

Schoolchildren to dive into the world of chemistry

NCL-IISER to conduct workshops every Saturday from July 2; 60 students in two batches of 30 will be invited



DNA Correspondent

Students of standard VIII and IX in city schools can look forward to a lot of fun and excitement with chemistry. A series of 20 chemistry workshops will be held every Saturday between July 2 and December 10 at the National Chemical Laboratory's (NCL) Innovation Park in Pashan.

The workshops, a joint effort of NCL, the Indian institute of science and education and research (IISER) and the exciting science group (ECG), will be held to commemorate the International Year of Chemistry (IYC).

A website (www.exciting-science.org/IYC2011) for the initiative was launched at the NCL Innovation Park on Wednesday afternoon by NCL director Sourav Pal and IISER director KN Ganesh.

A total of 60 students from



Sohini Maitra, standard VII student of Sanskriti School, conducts the 'bouncing ball' experiment in the special laboratory created at NCL's Innovation Park during the launch of chemistry workshops for schoolchildren project on Wednesday – Aniruddha Rajandekar DNA

two schools (30 from each school) would be invited every Saturday for the workshop, to be held between 8 am and 12.30 pm. The workshop would com-

prise a 45-minute lecture by a NCL/IISER scientist, a visit to a NCL or IISER laboratory and an opportunity to conduct chemistry experiments in a

special laboratory inside the NCL Innovation Park premises under the supervision of scientists.

Speaking on the occasion,

NCL director Sourav Pal said chemistry was an integral part of everyday life with 99% of everything around us having a chemistry connection. Pal said, "Schoolchildren should get excited about science. Experiments make science interesting for children. These workshops are therefore a step in the right direction."

According to the organisers of the workshops, the objective was to reach out to students and science teachers in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad, and inspire the children to take up science as a career.

The initiative is supported by several prominent sponsors, including Forbes Marshall Foundation, Praj Foundation, Royal Society of Chemistry, British Council, Association of British scholars, Pune.

The organisers said that the schools and students interested in registering for the workshops should access the website: www.exciting-science.org/IYC2011