



### **About Exciting Science Group:**

The Exciting Science Group comprises of scientists from two of Pune's best research institutions, NCL and IISER-Pune. This initiative is aimed at conveying the excitement of science and technology to school students. ESG conducts a variety of activities through the year aimed at school students (typically from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> standard). These include monthly popular science talks held at IISER Pune; weekly science clubs held at local PMC schools, workshops – especially during the summer/winter vacations, a science quiz, a research idea competition, etc.

Since 2009, we have been associated with three schools that cater to underprivileged students. We run weekly science clubs in these schools aimed at developing a scientific approach. We have also mentored some PMC school students to compete in National level Research and Innovation competitions (the Intel-DST-CII National Science Fair).

### **Science Club Programme by Exciting Science Group at PMC schools:**

ESG conducts Science Club Programme at three PMC magnet schools, K.C. Thackeray Vidyaniketan, near Daruwala Pul; Hutatma Balvir Shirishkumar Vidyalaya, opposite Police lines and the Vasantdada Patil Vidya Niketan, Shukrawar Peth. These science clubs are structured to take the student participants through a journey in three phases. This starts with discovering the excitement of science (through fun experiments/demonstrations); then transitions to learning the scientific method (viz. making observations, framing hypotheses and arriving at conclusions); and winds up learning how to ask and frame research questions and develop an approach to answering this question. The last aspect is conducted as a research idea competition where the students present their independent ideas and outline an approach to investigate these ideas. This competition, in a sense, allows us to evaluate how well the students have grasped the scientific method through the year long club sessions. During the club sessions, ESG also conducts talks by scientists from IISER-P or NCL at these 3 schools. These talks happen during the science club and are typically flashy, to complement the rigour of the science club sessions. Through these talks, we enable school students from these PMC schools to directly interact with IISER-P faculty and NCL scientists.

### **Guidelines for Science Club Fellowship Program**

The program will start from the month of August. It will run for eight months till March. Science club sessions will be conducted on Saturdays in the schools during the school hours. Science club sessions will be held weekly, and will run for 60-90 minutes. Three fellows will be selected for each school, and will need to make arrangements to travel to the schools for each session. Suggested content for each session, and necessary materials will be provided to the fellows by the ESG. Towards end of the year the fellows will organize and conduct a research idea competition. Students from the science club will present their independent research ideas and describe a detailed plan to investigate these ideas.

### **Responsibilities of Science Club Fellows**

1. Run the science clubs activities effectively in the respective schools
2. The science club fellows will fix the calendar dates for the sessions throughout the year (at least 20 sessions), in consultation with the science teacher assigned for the science club and the school



principal. The calendar dates need to be fixed in August and need to be submitted to the ESG coordinator.

3. All the three science club fellows will have to be present for the sessions and will have to submit an individual weekly report of science club activities to the ESG coordinator on time.

4. Once a month, the science club fellows will need to attend the ESG meeting, and will need to present a progress update to the ESG coordinators.

5. Coach students to develop independent research ideas and conduct an idea competition at the end of the year-long science club activity.

### **Selection of Fellows**

The applicants will have to fill in an online application with a statement of purpose. The selected applicants will be interviewed for the fellowship. Up to 9 science club fellows will be selected this year. The science club fellowship program will start from the month of August.