

Do-it-yourself sci fest for kids begins today

They can design and build their own models of aircraft, robots etc

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Bangalore: With an international science festival set to start in the city on Friday, children, parents and teachers can indulge in various workshops, exhibitions and experience zones in the fields of health, solar-power, astronomy, aerospace, forensic, electronics, mechanics, physics, chemistry and mathematics.

At the fest, children and science enthusiasts in the city can look forward to building their own models of aircraft or robots, design their own bubble wands to create some uniquely shaped bubbles, or concoct their own sweet smelling perfumes.

"The idea is to excite youngsters about science, technology and mathematics, so that they can look at pursuing higher education and research in these disciplines", says Simon Gage, director and CEO,



Bhartiya Group chairman Snehdeep Aggarwal with Britain's deputy high commissioner Ian Felton

—A Veeramani/dna

Edinburgh International Science Festival.

This festival has been taking place in Edinburgh since 1989, and this is its first time in India. The Bangalore festival expects to draw a crowd of 50,000. "Bangalore was the natural choice for the Indian debut, due to it being a science, aerospace and IT hub. The UK and India are natural partners in science," said Ian Felton, deputy high commis-

Fest details

When: From August to September 8

Where: Bhartiya City, near Hebbal

Weekdays: 10 am-2 pm for schools, 4 pm-8 pm for general public

Weekends 11 am-7 pm

Where to get tickets: sciencefestival.in

sioner of Britain.

Excitement for children

Among the various activities lined up for children, there is one wherein they can get first-hand experience in working in an operating theatre and what it is like to be a doctor. An official from the organising committee of the festival said that children would be allowed to help treat wounds and participate in minor surgical proce-

dures like removing cysts.

Other activities are slated to help young learners catch tips for mathematic calculations, or learn about the role played by mathematics and physics in creating various patterns that fill the world. Children visiting the festival can also get involved in making their own circuits to power up devices, as well as learn about how transistors, diodes and integrated circuits work.

An official said: "The science behind various things and aspects of life will be decoded," like making your own perfumes, and in the process understanding the difference between synthetic scents and real scents. Experts say science professionals from India have been curating the various models and projects that will be displayed during the festival, with help from their counterparts in Edinburgh.

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