Isro's hackathon on college campus

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mangaluru: The city's college witnessed the first-ever hackathon being conducted by the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), where more than 85 participants from engineering colleges in Karnataka became part of the mega event.

It was overseen by Isro officials, where budding engineers were given the task to find applications for the navIC chip (India's very own navigation system).

NavIC ('Navigation with Indian Constellation'; Hindi meaning is 'sailor' or 'navigator'), the students had close encounter and first-hand experience on India's finest technology.

Organisers said it was a 36-hour long hackathon that commenced on Friday. The hackathon is also part of two-day Aerophilia event organised by Sahyadri College of Engineering and Technology. "The Isro representatives were present at the spot to provide round-the-clock guidance for the participants. They also gave highly informative technical talks during the course of the event," said Gowri Hiremath, event co-ordinator.

NavIC is designed to provide accurate position information to users within the country.

Gowri said: "It is to find applications for this (navIC) cutting-edge technology. This includes work on both the hardware and the software."

The 36-hour hackathon is divided into two segments—hackathon and presentation. The students were evaluated on the basis of this and best ideas are awarded with cash prize.

Maneesh Saxena and Akhileshwar Reddy P, deputy directors, industry interface, Satnav programme office, Isro department of space were representatives from Isro.