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Two civic schools selected for National Science Fair

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Pune : Two PMC-run schools have been selected for National Science Fair that will be organised in Bangalore next month. If successful, the teams will represent India at the international event to be held in USA.

Abhijeet Kallure and Azam Torvi from KC Thackeray Vidya Niketan and Dhanashri Shelke and Pragati Bhakare from Hutatma Balvir Vidyalaya have been selected for the event.

Shelke and Bhakare have designed Owl Inspired Aircraft Wing Design with the help of Amruta Kulkarni, a PhD student from NCL acting as their mentor.

"The sound of helicopter wings is horrible and we thought of what all can be done to reduce it. Since an owl flies fast and makes no noise, we based our project on owl feathers to design the blades," said Bhakare.

Another project titled Checking for Left Right Bias in Locomotion of Drosophila Melanogaster Larvae by Kallure and Torvi is the other entrant at the national-level fair.

"Humans use brain to use their limbs and have biases in using them. We tried to see if a simple organism like larva of fruit fly exhibits any bias during locomotion. From our analysis we found that a good percentage of larvae seems to have a preference in which side to opt," said Torvi.

Both the teams are products of Exciting Science Group (ESG), a volunteer group of scientists from NCL and IISER that holds seminars and workshops for school students. Once a month school students between Class 7 and 10 can register to attend seminars at Venture Centre. The workshops give hands on training to students to actually practise science rather than just learn it by rot. All ESG events are free for participants, but prior registration through the official website is required.

"We are very happy to learn that two teams got through to the national fair. ESG is organising a week-long workshop to introduce 8-11 year old students to the Scratch Programming Environment. This workshop - for two batches of 35 students each - will take place from October 26 to 31. The workshop is aimed at exposing 11-year-old students to the joys of programming," said Shraddha Gargatti, Associate, ESG.

G Kumaraswamy, member ESG, said, "Students will learn to create games and stories and use the sensor board to communicate between the real and digital world. Registration for this workshop is on a first-come basis and interested students should write to us. This workshop is free for the participants."