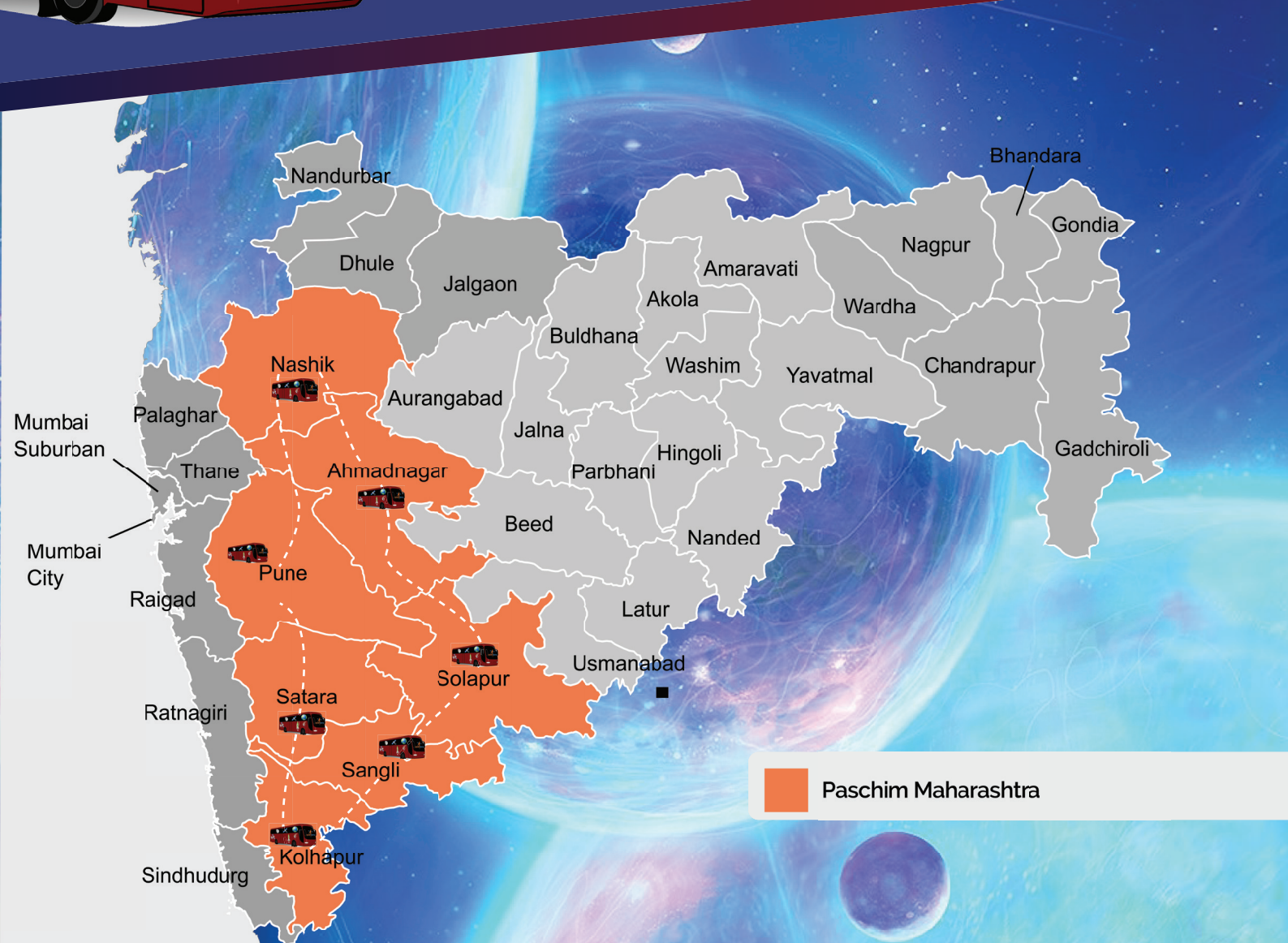




An Initiative by Vijnana Bharati in Collaboration with ISRO

Space on Wheels

Bringing Space Science to Your Doorstep



Embark on a cosmic journey!

Ignite curiosity and fuel passion for space science among students with fascinating insights into ISRO's groundbreaking achievements.



Executive Summary of Space on Wheels Program in Paschim Maharashtra

The *Space on Wheels* initiative, a collaborative outreach program by **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and **Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA)**, aimed to inspire and educate students, teachers, and the general public about India's advancements in space science and technology. Coordinated by **Vidnyan Bharati Paschim Maharashtra**, the program traversed **seven districts** across the region between **October 2024 and January 2025**, engaging over **4,15,520 visitors** with its innovative and immersive exhibits.

This mobile exhibition showcased ISRO's remarkable achievements, including models of launch vehicles, satellites, Chandrayaan, Mangalyaan, and satellite applications in communication, remote sensing, and navigation systems.

Objectives and Need for the Space on Wheels Program

The *Space on Wheels* initiative addresses a significant need in society to:

- Bridge the gap between **scientific advancements** and **public awareness**.
- Inspire students and teachers to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
- Encourage curiosity and build a foundational understanding of **India's space missions** and their real-world applications.
- Showcase the role of ISRO in transforming lives through innovations in satellite technology, remote sensing, and navigation.
- Develop a **scientific temperament** and foster creativity, especially in rural and underserved regions.

With India emerging as a global leader in space technology, programs like *Space on Wheels* serve as a platform to empower society by connecting them with the nation's achievements and motivating the younger generation to dream big and explore the limitless possibilities of science and technology.

Activities Conducted During the Space on Wheels Program

The program featured a blend of **interactive exhibits**, **educational activities**, and **community engagement initiatives**, ensuring active participation from students, teachers, and the general public.

