

Ganit Saptah

The Position Paper of the National Focus Group on Teaching of Mathematics developed by the NCERT during the exercise of the National Curriculum Framework-2005 says that *Mathematics offers a way of doing things and develops the quality of attacking all kinds of problems in a systematic manner.* This makes a learner confident in handling different complex situations in her daily life. However this can be achieved if the learners are exposed to different situations in Mathematics in which they could get an opportunity to explore and analyse for themselves. For this purpose the activity based learning and teaching in Mathematics would be useful. One of the modes through which this can be done apart from classroom Mathematics activities is, organizing different Mathematics exhibitions or fairs. In such events the learners get an opportunity to express their ideas before others fearlessly. This requires working on the related mathematical concepts and then expressing them.

NCERT has made an attempt to move towards fulfilling these objectives by proposing a weeklong event called GANIT SAPTAH, to be celebrated in all schools of the country. The activities on each of the days during this event could be for smaller durations so that

students get enough time to interact with all and the schedule of regular school activities is also not affected much. The interactions and discussions on Mathematics and issues related to its learning will deepen the understanding of Mathematics in the students and teachers. This will also result in better dissemination of ideas and material. This week long activity is proposed to be conducted around the 'National Mathematics Day' which is celebrated in the memory of the great Mathematics legend Srinivas Ramanujan, on 22nd December.

Apart from students' activities, teachers are also expected to participate in this event by engaging in discussions on Mathematics and its transaction, among themselves. During the SAPTAH there will be discussions among students about Mathematics and their general observations about its learning; panel discussions of students/teachers; invited talks of experts/teachers; poster presentations/display of Mathematics exhibits by students; any other relevant activity that the school deems fit, etc. Students from classes I to XII are expected to participate in this event.

A letter has been sent by NCERT to all States and Union Territory requesting them to direct their schools for the celebration of this event.