

NCL to connect with schoolkids

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: After a successful start in September last year, the National Chemical Laboratory's (NCL) outreach programme is on an expansion mode.

In an effort to popularise science among students at a young age, eminent scientists will visit Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) schools where they will deliver lectures, conduct science programmes and distribute chemistry kits among children.

Guruswamy Kumaraswamy, co-ordinator of the outreach programme, NCL, said, "Over the last one year, we realised that students belonging to the middle class and upper middle class categories only had access to the internet and knew how to register for these programmes. Children from the civic schools or other schools for the underprivileged were completely unaware. Hence, we are planning to take our guest speakers and eminent

scientists to these schools."

The outreach programme was launched with an idea to introduce students to the frontiers of modern multidisciplinary science and encourage them to take up a career in research.

Guruswamy further said, "We definitely believe there is talent among these students and our effort to encourage students to take up science applies to these students too. Hence, we will discuss this with the PMC education board and other officials in order to reach these schools."

The outreach programmes included talks on various subjects in science by scientists and experts in the field. Close to 40 schools participated in these lectures throughout the year,

"These lectures are open to all students in the 8th, 9th and 10th grades and science teachers as well. Now, we intend to expand to a different class of students and tap them at the right age," Guruswamy added.

