an ISBN number. Fill in the google form (https://forms.gle/VBZdYHcawb4uU9Jb9) and register.

Digital Content Generation, Production of Science Capsules, Short Feature Films /Clippings: Development of digital information in frontier areas of science and technology. Production of teaching and learning resources and distribution of the same to educational institutions in the backward areas through DVD/CD.

Vijnana Loka - Bimonthly Magazine: During 3rd & 4th quarter of FY 2023-'24, three issues will be published and posted to pre-university and science degree colleges, science centres, libraries and other organizations across the state.

Innovation Award for UG, PG and General Public: Prof. U. R. Rao award for PG students and Dr. S. K. Shivakumar award for UG students. The Award carry a cash prize of Rs 10,000 and a certificate. Please visit KSTA website for details.

Other Programs

Policy, Strategy, Approach and Status Papers; Membership and Fellowship; Collaborative programs & MOU

Note: Depending upon the availability of funds and decisions of EC, above programs will be implemented.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FOR ALL

KSTA, a Unit of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Karnataka, established on 5th September, 2005, has been mandated for science promotion and popularisation in the State. KSTA has the Vision of 'Nurturing and Enabling Science & Technology for All' and Mission of 'Playing a pivotal role in Science promotion, Technology dissemination and fostering Innovations for Societal welfare'. The Objectives of the KSTA are to inculcate scientific temper across the civil society through science communication, particularly in Kannada; facilitate technology dissemination through Academia-Farm-Industry interface, with a focus on rural areas; foster Innovations & Entrepreneurship for Societal benefits; recognise talents and contributions through Awards; organise Conferences & Outreach programmes; serve as Resource Centre for Capacity building in frontier areas of Science & Technology; and act as a Science, Technology & Innovation Policy (STI) Advisory Body for the State.

CONTACT

Chief Executive Officer

Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA) Prof. U. R. Rao Vijnana Bhavana, Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, Horticulture College Entrance, GKVK Campus Doddabettahalli Layout, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru– 560 097 Chief Patron Chairman, KSTA

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