

SEEING SCIENCE THROUGH BRUSHSTROKES

By Darshana Daga, Pune Mirror | Jun 26, 2016, 02.30 AM IST



Group of scientists from CSIR-NCL, IISER organise drawing competition for PMC-run schools in order to bring out excitement and wonder of the subject

It was a rare academic treat for students of Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC)-run schools as a group of scientists organised a competition combining science and art for them on Saturday. As many as 102 students from eight different schools took part in the competition by The Exciting Science Group (ESG) – formed by experts from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL) and Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER).



The Students had a host of topics to draw from, one of them being 'The world without water'. PICS: MAHENDRA KOLHE

The topics given for drawing were 'A day at the science lab', 'The world without water', 'If I were a micro-organism' and 'My dream car'. "This competition aims to motivate students so that they understand the correlation between science and art, that will also boost their imagination," said NCL scientist Guruswami Kumarswami. ESG organises regular programmes to bring out the joy and excitement of scientific research among school students.

Artist Ravi Paranjape, who was the chief guest at the event, said, "Science and art are fields which could only be developed through an innovative approach. Students must start questioning everything and should think beyond their curriculum. They have to believe in their perception. This will help us with innovations in science as well as nation-building activities."

Gayatri Kshirsagar, an ESG volunteer impressed upon the uniqueness of the initiative, saying, "There are many drawing competitions organised in the city, but no one takes science as the theme." IISER scientist Sukirt Dey added, "ESG aims to create an interface between school students and practicing scientists. The primary objective of this group is to have scientists share the excitement of science with school children, and not to 'teach' science."

Students lapped up the theme with enthusiasm. "It was a challenge for the imagination. Though I learn science every day, it was difficult to visualise that and draw. But, when I completed my drawing, there was a sense of fulfilment," shared Prachi Balaji Balla from K C Thakare Vidya Niketan School.

Laxman Prajapati from Ahilyadevi Holkar School, who had chosen the topic, 'The world without water', said, "When I started to think on my picture, I recollected the recent issue of farmer suicides owing to the severe drought in the state. But, it is not just the humans who would be in trouble. The entire ecosystem would be lost without water. So, I incorporated both the things in my drawing."

GALLERIES

