

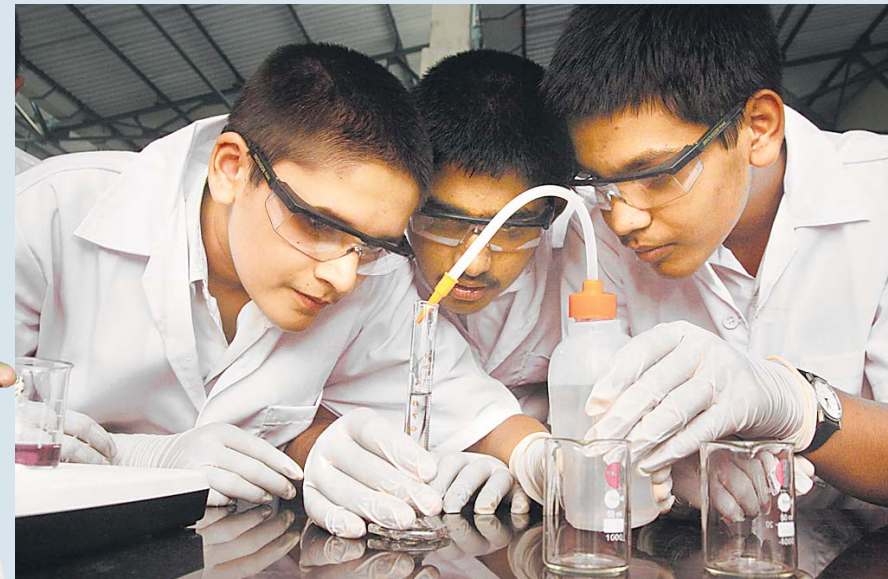


**SCIENCE CAN BE FUN
AND EXCITING TOO**

Schoolchildren observe a reaction at a chemistry workshop organised jointly by the National Chemical Laboratory and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in the city on Saturday

REPORT, P4

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Sixty students from standards VIII and IX of Abhinava Vidyalaya English Medium School and Delhi Public School along with their science teachers attended the first workshop at NCL and NCL Innovation Park in Pashan —Sanket Deshpande DNA

Making chemistry fun for schoolchildren



Ajit Balkwade

The first of the twenty chemistry workshops organised jointly by the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), for schoolchildren, kicked off in the city on Saturday.

The twenty chemistry workshops to be held on consecutive Saturday mornings between 8 am and noon have been organised jointly by the NCL, the IISER and the Exciting Science Group (ESG) to encourage schoolchildren to pursue pure sciences (DNA June 23).

On Saturday morning, sixty students from standards VIII and IX of Abhinava Vidyalaya English Medium School and Delhi Public School (DPS) along with their science teachers attended the first workshop at the NCL and the NCL Innovation Park in Pashan.

During the workshop, director, IISER, KN Ganesh, spoke to the students about chemicals that are used in daily life. These included pet food, which help pets enjoy their naps, the similarity of chemicals in coke and the human DNA and the mystery behind the blue colour of our **JOY OF LEARNING**

The examples were simple and interesting as they provided ample food for thought to the students. The students seemed eager to learn.

Ganesh adopted a student-friendly

and humorous approach to generate interest in a subject like chemistry.

After the lecture, the students were taken on a tour of some of the NCL laboratories.

“We want to spread awareness among the students about the life of a scientist who works every day in these amazing laboratories,” Mangesh Nandgopal, workshop coordinator said.

The highlight of the workshop for students was the opportunity to conduct live experiments. Several NCL doctor-

REGISTRATION DETAILS

To attend these workshops, schools or students can register by visiting the website:

www.excitingscience.org/iy2011

For queries and correspondence, email at iyc.outreach@ncl.res.in

al students, who were working as workshop volunteers, showcased a few experiments before the students performed the experiments themselves.

One of the key experiments taught to the students was preparing slime and ‘bouncy balls’ by mixing synthetic glue and borax solution. The students seemed thrilled with the workshop.

“This is a completely new and wonderful experience for me as I might pursue chemistry in the future,” said Advait Parulekar, a student of Abhinava English Medium School.

The workshops will continue till December 10. Every Saturday, two city schools with 30 students each will participate in the workshops.