

Numbers to nature at talk

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New Town: Value education in schools, the importance of inculcating reading habit in children and the connection between mathematics and nature were some of the topics that kept the young audience engaged at a TEDx session hosted by The Newtown School on Saturday.

The Talks in Action sessions began with filmmaker Ashoke Viswanathan discussing GM (genetically modified) crop and its human and environmental hazards,

"We are living in a world where scientific progress cannot be denied. They (GM crops) are unhealthy and have permanent side effects," he pointed out.

Sunita Chugh, a leadership and organisation development professional, took the 100-odd students into the world of numbers and nature. Fun fundas on the golden ratio and the Fibonacci series had the audience in thrall.

"Whether you fear math or you love it I do hope you go away believing that everything is math. Nature is math and there is a natural symmetry all around you," she said.

Kunal Munshi, a member of the Indian Scientific Expedition Team to Antarctica, reminded the students that renewable resources are the only way forward. "We need something that stays for long. Ask... why we are still using coal knowing that it is harmful? Why aren't we opting for wind or solar energy?"

Partha Pratim Das's session on Good Readers make Good Leaders was aimed at encouraging reading. "Read regularly, talk to the characters, talk to the author and you will discover wonderful things that you will not find on Google," the management consultant and film critic advised.

Amit Javalgi, DC (headquarters) of the Bidhannagar commissionerate, explained how value learning in school made him a leader.