

Child prodigy demonstrates scientific temper

PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENT

Thursday, June 23, 2011 AT 12:25 PM (IST)

Tags: NCL, IISER, Sohini Maitra Bhattacharya, polymers, science, student, Pune



PUNE: A Class VII student from city-based school Sohini Maitra Bhattacharya on Wednesday was demonstrating live experiment using polymers at the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Innovation Park , when

students of her age begin studying the different branches of science.

“I love Science. I keep doing little experiments at my home. I have been attending lectures on Chemistry at NCL. So when I got an opportunity to do hands-on experiment at the NCL, I felt excited and did Flubber experiment here,” Bhattacharya said.

This experiment involves making a bouncing ball made out of Borax and synthetic glue. Borax is a multipurpose cleaner.

Such high confidence to do a high-end scientific experiment at such a young age comes as a shot in the arm of NCL, which is about to start an outreach programme along with Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune for schoolchildren.

“Sohini’s ability to conduct scientific experiment confidently shows that if science is made simple, students can do experiments on their own. This is the aim of our forthcoming outreach programme,” Head Publication and Science Communication Unit, NCL P K Ingle said.

Announcing the launch of its outreach programme earlier, NCL Director Sourav Pal told reporters that this programme aims at bringing schoolchildren to NCL and IISER Pune.

“They can see a working laboratory, interact with practising researchers, understand the relevance of chemistry in their lives, and do some experiments specially designed to evoke their sense of wonderment,” Pal said.

Over the course of the year, the plan is to have about 1,200 children come to NCL/IISER-Pune (20 batches of 60 children each). Programme is meant for Class VIII and IX students only.

The programme starts on July 2. Workshops will be held thereafter every Saturday mornings from 8 am to 12.30 pm. For registration details log on to www.excitingscience.org/IYC2011.

Sakaal Times

NCL-IISER INITIATIVE

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