



Karnataka Kayastha Samaj (KKS)

Annual Excellence Award

FY 2024-25

The Annual Excellence Award is one of the highest honours given by the KKS, Bangalore, to recognise outstanding contributions by individuals towards advancing the KKS's mission and values. This distinguished award serves as a symbol of the recipient's commitment, dedication, and positive influence within the KKS family and society at large.

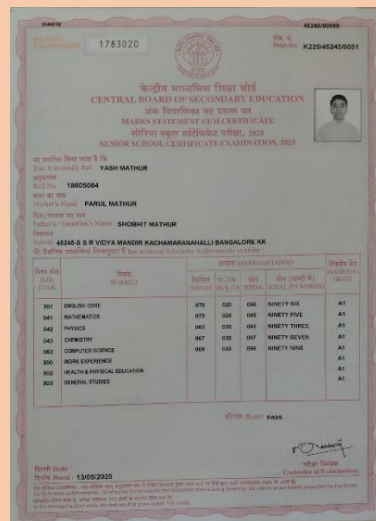
Merit Awards

KKS has been felicitating meritorious students for quite some time. The interest earned on the amount received from four Donors, specifically for this purpose, is used to provide yearly cash awards under different categories as specified by the Donors.

Based on the nominations received from members and suggestions from the members of the KKS Executive Committee, the following are the FY 2024-25 award winners.

Late Dr. Rajeshwar Prasad Argal Memorial Award – Sponsored by Mr. Prabhat Argal (Endowment: ₹25,000 since 1994). Awarded to a Class 12 pass-out student from the Science stream. (Cash award: ₹1,500)

Mr. Yash Mathur (S/o Mrs. Parul and Mr. Shobhit Mathur) 12th percentage: (CBSE)



Late Mr. Sheoraj Bihari Lal Mathur Memorial Award – Sponsored by Late Mrs. Raj Mathur (Endowment: ₹25,000 since 2000). Awarded to a Class 12 pass-out student from the Arts or Commerce stream. (Cash award: ₹1,500)

Mr. Shourya Verma (S/o Mrs. Niti and Late Mr. Prashant Verma) 12th percentage: (ISC)



Late Mrs. Jageshwari Bisaria Memorial Award – Sponsored by Mr. Animesh Bisaria (Endowment: ₹25,000 since 2018). Awarded to a Class 12 pass-out girl student from any stream. (Cash award: ₹1,500)

Mr. Amir Liam Sahay (S/o Mrs. Svetlana and Mr. Vishal Sahay) 13 years, Pianist from New York, Grandson of Mrs. Punam and Mr. Rai Sachindra Bahadur)



Amir Liam Sahay, S/o Mr. Vishal Sahay and Ms. Svetlana Sahay, is a 13-year-old pianist from New York City who began his musical studies at age five with Genya Paley at the Lucy Moses School. He currently studies at the Special Music School under renowned pianist Irina Nuzova. Amir has distinguished himself as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral pianist, performing at prestigious venues such as Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, Symphony Space, Victor Borge Hall at Scandinavia House, Faro Municipal Theatre in Portugal, and the Feliks Nowowiejski Szczecin State Music Academy in Poland. His international performance experience includes the United States, Italy, Portugal, Estonia, Finland, and Poland.

He has collaborated with conductors Alessandro Alonzi, Anatoly Shchura, and Douglas Bostock, performing with ensembles such as the Orquestra do Algarve.

Amir has received numerous accolades, including the Grand Prize at the IV WNYLE International Piano Competition (Finland, 2023), First Prize in the solo division of the Musical Life Competitions (2024, 2025), First and Second Prizes in the duet category (2025, 2024, respectively), the Fourth Prize at the Pacific Stars International Competition (2024), and First Prize with the Best Contemporary Performance Award at the V International Youth Competition hosted by the Anselmo Academy (2023).

He is also an active chamber musician, often performing with his award-winning duet partner, Eli Breydo. In 2025, Amir performed “A Lifetime in a Flash,” a new composition by rising Romanian musician Matei Rădulescu—Artist-in-Residence at the Musical Life Foundation. Amir is a multi-faceted musician and a tenor in the Vox Nova Choir at the Special Music School. He performed in a critically acclaimed concert at Trinity Wall Street Church under the direction of William Roslak and organist Janet Yieh. He began organ studies at age twelve with Professor Eddie Zheng at St. Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church. In 2025, he became the youngest prize winner at the National Organ Festival and Competition held at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where he also participated in masterclasses led by Dr. Timothy Olsen. His 2025 season includes a series of performances in Paris as a soloist, chamber musician, and concerto performer at the Piano Concerto Festival.

