

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026



INSIDE THIS MONTH



36 Tod-Fod-Jod[®] Sessions

Expanding the hands-on learning journey to NPSS schools.



25 Students in the first Science Unlocked session



12+ Science experiments and activities explored



3 New avenues of VIC:

Science Unlocked, PROCON and Design Thinking



Pan-India Maker outreach expanded for Maker Fest Vadodara



TOD-FOD-JOD[®]

From Taking Apart to Thinking Better



36 TFJ sessions were conducted during the month.

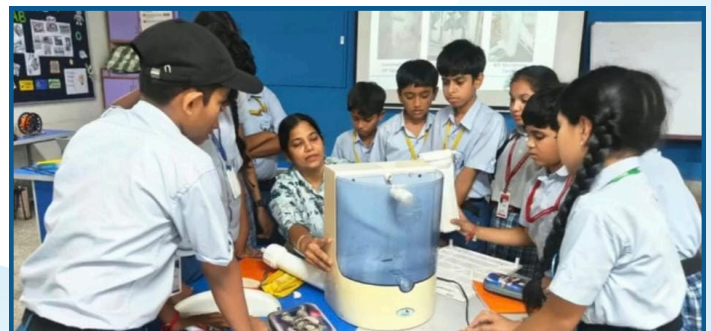
One of the most encouraging aspects of Tod-Fod-Jod[®] is that its impact is becoming increasingly visible in the way students approach gadgets and problems.

Students who initially needed guidance to understand how a gadget could be disassembled and reassembled are gradually becoming more independent. They are beginning to identify actual problems within a gadget and, more importantly, suggest solutions that are practically possible and can add value if implemented.

This is precisely what TFJ aims to develop — an **innovative mindset at an early age through hands-on learning.**

The real impact of the programme is not simply that students learn how a gadget works. It is that they begin to observe, question, identify problems, think of alternatives and evaluate whether their ideas can actually work.

Seeing students develop this ability makes the effort behind every TFJ session meaningful.



SCIENCE UNLOCKED

Science Beyond the Textbook

September marked the beginning of **Science Unlocked**, a new VIC initiative designed to bridge the gap between studying science as text and understanding it through doing, observation and real-world applications.

The first session was conducted on **22 September at Baroda High School, Danteshwar, English Medium – Afternoon Shift, with 25 students from Grades 8 to 10.**

During the two-hour session, around **12 hands-on experiments and activities** were performed, covering concepts such as:

- Siphon
- Surface Tension
- Vacuum and Atmospheric Pressure
- Meniscus
- Redox Reaction
- Bernoulli's Principle
- Load-bearing capacity of shapes
- D.C. Motor



The objective was not merely to demonstrate scientific principles, but to make students experience them themselves.

When students perform an experiment, observe the result and begin asking **“Why does this happen?”** and **“How does this work?”**, science moves beyond the textbook and becomes something they can explore.

The excitement on students' faces when an experiment worked was a reminder of why experiential learning matters.

ATL VISITS

Two ATL visits were conducted in September — at St. Kabir School and Urmi School.

At St. Kabir School, discussions were held with students working on projects, focusing on how their ideas could be developed into more viable projects. Discussions with the ATL team also covered the purpose and format of **ICONS – Industry Connect for Students** and possibilities for further student engagement.



At Urmi School, the visit included interaction with students working on a **breadboard and LED connection**. As the students were from Grade 4, understanding the construction and functioning of a breadboard was found to be challenging, highlighting the importance of age-appropriate approaches while conducting hands-on electronics activities.

SESSION ON DESIGN THINKING AT ST. KABIR SCHOOL

A discussion with students regarding their projects during the ATL visit at St. Kabir School inspired ATL In-charge Dr. Beena Bedekar to extend the learning to more students working on projects. This led to VIC conducting a 45-minute Design Thinking session at the school.



Rather than being a conventional lecture on the stages of Design Thinking, the session explored why we need a different way of thinking in the first place. Students were encouraged to distinguish between the problem we see and the problem that actually exists, understand users before designing solutions, and think about whether a solution is genuinely useful, usable, user-friendly, eco-friendly and affordable. Real-life examples including Mitticool, M.S. Dhoni's helicopter shot, Ola/Uber and Aravind Eye Hospital demonstrated that Design Thinking is not restricted to technology or product development — it can be applied in art, sports, business and community problem-solving as well.



VIC PROCON (PROject CONnect)

Connecting College Projects to Real-World Work

September also saw the introduction of **VIC PROCON**, an initiative designed to connect enthusiastic college students with real-world projects from startups and established companies.



PROCON provides students an opportunity to work with **real requirements, deliverables and practical constraints** — helping them understand the difference between developing a prototype and developing a final, usable solution.

Through such projects, students can experience aspects of professional work such as planning, estimating skills and resources, meeting timelines, communication, testing and delivery discipline.

For organisations, PROCON creates an opportunity to get suitable project work or components of larger projects undertaken by capable and motivated students, while also providing access to young talent and fresh perspectives.

VIC will act as a facilitator between organisations and students by understanding project requirements, identifying suitable student teams and helping establish clarity around scope, timelines and expected deliverables.

The larger vision is simple: **students should not have to wait until their first job to learn how real-world work happens.**

VIC PROCON aims to help college students graduate with more than theoretical knowledge and academic project experience — giving them exposure to the expectations of real-world work.

MAKER FEST VADODARA

Taking the Search for Makers Beyond Boundaries

While regular VIC activities continued, preparations for Maker Fest Vadodara also gathered momentum during September.

One of the key efforts this month was expanding the search for deserving makers beyond Gujarat. MFV has been reaching out to incubation centres in different states.

Alongside incubation centres, the team is also connecting with makers across India through different channels.

The objective behind these efforts is clear:

No deserving maker should miss the opportunity to showcase their creation at Maker Fest Vadodara.

As preparations accelerate, the focus remains on bringing together diverse makers, ideas and innovations on one platform and creating meaningful opportunities for them to connect with a wider audience.



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