



PRESS RELEASE



FAST India and Deccan Education Society Announce Collaboration for India Science Festival 2025 at Fergusson College, Pune

Pune | 10th December, 2024: The Foundation for Advancing Science & Technology (FAST India) has collaborated with the Deccan Education Society (DES) to host the India Science Festival (ISF) 2025 at Fergusson College, Pune, scheduled on 11th and 12th January 2025.

Organised by FAST India in partnership with Bajaj Auto Limited, the India Science Festival (ISF) is the largest non-government platform celebrating science in India. The festival brings together key stakeholders from the scientific community, fostering dialogue and collaboration to advance S&T across the nation. The remarkable success of ISF 2024, hosted at IISER Pune, which drew over 23,000 attendees across two days, underscores the growing importance of science and technology in India's public imagination.

Speaking on the collaboration, **Varun Aggarwal, Co-Founder of FAST India**, stated, *"The sixth India Science Festival has to be bigger, better, and memorable, matching India's science aspirations and achievements. For this, we are pleased to partner with the Deccan Education Society and Fergusson College. Their 100+ years of experience in hosting this festival makes it worth looking forward to. This initiative gives us the opportunity to celebrate science, technology, and their impact on citizens."*

Commenting on this partnership, **Mr. Pramod Rawat, Chairman of DES Pune**, said, *"The Deccan Education Society has always been a pioneer in fostering learning and innovation. Partnering with FAST India for the India Science Festival is a unique opportunity to inspire young minds and make science more accessible, engaging, and exciting for all. This collaboration underscores our shared vision of driving progress through education and science."*

FAST India is a non-profit trust dedicated to advancing Science and Technology (S&T) in India. The initiative is spearheaded by Ashish Dhawan (Founder, The Convergence Foundation) and Varun Aggarwal (Founder, Aspiring Minds and The Change Engine). FAST India's mission is to strengthen capabilities and promote policy solutions to encourage scientific research and exploration. By simplifying the processes of creating, sharing, and implementing new scientific insights and programs, FAST India is contributing to the growth of India's scientific ecosystem.

In recent years, FAST India has collaborated with prominent institutions and organizations, including the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA), the Department of Science & Technology (DST), the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and IIT Madras Research Park. One of its significant achievements is the release of the **State of**

Industry R&D in India report, in collaboration with IIFL Securities, which provides an in-depth analysis of R&D investment and disclosure by Indian and global firms across six key strategic sectors.

About FAST India:

The Foundation for Advancing Science and Technology (FAST India) is a non-profit trust dedicated to advancing Science and Technology (S&T) in India. The initiative is led by Ashish Dhawan (Founder, The Convergence Foundation) and Varun Aggarwal (Founder, Aspiring Minds and The Change Engine). FAST India is supported by a distinguished Board of Advisors, including luminaries such as Prof. Tarun Khanna (Jorge Paulo Lemann Professor, Harvard Business School), Prof. K. VijayRaghavan (Former Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India), and Dr. Soumya Swaminathan (Former Chief Scientist, WHO).

About Fergusson College, Pune:

Established in 1885 by the Deccan Education Society, Fergusson College is one of India's most prestigious institutions of higher learning. Renowned for its historic campus and academic excellence, the college has a legacy of producing leaders in fields such as politics, literature, science and the arts. Illustrious alumni include Dr. P. Balaram (former director IISc, Bangalore), Gopal Krishna Gokhale and P. L. Deshpande. College has received a heritage tag from the central government and UGC, recognizing its historic significance.

About DES Pune University, Pune (DES PU):

DES Pune University marks the beginning of new era in education. The mission DES PU is to provide quality education to empower students to pursue their dreams and unlock their full potential. DES PU create an environment that fosters curiosity, nature's critical thinking, and ignites lifelong zeal of learning. The programs are meticulously crafted to shape well-rounded individuals, equipped to excel in an ever-evolving global landscape. Research, Innovation, and Sustainability are the pillars upon which DES Pune University stands. With its strong vision and mission DES PU has a long way to go!

About India Science Festival (ISF):

The India Science Festival (ISF), hosted annually by FAST India, celebrates science and technology while fostering public engagement with the scientific community. With a mission to inspire and nurture an appreciation for science among young people and the general public, ISF acts as a catalyst for scientific curiosity and learning.

Beyond celebration, ISF serves as a unifying platform that breaks down barriers in the scientific ecosystem by bringing together diverse stakeholders. By building a robust public narrative for science and technology, ISF aims to place S&T at the forefront of India's public imagination.

For further details on ISF 2024, visit <https://www.indiasciencefest.org>. Learn more about FAST India and its initiatives at <https://www.fast-india.org>.

For Media Queries:

Contact: info@fast-india.org | Nidhi Sekhsaria | nidhi@storynmore.com | +91 98201 88007