

A camp energised by science

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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A session at the Sastrapadham science camp on the IISER campus, Vithura.

Practicals in science and maths, classes by IIT professors

The 110-odd students taking part in the Sastrapadham science camp at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) at Vithura here could not have asked for more.

There are theoretical display classes and interactions with teachers followed by practicals in science and maths labs during the day.

Evenings are devoted to science films and videos on the theory and practicals they picked up, and then some more discussions.

Five-day camp

Organised by the Samagra Shiksha, **Kerala**, and the IISER for higher secondary science stream students in the State, the five-day camp was inaugurated by IISER director J.N. Murthy. Samagra Shiksha, Kerala, director A.P. Kuttykrishnan was the chief guest. Mahesh Hariharan is the camp coordinator.

Chosen topics

Teachers from Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) across the country are leading classes in physics, chemistry, biology, and mathematics at the camp.

The aim is to inculcate scientific temper among students, get them to follow scientific developments, introduce them to opportunities in higher education and research in science, provide opportunities for interaction with students doing scientific research, become familiar with modern scientific equipment, and understand the links between scientific development and social growth. Students selected from the district level Sasthrapadham events are taking part in the State camp. Accompanying them are Samagra Shiksha trainers.

Future of science

Students were excited at seeing the theoretical knowledge they garner come alive through experiments done using the latest equipment. IIT teachers introduced them, with visual aids, to the latest developments in science and its future. Anilkumar Elias, professor in IIT Delhi, who led a class on chemistry shared with the Samagra trainers his surprise at the students' grasp of the subject. The camp will conclude on Sunday.