

Courtesy by <http://ncsc2010.com/index.html>



National Childress's Science Congress – what is it all about

National Childress's Science Congress (NCSC) provides the children of 10 to 17 years from all over the country a unique opportunity to use their scientific temperament and knowledge e to make their own ideas come true.

Science is taught in schools, but very few students get a chance to try their hand s at scientific knowledge to the day-to-day issues and problems of our society.

NCSE invites the children to come forward, participate in this programme, and fill up these gaps. They are asked to indentify real life problems and try to solve those with all their ingenuity. However, they should make use of scientific methodologies for observing, surveying, experimenting and then arriving at some inference.

NCSC is held annually from December 27 to 31. After a through scrutiny at district and state levels, about 700 children take part in day-long celebrations and fun-filled science activities.

This event of NCSC is not restricted to the school – going children only but is also open for the dropouts and non- school children from the marginalized sections of the society.

How did the Children's Science Congress Begin?

The Children's Science Congress (CSC) began as an experiment in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh in the early nineties, involving children in open – ended scientific project of relevance to the society. It became a nationwide activity since 1993. The Congress is organized (Governmental and Non – Governmental) working for science communication. The network spread over most states and union territories of India was facilitated in 1991 by the Rashtriya Vigyan Evam Prodyogiki Sanchar Parishad, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.

How is the Congress Organized?

Each state has a co-ordinating body, which may be a government or non-government organization. School, science club or any organization working with children is the nodal center for facilitating science projects among science enthusiasts.

The Congress is organization at three levels. The district level congress is the first forum in which projects complete with one another and are screened for participation in the State level for the Grand finale, the National meet of the young scientists. Seven to eight lakh scientists participate at various levels from the states and union territories. Two-three best projects from each state also participate in the annual session of Science Congress organized by Indian Science Congress Association, every year during January 3rd-8th.

What Characterizes the Science Congress Projects?

The projects...

- Are innovative, simple and practical;
- Represent team work;
- Are based on exploration of everyday life situation;
- Involve field based data collection and or experimentation;
- Have definite outputs, arrived through scientific methodology;
- Are related directly to community work in the neighborhood;
- Have definite follow-up plans;

What are the Objectives of the Congress?

The primary objectives of the Children's Science Congress is to provide a forum to children of the age-group of 10-17 years, both from formal school system as well as from out of school, to exhibit their creativity and innovativeness and more particularly their ability to solve a societal problem using the method of science.

By implication, CSC prompts children to think of some significant societal problem, ponder over its causes and subsequently try and solve the same using the scientific process. This involves close the keen observation, raising pertinent questions, building models, predicting solutions on the basis of a model, trying out various possible alternatives and arriving at an optimum solution using experimentation, field work, research and innovative ideas. The Children's Science Congress encourages a sense of discovery. It emboldens the participants to question many aspects of our progress and development and express their finding.

In Which Area should One do Research?

Every year a focal theme is announced for the CSC. The children are expected to carry out projects related to the focal theme and the identified sub themes. Activity books are available to help guide teachers and the scientists. A group of children not exceeding five, school teachers, co-ordinators of school science clubs, activities of science based voluntary organizations etc. The teachers/guide receive special orientation on the theme of the CSC every year.

How is the Projects Evaluated?

Screening of projects is done by evaluators at District and State level Congress on the basis of oral presentation, project report and aids used by the group leader while presenting the report. Innovativeness, methodology, amount of work, impact of the project out come and teamwork from the basis of evaluation.

Can you describe a Typical Project of CSC?

Masunda Pond, Thane was being used for immersion of Ganesh idols every year. Under a CSC project the children tested the water quality for suspend particles and pH and estimated the depth of water at various points of the pond. The estimated amount of plaster of paris and paint being thrown in the pond every year along with the Ganesh idols. After two years of observation they came out with a solution of making idols from biodegradable, cost effective pulp using natural colours to help reduce the pollution. They persuaded the local community to adopt the solution to preserve the pond.

What Happens after a Project is presented at the CSC?

Presenting results at CSC is not a single for closing a project. Often suggestions of the other delegates and judges show the right directions for follow-up actions. Girls from Tikamgarh, MP used a low cost water testing kit under development at a defense laboratory in Gwalior. Seepage of sewer water in fresh water pipes was detected by the municipal authorities. Seeing the growing demand for the testing kit, the laboratory transferred the technology to a private enterprise making it available for school science projects.