1. Competitions to Foster Creativity and Critical Thinking

A variety of competitions were organized to engage participants of all age groups:

- **Quizzes** on space science and ISRO's achievements.
- **Rangoli Competitions** depicting ISRO missions like Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan.
- **Poster Making** to creatively express ideas on space exploration.

- **Elocution Competitions** to discuss the role of India in global space exploration.
 - **Drawing and Model Making** to showcase artistic and scientific talent.
 - **Essay Writing** on space technology and its applications.
 - **Reel Making** to promote storytelling using visuals to highlight ISRO's milestones.
- These activities encouraged students to think innovatively, understand science deeply, and express themselves creatively.
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2. Experiential Learning Opportunities

The program emphasized hands-on learning experiences, which included:

- **Interactive Demonstrations:**
 - Models of launch vehicles such as PSLV, GSLV, and Gaganyaan.
 - Satellite applications in communication, navigation, and remote sensing.
 - The Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft model and astronaut depictions.
 - **Face-to-Face Interactions with ISRO Scientists:**
 - Students and teachers got the opportunity to interact with experts and learn about the technologies behind India's space missions.
 - Scientists shared their journey, insights, and career advice, inspiring students to explore STEM fields.
 - **Science Exhibitions:**
 - Regional exhibitions were organized at host schools to display projects and experiments created by students, demonstrating their understanding of space science and technology.
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3. Community Engagement and Awareness

The *Space on Wheels* initiative went beyond schools to include:

- **Public Exhibitions:** Held in housing societies and community centers to engage families and individuals outside the education system.
 - **Outreach to Rural Areas:** Targeting regions with limited access to science infrastructure, bringing the marvels of space technology to the grassroots.
 - **Teacher Training Sessions:** Focused on empowering educators to integrate concepts of space science into their teaching practices.
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Key Highlights of the Program

- **Accessibility:** The mobile exhibition travelled across urban and rural areas, ensuring accessibility to a diverse audience.
 - **Inclusivity:** Designed to engage participants from all backgrounds, including underserved communities.
 - **Integration with Curriculum:** Activities aligned with school curricula, enhancing students' understanding of STEM concepts.
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District-wise Summary of Visitors

District	Total Visitors	Tehsils Covered
Pune	1,25,400	Pune City, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Haveli, Maval, Daund, Shirur, Ambegaon, Junnar, Khed
Nashik	80,100	Nashik City, Sinnar, Igatpuri, Dindori, Chandwad, Deola, Nandgaon, Malegaon, Baglan, Niphad
Ahilyanagar	40,650	Shrirampur, Kopargaon, Shirdi, Akole, Newasa, Parner, Shrigonda, Karjat, Nagar, Rahuri
Solapur	37,560	Solapur City, Akkalkot, Malshiras, Mohol, Pandharpur
Sangli	87,810	Sangli City, Atpadi, Kavathe Mahankal, Jat, Vita, Tasgaon, Palus, Walwa, Miraj
Kolhapur	34,700	Kolhapur City, Ichalkaranji, Kagal, Karvir, Hatkanangale, Warna
Satara	15,100	Karad, Satara City, Wai

Total Visitors: 4,15,520

Total distance travelled: 3878 km (approximately 4000 km)

Total Number of Hosts: 93

Schools Visited per District: Approximately 250 - 300 schools.

Volunteers for Space on Wheels: Approximately 22-25 for overall coordination and 15-20 in each district.

Impact of the Space on Wheels Program

- **Inspiring the Future Generation:** The program reached over 4 lakh participants, many of whom were students inspired to consider careers in science and technology.
- **Building Scientific Temperament:** Encouraged critical thinking and problem-solving among students through hands-on activities.
- **Strengthening VIBHA's Presence:** Strengthened connections with schools, educators, government officials, and local communities, creating opportunities to expand VIBHA units across Paschim Maharashtra.

Media Coverage

- The **Space on Wheels** program garnered extensive attention across various media platforms, significantly amplifying its impact beyond the 4.15 lakh direct participants. The initiative was prominently featured in **leading national and regional newspapers**, including front-page articles and special science education supplements. Coverage in **regional-language dailies** ensured outreach to rural audiences, enhancing inclusivity.
- On television, several **news channels and science-focused programs** showcased the initiative, offering live broadcasts and in-depth discussions about ISRO's contributions and the goals of Space on Wheels. These segments helped the program resonate with viewers across diverse age groups and backgrounds.

- **Social media platforms** played a pivotal role in connecting with the tech-savvy younger audience. Dedicated hashtags, event photos, and videos shared by participants, volunteers, and media outlets reached thousands more. Posts showcasing the innovative exhibits, student activities, and interactions with ISRO scientists received significant engagement, including shares, comments, and likes, fostering a sense of community enthusiasm.
- Additionally, coverage through **online news portals and blogs** targeting educational and scientific communities further bolstered the program's reach, driving discussions about the importance of space science and STEM education. The ripple effect of this robust media presence inspired countless individuals, motivating educators to adopt space science modules and encouraging students to explore careers in STEM fields.
- This widespread media coverage not only highlighted India's advancements in space technology but also emphasized the collective effort of ISRO and Vijnana Bharati in making science accessible and engaging to the masses.

Conclusion

The *Space on Wheels* program has been a monumental success, bridging the gap between ISRO's advancements and grassroots education. By providing an interactive platform for learning, the initiative has not only highlighted India's achievements in space but also ignited the imagination of young minds to dream bigger and aim higher. This program stands as a testament to the power of collaboration between ISRO and Vijnana Bharati, paving the way for a future where science becomes an integral part of society.







