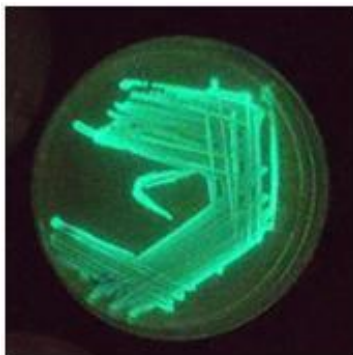


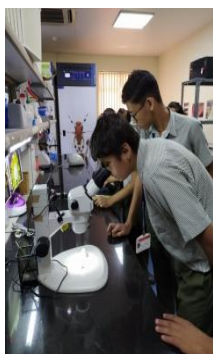
National Science Day Open day draws huge crowd at NCCS

By Bilqeesa Bhat



Photoluminescent bacteria displayed at NCCS open day

Department of Biotechnology's autonomous institute, the National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune celebrated National Science Day On 24th February, 2020. To commemorate this special day, NCCS in Pune threw its doors open to students and the general public. about 120 students of class 7th and 8th from four different schools visited the NCCS Centre of Excellence, the National Centre for Microbial Resource (NCMR), to learn about the microbial world.



The NCCS Open Days received an overwhelming response

The day began with an enthusiastic response from the students to the question posed by Dr. Yogesh Shouche about virus, the microbes which have become talk of the town now-a-days. Students got acquainted with information about different types of beneficial and harmful microbes, and microbiology research. The subsequent visit to various microbial exhibitions, including cyanobacteria, anoxic photosynthetic bacteria, fungi, and archaea, were a big hit among the students. The photoluminescent bacteria displayed in a dark room stole the limelight. The National Science Day is celebrated in India on 28th February every year to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by the renowned Indian physicist, Sir C. V. Raman, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize.

The Open Day at NCCS served as an interactive platform for the general public to satiate their curiosity about research, biology, and science, in general. The visitors were of various age groups, from diverse backgrounds, including school and college students, and adults, and even people from outside Pune.

Visitors learned about the cutting-edge technologies used in cell biology research, by visiting the state-of-the-art bio-imaging, flow cytometry, proteomics and bioinformatics facilities, and the National Cell Repository. A visit to the neurobiology laboratory gave them an opportunity to get up close with fruit flies, and experience how these common household pests can actually be interesting subjects to study behavior.

Furthermore, the open day served well to create awareness not only about the fascinating world of biology, but also about the current threat of antimicrobial resistance, how everyone can contribute to minimizing this threat, and how the antimicrobial susceptibility of microbes is tested in the laboratory. Besides, visitors were also eager to learn about career opportunities in cell biology. College students were happy to learn about the different ways to engage in research, including the project and summer research training opportunities available at NCCS, as well as opportunities to contribute to the ‘Manav: Human Atlas Initiative’.

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