In another project, the girls of a municipal school in Tirpur are still maintaining the green belt developed in 1995 under a Children's Science Congress project. A herbal garden has been added in 1998 under another CSC project taken up by another group of children.

How can CSC Projects Help in Class Studies?

A Project by middle school students in Kerala, helped understand functioning of the lens in our eye formation of real image through a convex lens, rectification of vision using spectacles and many other concepts of optics. Surveys followed by sight testing by the group of many children in the school helped determine vision defects and corrective action was catalyzed. The concepts were part of class science curriculum.

Can We Present Our project at Other Exhibitions?

Of course, the research and the results are yours and you can present these at other competitions and exhibitions. Some projects from the State level CSC are selected for the national event if Indian Science Congress, which is held from 3rd to 8th January annually. Talent scouts from other organizations including Inter National Science Talent Discovery Fair and International Science and Engineering Fair also visit the State and National events for selecting innovative projects for their competitions.

What are the Activities of the Parishad?

Rashtriya Vigyan Evam Prodyogiki Sanchar Parishad (RVSP), New Delhi is an apex body set up with the objectives of popularization of science and technology (S&T) and stimulation of scientific and technological temper amongst the people.

Among other things

- RVSP Catalyzes and supports research and development in the area of S&T communication;
- RVSP support development of software in different languages in the form of films, radio and television programmes and supports popular S&T books and magazines in different languages;
- RVSP organizes field projects by involving other agencies. These can be in the form of jathas, melas, science exhibitions, seminars, etc;
- RVSP helps prepare competent science communications, through short and long-term courses;
- RVSP encourages and recognizes outstanding communicators and institutions involved in S&T popularizations, through national awards;

- RVPSP maintains up to date database in areas of relevance to S&T Communication, also orchestrates and co-ordinates S&T popularization programmes and activities nationally;
- RVPSP helps in policy formulation and encourages international cooperation;

NCSC 2010- Chennai

The Eighteenth NCSC is being organized in the historic city Chennai (i.e. Madras). Chennai is a city of many institution of higher learning and research. In Pandit Nehru's Conception Chennai is a great temple of learning.

The Eighteenth NCSC will be held from 27th to 31st December 2010. The activity, obviously during the congress will be the presentation of papers by the young scientists in the scientific sessions. There will be ten concurrent sessions for three full days for the presentations i.e. on 27th to 29th.

In addition to these two main activities, there will be a "Science Corner" wherein several activities will be going on. This will also be open on 28th & 29th December 2010.

Many practicing scientists will be attending this congress. There will be an opportunity to meet those scientists face to face and interact with them in the evening in the "Meet the Scientist" Programme. This will be organized on 28th and 29th December 2010.

There will be cultural events organized where in the delegates will have an opportunity to exhibit their artistic talents. These will be organized every evening i.e. 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th December 2010.

One whole day is marked for sightseeing. All the delegates will have an opportunity to explore the city on 30th December 2010.

In addition to the activities of the young Scientists, a work shop for Science Teachers (From among those who accompany the delegates) will be organized on 28th and 29th December 2010.

27th morning there will be a flag hoisting rally followed by a inaugural function. Where in all the delegates will go in a procession in their traditional dresses to the venue of the Inaugural Programme.

The Valedictory programme will be in the afternoon of 31st December 2010.

NCSC 2010 - ORGANIZERS

NCSTC - NETWORK, New Delhi

The NCSTC – Network was established under the patronage of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt, of India. It is the national organizing agency for NCSC. It is a network of the organisations involved with Science Communication & Awareness and also with Environment Conservation & Education. The present President of the NCSTC-Network is Prof. Yash Pal, an eminent scientist & science communicator.

RVPSP, Dept. of Science & Technology, Government of India

Rashtriya Vigyan Evan Pradyogiki Sanchar Parisad (RVPSP) is division of the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India. This is the apex body of the ministry for

promoting science communication in the country. The RVPSP is supporting & catalyzing the NCSC since its inception in 1993.

The Tamilnadu State Council for Science and Technology

The Tamilnadu State Council for Science and Technology, was established as an apex body to promote research and developmental activities, on the 31st March 1984 by an order of the State Government and has been registered as a society under the Registration of Societies Act.

To maintain liaison between Government of India and the State Government and to initiate, direct and co-ordinate research activities of Government Departments, Universities and other professional Bodies with a view to aid development of Scientific Research in the State.