Sample Work:

Organ

F. Price: Adoration

<https://youtu.be/IsIqdCxZs-w?feature=shared>

J. Boyvin: Tierçe en Taille

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohaKimG2TU8>

J. G. Walther: Concerto in b minor: I. Allegro

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jo1KDGbeiJw>

J. S. Bach: Prelude in e minor, BWV 533

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVXn0J1HIHQ>

Hymn - Great is Thy Faithfulness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAv0KzjvD->

[Piano Solo](#)

M. Glinka arr. M. Balakirev: The Lark

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYebF8WqQH0>

With an Orchestra

W. A. Mozart: Concerto in C Major: I. Allegro

Maestoso

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFi5kNkQJ-o>

Piano Duet

F. Poulenc: Sonata for Piano Four Hands: I. Prelude, II. Rustique, III. Finale

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXppGS4iXAM>

In a Choir

M. Duruflé: Requiem, R. Powell: Non Nobis Domine, S. Paulus: The Road Home

<https://vimeo.com/1095752454/71909a5a60?share=copy>

Mrs. Kiran Rawar Merit Award – Sponsored by Mrs. Kiran Rawar (Endowment: ₹25,000 since 2018). Awarded to a Class 12 pass-out student for excellence in sports. (Cash award: ₹1,500)

Ms. Tanisha Mathur (S/o Mrs. Shikha and Mr. Tarun Mathur) 12th percentage: (CBSE)



श्री. क्र.	वि. क्र.	नाम	पिता का नाम	पता	सं. क्र.	श्री. क्र.	वि. क्र.	नाम	पिता का नाम	पता	सं. क्र.
1	1	TANISHA MATHUR	श्री. सशिका मथुर	1/1, 1/1, 1/1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

श्री. क्र.	वि. क्र.	नाम	पिता का नाम	पता	सं. क्र.	श्री. क्र.	वि. क्र.	नाम	पिता का नाम	पता	सं. क्र.
1	1	TANISHA MATHUR	श्री. सशिका मथुर	1/1, 1/1, 1/1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

श्री. क्र.	वि. क्र.	नाम	पिता का नाम	पता	सं. क्र.	श्री. क्र.	वि. क्र.	नाम	पिता का नाम	पता	सं. क्र.
1	1	TANISHA MATHUR	श्री. सशिका मथुर	1/1, 1/1, 1/1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Entrepreneur Awards

These awards are given annually to successful young entrepreneurs to reward them for their initiative, excellent work, and contribution to society, which helps others to get motivated and look at Entrepreneurship as an option to earn a livelihood, especially in the current scenario wherein a lot of people have lost their jobs worldwide. The awardees for FY 2024-25 are:

Men Category

- **Mr. Sankalp Mathur**



Sankalp Mathur was born and brought up in Lucknow. He completed his education of BTech from IIT Kanpur, Batch of 2003, in Aerospace Engineering. He served the banking industry and fintech startups for 17+ years up to 2020 in Citibank, HSBC, Barclays, etc In 2020 founded his first start-up called Niro, which is in the space of embedded personal loans. Niro is currently in the process of being acquired by another firm. Sankalp is currently engaged in building an AI-based fintech startup called Digimudra. He lives in Bellandur, Bengaluru, with his wife Prachi and 2 kids.

- **Mr. Vineet Saxena**



Vineet Saxena is a first-generation Indian tech entrepreneur, best known as the Co-Founder of Myntra and currently the Co-Founder and COO of CARD91, a leading payments infrastructure company based in Bengaluru. Over a 26-year career, he has played a key role in India's digital transformation across the e-commerce and fintech sectors.

Career Milestones

- **Early Career:** Saxena began as a technology professional with companies such as Tech Mahindra, Pramati Technologies, and Tavant Technologies, developing expertise in scalable tech solutions.
- **E-Commerce Pioneer:** In 2006, he co-founded Myntra, one of India's most prominent fashion e-commerce platforms. He was instrumental in building Myntra's product catalogue and scaling its technology, operations, and team.
- **Diversified Startups:** Post-Myntra, he co-founded VioletBag (personal and beauty care e-commerce) and IndusDiva (ethno-fusion apparel brand), gaining multifaceted experience across sectors.
- **Fintech Leadership:** In 2020, Saxena co-founded CARD91, a platform providing plug-and-play payment issuance infrastructure as a service to businesses and banks for card-issuing and payment solutions.

Skills & Impact

- **Technology Leadership:** Noted for defining product growth and driving operational excellence.
- **Ecosystem Builder:** Actively engages with India's startup ecosystem as a mentor, investor, and speaker.
- **Strategic Vision:** Advocates for simplifying financial infrastructure and enabling businesses to issue and manage cards seamlessly.

