

THE 'SCIENCE' RENDEZVOUS-RSIC 2019

"The science of today is the technology of tomorrow" -Edward Teller

The decennial edition of the Research Science Initiative-Chennai, held from 24th of April to 5th of June saw thirty five young minds from across the city taking part in this fascinating 'random walk of science'. Seven students from the PSBB group of schools (two from PSBB Nungambakkam and five from PSBB K.K.Nagar) attended this life changing programme.

The programme consisted of various lectures, educational trips to CMI AND SASTRA University, industrial visit to Saint-Gobain and projects under the guidance of IIT-M professors. The first two weeks of the programme consisted of various lectures delivered by eminent professors from IIT-M, Anna University, CMI etc. The lectures redefined the way a student of class twelve could look at the subjects Science and Mathematics as they were at the interface of any two branches of science (Computational biology, Biochemistry, Systems biology etc.). Some of the interesting topics covered were 'Quantum physics, 'Smart materials', 'Probability and Statistics' and 'Systems Biology'.

On the first of May, the students visited the SASTRA University, Thanjavur as a part of the programme. Lectures on biotechnology, robotics and mathematical modelling kindled the young minds of the students and inspired them to think out of the box. The trip also included extensive lab visits to the robotics, 3D printing, Virtual reality and Cell Biology labs. The animal house of SASTRA was interesting as the students understood how a medical drug is made and administered. Finally the students visited the great temple, an architectural wonder, the Thanjavur Palace, Ramanujam's house and the Ramanujam museum to understand how the fabulous mind of a great mathematician worked.

The next few weeks of the programme consisted of lectures in the mornings and project work in the evening. 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy' and therefore the students were allowed to play football and coco in the playfield under the guidance of Edu-Sports teachers. Various extra mural lectures exposed students to topics such as music and dance, related to science.



The students at the playfield of IIT-M

On the 15th of May the students were taken to the world glass complex of St.Gobain. A tour alongside the float glass manufacturing line offered the students a glimpse into the glass making industry. Another highlight was the visit to the beautiful campus of the Chennai Mathematical Institution on the 28th of May. This trip thus consisted of engaging lectures in mathematics and computer science, which served as



Visit to St. Gobain



Trip to Chennai Mathematical Institute

Project presentations were carried out like a professional scientific conference where the students offered a bird's eye view of the projects they had worked on under the guidance of various eminent IIT-M professors. Towards the end of the programme the visit to the IIT-M heritage center revealed the fascinating history of the great institution and how all of it came into existence.

The programme enhanced the reasoning skills of the students and offered them a glimpse into the world of scientific research.

The projects the students of the PSBB group of schools undertook were:-

C.Surya Panchapakesan (PSBB KKN) - Quantum Mechanics and Particle physics

S.Joel (PSBB KKN) - Carbon Based Hydrogels

Nithyasri Srivatsan(PSBB KKN) - Monte Carlo Algorithm and TSPs

Kshipra Keole(PSBB KKN) - Monitoring Reductase activity in Fungi (*Candida parapsilosis*)

Swetha Krishna Sriram (PSBB KKN) - Quantum vs. Classical Cryptography

Mathusha Rao(PSBB NGM) - Special Materials and their properties

Sarvajit.V.Narayan(PSBB NGM) - Systems view of a cell



An enthralling experience, RSIC opens the door to the aura of Science and Technology every year!

Reporter,

Cyber Pigeons, PSBB NGM