Tamilnadu Science Forum

Tamilnadu Science Forum was started in 1980 by scientists. Now it has grown into a people's movement and has a membership of 12000 including scientists, Farmers, Teachers, Women-people from almost every walk of life. Its programmes include science popularization and publication, literacy and continuing education campaigns, intervention in primary education, women's development and development interventions in health and income generation.

VELS UNIVERSITY

VEL'S EDUCATION TRUST was established in 1992 with the aim of transforming an individual into a complete man with character and ability committed to national service and development. The trust was founded by Dr. Ishari K Ganesh, M.Com, MBA, BL Ph D. a visionary and eminent educationist in fond memory of his Father Shri. Isari Velan, a former minister in the popular Govt. of Dr. MGR, Vel's education trust has always served to take education to the thresholds of first generation learners and weaker sections of the society.

Announcements

The 18th NCSC is hosted by Tamilnadu Science Forum and co-hosted by Tamilnadu State Council for Science & Technology and VELS University, Pallavaram, Chennai.

1. On behalf of the organizing committee, let me take this opportunity to extend an invitation to you and the child scientists, coordinator(s) and escort teachers from your state to take part in NCSC, 2010. The selection of the child scientists is to be done as per the guidelines and the state-wise quota allocated by NCSTC, DST, Govt. of India & NCSTC – Network, New Delhi.
2. The venue of the National Event is about 22 km from Central Railway station and 20 km from Egmore Railway station and 3 km from Chennai Air port. There would be a reception counter at the Central Railway station from 25th December 2010 afternoon to 27th December 2010 forenoon to receive the delegate teams from different trains.

3. The organizers are trying their best to provide basic minimum local hospitality to the delegates; therefore we request you to kindly refrain from including extra individuals and guardians. All the child scientists will be accommodated at the VELS University hostel.

4. December month being the festive month in the state, to get accommodation in the city may be difficult; however any extra individuals and guardians interested to come may contact local tour operators through our Tamilnadu tourism website: www.tamilnadutourism.org.

5. In no case, the organizing committee will be able to accommodate any additional participants / individuals / guardians etc. The State coordinators are requested to note this point seriously to avoid last minute complications.

6. The weather condition of Chennai will be very pleasant during the programme with the temperature between 22 – 25 degree Celsius. However, the participants are requested to come with the following items / materials for their comfort during their stay at Chennai and on their journey

- a) Blanket / Sleeping bag
- b) Bed Sheet
- c) Torch light
- d) Lock & Key with chain etc.,

7. Insurance

Policy: All the State coordinators are requested to take appropriate insurance policy for the entire delegate team of the state before attending the 18th NCSC at Chennai.

This policy should cover both the journeys. Each of the State coordinators should produce the insurance documents in this regard along with the registration form. No team will be allowed to attend the NCSC without valid insurance policy.

8. **Tree plantation:** All the State coordinators are requested to list out the hardy plants that has to be survived at the climate of Chennai. A list of such plants will be intimated in due time. The sapling will be planted in the VELS University campus.

9. **Soil Sample:** All the State coordinators are requested to bring their native soil / mineral / rock sample (½ Kg) with a profile of the child scientist area. This will be put in the exhibition.

10. **Flag Hoisting:** Flag hoisting ceremony will precede the inaugural function of the 18th NCSC. All the State coordinators are requested to bring the state flags which will show the National Children's Science Congress 2010 along with the name of the State / UT and Network's logo. All the State flags should be of uniform size (4.00' x 3.00'). There will be rally before inaugural where the child scientists are requested to wear the state cultural dress.

11. **Cultural function:** As usual, each of the evening of NCSC will be followed by cultural programme presentation by the child scientists. Here child scientists coming from every state, UT and SAARC countries will perform. This is for relaxation after day – long hectic exercise and for cultural exchange among participating child scientists.

All the child scientists as well as State coordinators are requested for **not encouraging any film songs and dance** during this programme.

12. You are requested to send all registration particulars in the digital format along with a hard copy on or before 10th of Dec.2010 to ease the registration process as soon as your state CSC is over.

13. Kindly send us your travel plan in detail on or before Dec 10th 2010.

14. Please refer the following website for regular updates in 18th NCSC.

1. <http://www.ncsc2010.com>
2. <http://www.ncsc-network.org>

15. All correspondences regarding registration and participation may be made to the following address:

Tamilnadu Science Forum,
245, Avvai Shanmugam Salai,
Gopalapuram,
Chennai – 600 086.

Phone : 044 - 28113630

Email : ncsc2010chennai@gmail.com

Mobile: 9444247658