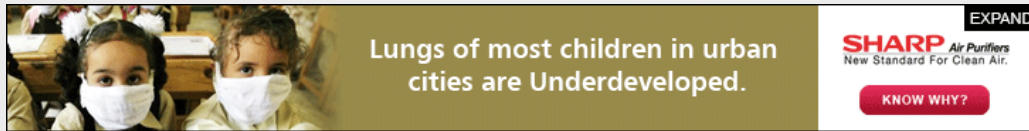


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Students across Mumbai gear up for Ganeshotsav

Garvita Sharma,TNN | Sep 15, 2015, 08.03 AM IST

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City schools and colleges are getting into the groove for Ganesh Chaturthi by actively involving students and staff members.

SIWS College at Wadala held week-long activities focusing on eco-friendly ways of celebrating the festival. Vice-principal Sailaja Ravindranath says, "While the NSS volunteers cleaned the college campus, the fine arts department had organized a craft competition based on the theme of 'best out of waste'. There is also an inter-collegiate Green Ganesh idol making workshop and painting competition."

Viva College in Virar has a student development cell that manages the idol making year. Nearly 150 students took part in a month-long activity for making shad called Viva Eshwar. Post the 10-day celebrations, the idol is taken for visarjan

Such events are a great medium of reminding citizens about the ecosystem th centric activities.

Gopi Gupta, a student of K.C. College was an enthusiastic participant of the eco-friendly Ganesh idol making competition, where clay, sandalwood and non-synthetic natural colours were used for making the idol. Similarly, IIT Bombay has an on-going workshop called Navsrujan, which is open for all. "Participants take the idols back home and worship them. Last year, close to 800 people had participated and that's how we contributed in our own way towards preserving the environment", added Dr Saraswati Krithivasan, who has been conducting the program for the last 14 years.

Somaiya School, too, had organised a similar workshop for its students. Marvelled at the efforts the artisans put in, 13-year-old Rashi Shah, said, "It was an equally challenging and satisfying experience. I have become all the more appreciative of the sculptors' work."

Going off the beaten track, Kids of EuroSchool in Thane, with the help of their teachers, have started an online pledge chain where they are talking about water pollution caused due to idols' immersion. In addition, they will also put up a small skit, speaking to students from other schools and highlighting the issue.

Student bodies of various colleges have already enrolled themselves for the beach clean-up drive, which is held post the 10-day visarjan, at prominent beaches in the city.

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