

Best brains to mentor city students

DC CORRESPONDENT
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Starting Monday, renowned scientists and water conservationists from across the country, including former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, BWSSB Chairman Anjum Parwez and Dr Rajendra Singh, widely heralded as one of the pioneers of community-based water harvesting, will take on a very unusual role.

For five days, they will work with over 200 children during the Parikrma Science Festival, which has been organised by the city-based NGO Parikrma Humanity Foundation that provides some of the poorest children with top-quality education.

Children from schools like Mallya Aditi, Inventure Academy and Innisfree will work with their counterparts from government schools, to understand the importance of



A student looks through a microscope at a science festival

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water conservation in an experiential way.

In keeping with their theme – ‘Water’, the students will attend lectures by some of the top people in the field. The kids will also bring their water bills from home for a session on water con-

servation. “They will analyse their water bills with those of the other children,” said Shukla Bose, founder, Parikrma. That way, students from the top-rung schools will understand what life is like for their lesser privileged counterparts in government

schools.

The students will also be exposed to how water affects all our lives – the number of wars that have been fought over it and its influence in music, dance, literature and culture. “We’re taking a multi-pronged, interdisciplinary approach to the issue,” said Mr Shukla. “We want to create socially engaged scientists among our children, so all the learning here will be aimed at kindling their spirit of innovation. The amount of innovation and research that takes place in India is very low, we need to change that.”

At the end of five days, the students will submit a memorandum to the Ministry of Water Resourcing, outlining their role in the future.

The Parikrma Science Festival is in collaboration with the University of Agricultural Sciences.