

ISRO's outreach programme: When a competition was rocket science

Students try their hand at water rocket launch as part of ISRO's outreach programme

About 60 students, teachers and educators from 11 Asia Pacific countries including Colombia took part in the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum water rocket competition on Sunday.

At the competition, which was held in the Kendriya Vidyalaya, NAL Campus playground, the competing students demonstrated their rocket launching capability using two soft drink PET bottles. The two-litre PET bottles filled with 400 ML of water which act as a propellant were sealed and pressurised with gas (up to four times the atmospheric pressure), after which they were launched.

A target or landing spot was fixed by the organisers and during the competition. While some of them landed near the target point, some others fell short of it or overshot. The

winner was decided based on their closest landing spot. The event for the students was jointly organised by ISRO, Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Japan's MEXT.

ISRO said that making of water rockets based on sound principles of science and mathematics and launching them provides practical experience to students about the science of rocketry as well as rocket flight. ISRO has made water rocket launchers an integral part of its student outreach programme during the past decade. The city schools that took part were BGS NPS, Whitefield Global School, Sri Chaitanya Techno School, The International School Bangalore, Ekya and Seshadripuram English Primary High School.

Winners were Kalana Nimsara of Sri Lanka (1st place), Thing Thang Nguyen of Veitnam (2nd) and Situ Bye Atira of Malaysia.