



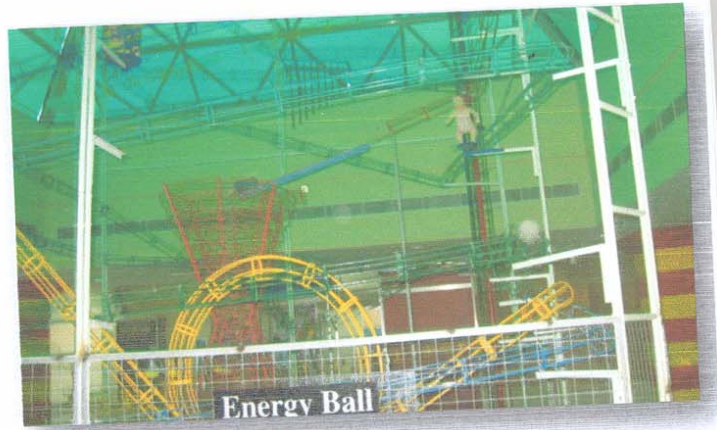
Impressions of Science City

Mention science and the immediate image that conjures up is of spectacular Pushpa Gujral Science City at Kapurthala. Pushpa Gujral Science City at Kapurthala which represents a mini world of practical science was an amazing experience to visit. NASA CLOUDSAT programme fulfilled the long cherished desires of many enthusiastic students by organizing a field trip to Science City on October 14, 2008 for NASA's CLOUDSAT Educational Network (CEN) programme participants of Punjab. They also organized an on the spot quiz competition on Cloudsat Programme at the Science City.

Our joy knew no bounds on reaching the magnificent Science City. It was the Fun Science zone of Science Explorium first where we were taken. With

wide opened eyes, all the teachers and students started observing the various interesting working models of vanishing image, symmetry, half me half you, duck in kaleidoscope, you and me, ghost image, see your back, infinite images, giant hall, slim and trim, mirror room and vanishing ball all based on the principles of multiple reflections of light by mirrors. Besides this we also saw working models like **lift your own weight, energy ball**, 2d to 3d, curie point, Jacob's ladder, moiré patterns, skill game and vortex giving demonstrations of various principles of science like transformation of energy, illusion effect, gravity etc. All the models made our theoretical concepts of science very clear.

Science City has much more to offer than just the models. All of us were taken to the Earthquake Simulator. We were inquisitive to know what would happen there? We were made to sit on chairs fixed on a metal platform. Tremors were given to the platform giving us horrifying experience of being in an earthquake zone with earthquake measuring 4, 5.5, and 8.9 on Richter scale.



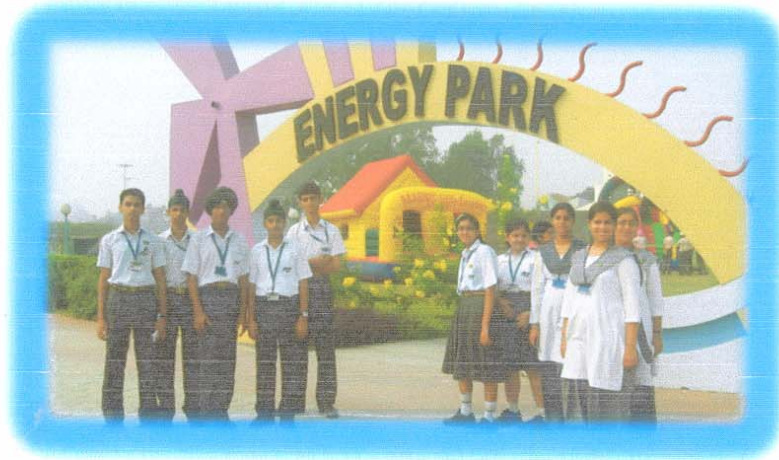


Climbing the rocks

After the horrifying experience of earthquake, we reached an exciting 'Rock Climbing' Zone. Artificial rocks were there and we were made to climb them with the help of a rope. It was a thrilling experience as some of us could not reach at top and slipped in between.



Leaving the Science Explorium we went to the Dinosaur Park. We were mesmerized to see huge still models of various types of dinosaurs such as Iguanadon, Titanosaurus, Kotasaurus, Rajasaurus, Pterosaurus and what not. It gave an experience of being in a real Jurassic Park.



Next we moved on to the Energy Park where the use of solar, hydel, tidal and nuclear energy was being displayed. It was a great fun for us to use our muscular energy for playing Himesh Reshamiya's song on a device converting muscular/mechanical energy to electrical energy. We were surprised to see working model of a solar refrigerator. Thus this section gave us good knowledge of use of alternative sources of energy in our daily life.



After Energy Park, it was the time to enter the main hall of Science City related to astronomy. It seemed no less than NASA's Space Centre. Hubble Space Telescope, Space Food, Model of Kalpana Chawla, A Space Shuttle Wright Brother's Plane Virtual Ball – all this and many more were crazy attractions for us and inspired us a lot. We also saw a 3d show there. It was very scary to see blood filed mouth of 3d snake just in front of our face.

We moved on to a laser show where green, red and blue lasers were being played on a song. The sight of the dancing lasers was quite entertaining.





Finally the time came for the show of the Dome Theatre. The huge Dome Theatre of this place is the biggest of this type in Asia. We were shown a movie on our universe in this theatre. This was quite entertaining and knowledgeable and gave us a feeling of being a part of the space.

By this time we became quite hungry so were given sumptuous lunch. Then came the turn of a Roller- Coaster ride - not a real one but an experience in the Flight Simulator.

Now was the time to show our mettle and aptitude and thus prove our knowledge about the mighty clouds. A quiz was to be conducted for which our teachers had worked a lot on us. It was based on our NASA CLOUDSAT project and was held under the guidance of Mrs. Neelima Jerath – Addl. Director (Environment), Mrs. Ravleen Singh – Information Officer of Punjab State Council of Science And Technology, Chandigarh Mrs. Satinderjit Kaur , Director, Dr. Anand – Lecturer – State Institute of Science Education. .Our team was spell – bound when we were announced the winners of the quiz competition. It gave us tremendous satisfaction.



On the whole, this trip proved to be educative, entertaining, satisfying and thrilling for which we really thank NASA from the core of our hearts. This highly affordable science sanctuary enhances the feel-good factor and makes one want to come back again and again.



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