

Science is fun, kids learn at Edinburgh fest

Iconic international science festival receives warm response in city

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Bangalore: "Now I am sure I want to become a doctor and perform surgeries," burst out an excited Pushpak R.

What made him decide on his future career was a visit to the Evergreen Room, a dummy operation theatre at the first ever Indian edition of the iconic Edinburgh International Science Festival at the Bhartiya City, near Hebbal here on Friday.

The venue of the 10-day science event teemed with young, would-be scientists accompanied by parents and teachers. The fest was inaugurated by Karnataka minister for agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda in the presence of EISF, Dr Simon Gage and British deputy high commissioner to India, Ian Felton. The fest kicked off with 17 exciting events.

On the first day there were over 15 workshops which were interactive, apart from live shows and exhibits which had a bit for every age group, such as aero modelling, chemistry experiments, evergreen room (dummy operation theatre), bubble magic workshop, splatastic, science circus, international photo exhibition, forensic science experiments, illusion room, smoke bonanza, lego robosports etc.

At the dummy operation theatre, students helped to treat a deep leg wound and perform key hole surgery using a real surgical equipment. They also gained experience with a minor surgical procedure to remove a cyst and learn how and why blood samples are taken.

During Splatastic, students explored the properties of different polymers, making some of their own colourful snakes, observe liquid to solid chemical reaction, produce their own designer



Top: School children try their hands at Bubble Magic, one of the main attractions at the Edinburgh International Science Festival. Above and right: Scientists from the UK entertain the crowd with their acts

—A Veeramani/dna

slime and test the slime on the splatometer. Other crowd pullers were 'Adventure Robots', where in participants built lego robots, using basic computer programming software, and Math Masters, which saw students learn tips and tricks for super fast

mental math circulations and solve puzzles to develop lateral thinking.

But easily the show stopper was Bubble Magic, hosted by Discovery India. Children indulged in creating interesting shapes out of bubbles ranging from the tini-

est of them to unbelievably huge ones.

Children had great fun trying to catch smoke-filled bubbles in their palms, to standing inside a giant bubble, and even turning a 'round bubble square'.

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