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Researchers from NCL make classroom science interactive fun

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FOR students of Hutatma Balveer Shirishkumar School in Shivajinagar, it was picnic time on new year eve and a new experience in learning chemistry.

While talking about solids, liquids and gases, Magesh Nandagopal, a researcher from NCL, prepared icecream with the help of liquid nitrogen for students of Class VIII and IX on Friday. "Liquid nitrogen is obtained at -210 degrees Celcius. When poured over mixed ice cream ingredients it freezes your ice cream in minutes opposed to hours in a freezer. The liquid nitrogen hits the warmer



The initiative is part of NCL's science popularisation lecture series' in schools

FILE

liquid that will become the ice cream, causing the nitrogen to boil away. Air is mostly nitrogen, so it is an absolutely safe coolant," said Nandagopal.

For students like Radhika Jagbir Lukkad and Shekhar Sanjay, students of Class IX this is the most exciting time in school. Both of them have

will take up their summer projects with various scientists at NCL and plan to take up research in biology after school.

Neeta Gulawami, a science teacher of the school, said, "Nobody explained to us covalent bonds and bond energy using role play, with students playing role of

hydrogen, oxygen and carbon atoms. While we used to mug up the definition of bond energy, I found students responding spontaneously today."

As part of science popularisation lecture series in schools, these lectures were started in July and are held every month in three city schools, including Jawahar Navodaya in Shikrapur, Vidya View School in Kondhwa and Hutatma School. For G u r u s w a m y Kumaraswamy, a scientist from NCL, who has been organising the lectures said the real success of the lectures will be when at least a few of the students will take up science for further studies.

Sakal times 5th Jan. 11

NCL chemist shows science behind foodstuff

REPORTER

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Pune: Why does iodine turn raw bananas dark instead of ripening them? How do you measure acidity of foods using red cabbage juice ?

National Chemical Laboratory chemist Dr Magesh Nandagopal, demonstrated experiments to discuss the science behind foods, and showed how common kitchen ingredients could be used as chemical reagents to have fun with science at home. As part of an initiative to reach out to schools and create excitement within school children for science and research, NCL holds Outreach Lectures every month.

Recently, an event was held at the Hutatma Balveer Shirishkumar School in Shivajinagar, which was attended by about 90 students and their teachers. Outreach officials said that they regularly held lectures and demonstrations at these schools aiming to benefit students from the eighth to the tenth standard.

The subject modules are based upon topics from the regular school science curriculums. The lecture concluded with a demonstration on ice cream preparation by cooling its mixture with liquid nitrogen. The NCL Outreach lectures are conducted by NCL scientists through the Exciting Science Group, and are supported by other organisations.

Sakal 31 Dec 10

'एनसीएल' तर्फे आज शाळेमध्ये प्रात्यक्षिके

पुणे, ता. ३० : राष्ट्रीय रासायनिक प्रयोगशाळेच्या (एनसीएल) 'आउटरीच लेक्चर' उपक्रमांतर्गत 'एनसीएल'च्या सायन्स एक्सायटिंग ग्रुपमधील शास्त्रज्ञ मॉडर्न महाविद्यालयाजवळील महापालिकेच्या हुतात्मा बालवीर शिरीषकुमार शाळेमध्ये प्रात्यक्षिकांद्वारे रसायनशास्त्राची माहिती उद्या देणार आहेत. उद्या दुपारी १२ वाजता होणाऱ्या या प्रात्यक्षिकाचा विषय आहे 'अन्न शिजवणे व खाण्यामागचे शास्त्र'.