



Thousands come to see a research institute for the first time at CCMB

Hyderabad, 26 September, 2026: “Liquid nitrogen. Cancers. Eyes. Brain. Spiders,” shouted the students of Guru Nanak High School, Hyderabad as the new ideas they have learned at CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)’s Open Day on 26 September, 2026. These students were among the 7000+ visitors who visited the institute on this day.

This is the institute’s annual tradition of celebrating science with the members of public. School and college students comprise most of the visitors. This year’s themes of discussion were Life around Us, and Health. Research groups at CCMB created discussion areas on their scientific research work under these themes.

On this day, the entire CCMB scientists and PhD students get an opportunity to explain their work to thousands of non-scientists. “Our work in fundamental biology research can get us disconnected from the public and their questions about us. Talking about our work as scientists with young people and hearing their responses, sometimes, validates us. And, sometimes, gives us a reality check on the gap between our work and people’s lived experiences. This inspires us to work on questions that impact people’s lives,” said Dr Vinay K Nandicoori, Director, CCMB.



The Open Day also serves another function. It enables many people, while they are still young students, to come in a research institute for the very first time. It was a maiden visit to CCMB (or any other research institute) for half of the schools that came to the institute on this day. This is despite CCMB’s active study tour programs for schools and colleges. “This only highlights the absolute need and scope for science outreach in our country,” added Dr Nandicoori.

New organizations are also enabling visits for students to CCMB. DOBARA Senior Wellbeing is an organization in Hyderabad that brought in 700 students as part of their school support program.

“Our students stepped into the world of scientific discovery and experienced something many of them had never encountered before,” said Ms Ayesha and Mr Imran Taiyebi, founders of DOBARA. “CCMB created a wonderful world of “Edutainment” — where education met excitement. Quizzes, games, interactive exhibits and conversations about future careers in science and research made learning engaging and memorable.”