

MKCL gives students an edge in science olympiads

Thirty-six students from all over the state took part in the workshop

Bhagyashree Kulthe

It is nice to get out of the confines of a classroom and explore the joy of learning without the fear of grades and marks. Exploring science with experiments is fun, said Akshay Hadavale, a student from Thane who attended the week-long workshop of the Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Ltd (MKCL) held as a part of the programme to prepare students for international science olympiads.

The workshop was held under the Nurturing Excellence and Talent (NET) programme of the MKCL.

Under the project, the students are tested repeatedly and provided a nurturing facility to reach higher examinations of international standards. The programme is run across Maharashtra, including rural areas.

Thirty-six students from standard VII to X from various places participated in the workshop, which concluded on Saturday. Prizes were distributed to the students on Sunday. Prithish Patil will represent



Students from Std VII to X who participated in the Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Ltd workshop, on Sunday —RAVINDRA JOSHI.DNA

ENROL FOR NET

The admission process for the NET programme for 2010 will be held from June 10 to July 30. Students can contact MKCL centres at their places or visit www.mkcl.org/net

India at the International Astronomy Olympiad at Ukraine. Shalaka Shinde, Alankar Kotwal, Madhur Bhattad and Sarvesh Chotodkar were awarded the gold medal. Amey Nagpurkar, Atharva Deokule, Digvijay Patul, Aditya Desh-

mukh, Lokesh Maru, Akshay Kulkarni and Akshay Masare got the silver medal. Nineteen students won the bronze medal, while others got certificates.

Lokesh Maru from Nashik said enrolling for the NET was a path-breaking event of his life. "I got an opportunity for self-assessment and improvement. We got to read many informative books and the science practicals were amazing," he added.

Sanjay Bhargat, a parent from Rahuri, Ahmednagar appreciated the initiative of the MKCL, saying the programme had a major role in

developing in his son, who used to be shy and introverted, the confidence to participate in competitions.

"The quality of study material is excellent and the MKCL's attempt to nurture rural talent deserves a pat," said Bhargat, who is a medico. He made some good suggestions to improve the programme.

MKCL director Vivek Sawant said they aimed to shape five Nobel laureates in five years. The students were presented books. Prizes were given away by Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research's (IISER) director Krishna Ganesh.

'WE NEED THE BEST TEACHERS'

Lamenting the quality of teaching and poor education system, IISER director Krishna Ganesh said the best teachers are needed at the under-graduate level, which is the right time to mould young minds. "Training of teachers is neglected in our education system, which is exam-oriented. The focus is on college and university levels, while the undergraduate level is the right time to shape them," he said.

Science has been compartmentalised in the syllabus. The approach should be inter-disciplinary. The exam system too needs to be changed, said Ganesh.

He advised the parents to allow their children to choose their career and informed in detail about the unique research-led teaching technique in the IISER, which may allow direct admission to 1% of students from among the toppers of the state boards this year.