

## Research Science Initiative – Chennai (2018) – A Thrilling Experience



Every year, the RSIC program of the PSBB group of schools, in collaboration with IIT Madras, ignites a spark of healthy competition among the students of the science stream of Standard XI. After a series of aptitude tests, selected students attend a month long summer internship at IIT Madras, where their scientific temper is sharpened in an enjoyable and holistic manner.

S. Arjun and Aniketh Sivakumar of XI – A, Anna Mathew and K. S. Abhinaya of XI – B were the successful students of PSBB Nungambakkam, who attended the RSIC camp in May 2018.

At the outset, the coordinators of the RSIC program, Professor V. Balakrishnan, Professor Mangal Sunder and Professor Edamana Prasad of IITM and Mrs. Vijalakshmi Srivatsan, Academic Counselor of the PSBB Group of Schools addressed the parents, giving them an insight into the various aspects of the program outlined for the students. The program then commenced with a series of lectures from 9 am to 5 pm for the first week during which the students attended as day scholars. The budding research students who attended the camp were treated to information on various topics ranging from relativity to quantum mechanics. The professors were mainly from the Department of Physics, Applied Mechanics, Mathematics, Chemistry and Biotechnology.

The students were then taken on a 3 day trip to SASTRA University, Thanjavur, where they were exposed to lectures from the professors there. The lab experience was particularly interesting. Students designed their own models in the 3D Printing Lab and spent lot of time learning about Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, etc.

On their return to IIT, students worked on the different projects assigned to them based on their preferences under the guidance of mentors. For the next four weeks, they stayed on the campus and worked on their projects besides attending lectures. An industrial visit to the glass factory at Saint Gobain introduced the students to the nuances of glass manufacture. The visit to the factory proved to be particularly memorable.

Edusports ensured health and fitness among the participants. Students played games like Kho – Kho, Kabbadi, Basketball, Cricket etc. Yoga sessions and a session on Martial Arts further provided a holistic experience at the camp.

The extramural lectures were also an important part of the camp and the interactive sessions on Law, Music, Dance, Theatre, etc. were most enjoyable. A nature walk was also arranged. It helped the students appreciate the flora and fauna on the campus.

After all the project work was completed during the course of the program, the students presented their projects and submitted their reports.

The RSIC program thus gave the students an incredible insight into the field of research and the students returned to their respective schools on 7<sup>th</sup> June, sad that such an enlightening program had come to an end. "We wish the program at IIT would continue for one more month at least!" said the students in unison.



Reporters,  
Cyber Pigeons, PSBB NGM