

**ACTIVITY REPORT ON
NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS
2007-2008**

**Theme:
“UNDERSTANDING PLANET EARTH”**

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DETAILED REPORT FOR NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY : 2007-2008

Theme:

“UNDERSTANDING PLANET EARTH PROGRAMMES”

Organization:

The Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST) was established in 1975 to play a catalytic role in promoting the use of Science and Technology in the development process of the State. In order to improve the quality of education in the State, particularly in rural areas, it was felt necessary to introduce some effective programmes in schools and colleges. This is to help in creating science awareness in students and to improve their career. One such activity is ‘Student Scientist Interaction Programme’ (SSIP) in which students from higher secondary schools / colleges and scientists are brought together wherein students can directly ask questions to scientists and clarify their doubts and also improve their understanding. Many such interaction programmes have been conducted at various schools all over Karnataka. KSCST has compiled many of the questions raised during these interaction programmes and has brought out these question-answers in the form of a booklet. Also, KSCST is celebrating National Science Day on 28th February every year.

Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology has taken many science popularization activities and, of these activities National Science Day celebrations is a major event.

For National Science Day 2008 and 2009, Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology organized many competitions for Primary / High School students from Bangalore and Bangalore Rural District.

On the following objectives, KSCST has organized the National Science Day activities for the year 2009 in the State of Karnataka to -

- Promote active involvement of students and teachers in science related activity.
- Encourage students to ask questions and to get doubts cleared in different areas of science and promote their effective participation.
- Enable students to know about the latest developments in the fields of science and technology.
- Enhance interaction between scientists and talented students.
- Encourage scientific thinking and promote better understanding of concepts of pure science among students and teachers of high school.
- Hold allied popular science activities under NSD 2008 & 2009 themes, through workshops, Scientists Students Interaction (SSIP) programmes and various other science competitions.
- Convince high school students about high intellectual value of science and to develop science culture.

Activities during 2008-2009:

During the year 2008-2009, the following activities were undertaken

a) Essay Competition and Poster Competition

KSCST has conducted essay and poster competitions for 33 Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palika High Schools and Government Primary, Higher Primary and High Schools in Bangalore. The theme of the competition was “Understanding Planet Earth” and “Expanding Horizon of Sciences”. The

topics for essay competition was based on the these themes, which are as follows:

- Water as wealth
- Soil erosion and increasing salinity
- Urban environment problem
- Global warming
- Natural and man made threats
- Alternative sources of energy
- Natural disasters
- Waste generation and management
- Energy saving
- Wildlife protection
- Astronomy
- Physics and its usefulness in daily life

In each of them High schools, after due evaluation, the best essays were selected for first and second prizes. In all, 60 and 30 students were selected for essay and poster competition respectively.

b) On-the-Spot Painting Competition:

On-the-Spot Painting Competition for two age groups – Higher Primary School (5th standard to 7th standard) and High School (8th standard to 10th standard). The event was organized on 24th February 2008 at Indian Institute of Science Campus. About 260 students from various primary and high schools in Bangalore city participated in the event. The theme and topics were same as than other competitions. The paintings were evaluated

by experts and a total of 20 paintings were selected for first, second, third and consolation prizes in each group.

c) Celebration of National Science Day -28th February 2008

i) Popular Science Lecture programme

ii) Student Scientist Interaction Programme

iii) Celebration of NSD and Prize distribution

National Science Day – 2008 was organized on 28th Feb 2008 at J. N. Tata Auditorium, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Over 700 students and accompanying teachers from various BBMP high schools and other local high schools in Bangalore participated in the programme. These students included all the prize winners from essay, poster and on-the-spot painting competitions held earlier. An exhibition of all prize winning posters and paintings had been organized in the foyer of the auditorium.

In the morning session, two popular science lectures were organized. The first lecture was on ‘Science – A Fascination’ by Prof. M. R. N. Murthy, Molecular Biophysics Unit, Indian Institute of Science and second lecture was on ‘Global Warming’ by Dr. T. R. Anantharam, Geologist, and Geological Survey of India.

This was followed ‘**Student Scientist Interaction Programme**’ in the afternoon. Participating scientists were Dr. C. R. Chandrasekhar, Chief Psychiatrist, NIMHANS, Bangalore, Prof. M. S. Sheela, Department of Microbiology & Cell Biology, Indian Institute of Science, Prof. H. S. Savithri, Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Prof. T. G. Sitaram, Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Science and Shri B. R. Guruprasad, Public Relations Officer, Indian Space Research Organisation, Bangalore. In this programme, many inquisitive students asked intriguing science related questions directly to scientists who responded with satisfying

answers, thereby, clearing the doubts of students. The programme was of one-half hour duration.

National Science Day Celebrations concluded with the Valedictory Function. Prof. M. K. Surappa, Secretary, KSCST, welcomed the guests and gave introduction about the activities of KSCST, with special reference to National Science Day Celebrations which KSCST has been organizing since many years. The programme was presided over by Prof. P. Balaram, Director, Indian Institute of Science and President, Executive Committee, KSCST. The Chief Guests were Shri S. Krishnakumar, IAS, and Advisor to the Governor of Karnataka and Shri. B. S. Ramaprasad, Special Commissioner (Administration), BBMP. The prizes for all the three competitions – essay, poster and on-the-spot – were distributed to students by the dignitaries on the Dias. Mr. A.R.Shivakumar, Executive Secretary proposed the vote of thanks.



Sri Krishna Kumar IAS, Advisor to the Governor of Karnataka lighting the lamp along with Prof. P. Balam, Director, Indian Institute of Science and Sri. B. S. Rama Prasad, IAS, Additional Commissioner, BBMP, Bangalore on the occasion of National Science Day 2008 Function at J. N. Tata Auditorium, Indian Institute of Science



Students receiving prize from Prof. P. Balam, Director, Indian Institute of Science.



A view of Participants in National Science Day 2008 Function.



A view of student participants in National Science Day 2008 Function.



Winners of the various competitions of National Science Day 2008



A view of students participating in On-the-spot painting competition held at Indian Institute of Science campus



A view of students participating in On-the-spot painting competition held at Indian Institute of Science campus



A view of students participating in On-the-spot painting competition held at Indian Institute of Science campus



A view of students participating in On-the-spot painting competition held at Indian Institute of Science campus



Scientists answering the questions posed by the students during the Scientists Students Interaction Programme (SSIP) held on the occasion National Science Day 2008
(L to R : Prof. T. G. Seetharam, Prof. M. S. Shaila, Dr. C. R. Chandrasekhar, Prof. H. S. Savithri and Sri. B. R. Guruprasad)



A view of Students at dining hall