



VIDYA and the Workshops of Eco-friendly Ganeshas at IIT Bombay

Every year Mumbai celebrates Ganesh Chaturthi with colourful idols, intense devotion and an unmatched fervour.

At VIDYA this happens with a difference. Chaitali Gupta, co-vice chairperson, VIDYA, who specializes in folk-arts, has been conducting workshops on making the eco friendly Ganesha since 2001. She started out by bringing together a band of students from less privileged families and taught them the art of making handicrafts and other artefacts.

Since then large number of students have been coming every year to participate in her workshops in a remarkable gesture of supporting the cause and participating enthusiastically in it. In last several years these workshops were also organized in different parts of the city

What is most satisfying and gives a sense of fulfilment is the manner in which these efforts are being implemented and supported on the home ground-at the IIT campus. IIT has been our biggest supporter and donor, as they have lent us their spaces and their expertise. Therefore it is always a pleasure when Chaitali Gupta and her VIDYA team of students brings to the doorstep of IIT this very sought after workshop.

This year two workshops were held IIT:

- The workshop at IDC in IIT was organized spanning 3 days and on each day about 80 participants attended the workshop. We are grateful to Prof. B.K. Chakravarthy for his unstinted help. We are also indebted to the members of Save Powai Lake Committee for their support.
- The other workshop was organized for the students of IIT. They had been instructed to put an eco friendly Ganesha in their hostels. So one evening they flocked around the VIDYA team and during that wonderful session, several Ganesha idols were born.

The workshops were held in the Ceramic Lab., with excellent support from Mr. Patil. The environment was alive with the smell of earth and a hum of absorption invaded the scene as children, youth and adults all joined hands in crafting the Ganesha. The spirit of unity, learning and creativity prevailed.

VIDYA is indeed glad to be able to share and give back to IIT.

Sangeeta
Vidya Mumbai
Students Activity Centre

Contact No.022- 25764089
Timing : 9.30 am to 5.30 pm