

The magic world beyond Earth

Young scientists

G.D. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

■ What if Mars was not just a distant red dot in the night sky, but the next great challenge for human ingenuity?

With this question on their minds, students of G.D. Birla Centre for Education turned the school auditorium into a launchpad for humanity's next giant leap.

Held at G.D. Birla Centre for Education on August 4, Galaxis 2.0 brought together students from 15 schools for an inter-school astronomy and space science symposium that asked them to imagine one of humanity's most ambitious possibilities — estab-

lishing life on Mars. Through scientific research, presentations, handmade models and even a touch of humour, participants explored how humans could potentially build sustainable communities beyond Earth.

As the competition commenced, teams of two from each school presented detailed proposals covering sustainable habitats, launch strategies and life-support systems, supporting their ideas with scientific research and handmade models. Students had to defend their proposals on the spot, demonstrating scientific understanding and quick thinking. Among the highlights, M.P. Birla Foundation Higher Secondary School declared that Mars was an engineering problem rather than merely a dream, pre-



Picture by Koushik Saha

senting a detailed blueprint for human settlement on the planet. Mahadevi Birla Shishu Vihar traced the possibility of a journey to Mars to Earth's changing climate and diminishing habitability. The event ended with prize distribution. Birla Gyan Mandir, De Paul

School, Welland Gouldsmith School and the hosts were some of the winners.

"The topic was a fun one, making it a complete package of sustainability that the students navigated through research and creativity," said vice-principal Pritha Sen.

New space

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, RUBY PARK

■ A rocket soared, a new laboratory opened its doors and suddenly the universe seemed a little closer.

Delhi Public School, Ruby Park, turned its grounds into a launchpad for curiosity on July 20, inaugurating its new astronomy laboratory with space scientist and former Isro chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar as chief guest.

The guest of honour Prann Sharma, director-general of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry and founder and CEO of the Prag-haz Capital Management.

The state-of-the-art facility at DPS, Ruby Park, aims to nurture scientific curiosity, innovation and critical think-



ing among students, giving them opportunities to explore astronomy, astrophysics and space science through hands-on learning.

The celebrations began with a ceremonial rocket launch by students. This was followed by the unveiling of the laboratory on the seventh

floor of the school.

The school choir presented *Aguner poroshmoni* and *Walking on the moon*. Students also presented a dance performance inspired by space geometry.

The chief guest reflected on India's journey in space exploration and drew upon

his own career. He described every child as an "explorer of this universe with infinite potential".

The interaction continued through a student-moderated podcast, which allowed students to engage him in a candid conversation about his experiences, achievements and vision for the future of space science.

"Astronomy, one of humanity's oldest sciences, is amongst its most forward-looking pursuits. It invites us to ask profound questions, sharpen our critical thinking and imagine possibilities far beyond the boundaries of our world. With this advanced facility, we are creating a space where curiosity meets technology and learning transcends the pages of a textbook," said principal Joyoti Chaudhuri.