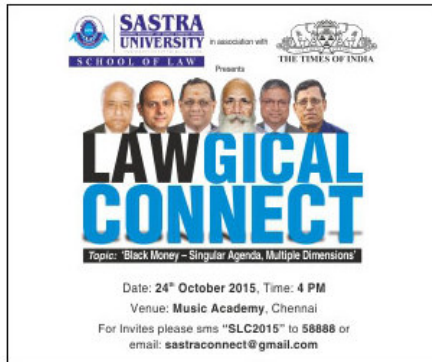


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**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

## Pune school students get a lesson in stem cells

TNN | Oct 19, 2015, 01:48 AM IST



Pune: Scientists from the National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS) brought out interesting facts about stem cells and regeneration to school students on Sunday as part of the Exciting Science Group Popular Science Talks.

The talk by Deepa Subramanyam, scientist at NCCS Pune, drew a packed auditorium, a statement issued by the Exciting Science Group said.

Subramanyam said that regeneration has been studied in simpler organisms such as planaria and sea stars. She brought out a fascinating fact that similar pathways and signals are utilised in stem cells and regenerating organisms like planaria.

"Stem cells, as we know them today, present a valuable resource for regenerating tissues that are lost from our body due to either debilitating diseases or accidents. Scientists are still testing the safety of stem cells and improving techniques which will allow these cells to be used in the clinic," she said.

The Exciting Science Group is a programme initiated by a volunteer group of scientists from the National Chemical Laboratory and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research-Pune, and based at the Venture Centre.

The group organizes regular programmes to bring the joy and excitement of scientific research to school students.

The Popular Science Talks are organized by the group at Venture Centre in Pashan to allow school students to interact with researchers like Subramanyam.

ESG also announced that it will conduct the next popular talk on "Understanding how activity in the brain produces movements" on November 29.