Recognition

- **Pioneering Role:** Recognised as a serial entrepreneur who has helped shape multiple sectors, including e-commerce and fintech, in India.
- **Industry Influence:** Regular contributor to industry events and discussions, especially in payments and fintech innovation.

Vineet Saxena continues to influence India's tech and fintech landscapes as a visionary entrepreneur and leader.

Lifetime Service Award(s)

KKS started to reward stalwarts, its honourable members who have contributed and are contributing to its growth immensely throughout.

The recipients for the year FY 2024-25 are:

- **Mr. Harish Chandra**



Harish Chandra had a very humble beginning, but always kept his sights in the skies. Born in Varanasi and has 4 siblings. he lost his father at a ripe age of 2. His mother earned a living as a teacher. With hard work and dedication, he earned his scholarship in Mechanical Engineering from HBTI, Kanpur. He went on to do a master's in the design of process machines, Prayagraj. While on his tour to Bangalore, he was recruited into ADE, DRDO. He joined as a Junior Scientist Officer, rose through various ranks, and retired as Director of Aeronautics from the DRDO Headquarters. He received many accolades and is known for collaborating with others. He followed his passion and completed Ornithology from the Bombay Natural Society. He volunteered with the Karnataka Forest Department to assist with Birds, Tigers, Elephants, and forest fires. He was invited by various state governments to promote biodiversity and nature awareness. He now spends time with his family and friends.

President Choice Award(s)

These awards are given annually to KKS members and their families for making an extraordinary contribution to KKS. The awardees for the FY 2024-25:

- **Mrs. Aparna Srivastav**



Aparna Srivastava holds an MBA in Finance (major). She has over 20 years of corporate experience, serving as the head of finance and GCC for various companies, including Google, Unilever, and IBM, in India and the USA. She is married, has 2 kids, and is settled in Bangalore with her family.

Her husband, Vineet Saxena, and she joined KKS in 2024, and since then, she has found the association very fulfilling. Being part of the Kayastha community in a way that allows them to give back is especially meaningful. Soon after joining KKS, she also became part of the KKS-EC, which further increased her sense of belonging as she could contribute to and help drive the KKS's mission. She is looking forward to a long relationship with KKS. Aparna has been proactively involved in owning the responsibilities since the beginning of her association with the KKS.

- **Mr. Rai Sachindra Bahadur**



Hailing from Village Bakhra, Bihar, born in 1948, he completed his Bachelor's Degree in Engineering in 1970 and later earned an MBA in 1980. He pursued his career with Engineering Industries for the next two decades and migrated to Bangalore in the early 1990s to work on his entrepreneurial venture, which continued for the next 10 years. Thereafter, the engagement as Management Consultant, Learning and Development, Personal Counsellor and providing Emotional Support are keeping him busy.

His association with KKS started in the early nineties when he shifted to Bangalore and has been continuously associated with it since then.

As a member of the Executive Committee of KKS, he got the opportunity to serve the community and society through supporting various initiatives of KKS year after year towards its defined aims and objectives. The leadership of Karnataka Kayastha Samaj (KKS), providing freedom to work and support from EC Members, allowed him to realise his creativity for functional efficiency, enforcing statutory compliance, including financial discipline.

Kayastha Darpan Editorial Excellence Award

- **Mrs. Anupam Saxena**



Anupam Saxena, a triple postgraduate and first-class scholar throughout, has been shaping student careers since 1987 as a science faculty. She has mentored over 10,000 students to date, who are now excelling in their fields and driving India's growth as a developed nation.

She joined KKS in May 2004 and has since been working tirelessly to serve both the KKS and society. One of her key contributions is KKS Kayastha Darpan, the quarterly magazine that has grown significantly in size and reach over the past decade, earning appreciation from members. Her passion for excellence, patience, and consistent engagement with content writers have been instrumental in shaping the magazine into its present form.

On behalf of KKS, I am delighted to extend heartfelt congratulations to the winners of the KKS Annual Excellence Award for FY 2024-25. With immense pride and admiration, we recognise their outstanding contributions, dedication, and leadership, which have not only elevated KKS but also made a lasting impact on the community and society we serve.

Their unwavering commitment to social causes, in line with the objectives of KKS, exemplifies true service, compassion, and perseverance, reminding us of the power of collective effort in creating a better world. By embodying the core values of KKS, they have set a shining example for us all, inspiring future generations to carry the mission forward.

We are truly proud to honour them with the KKS prestigious awards and look forward to the continued positive difference they will undoubtedly make.

Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!



Cheers,



Animesh Bisaria

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