

# What Would Darwin Do

Solve. Adapt. Evolve.

Welcome to What Would Darwin Do! It is a premier event under the Sci-tech umbrella of Pravega, the grandest science fest hosted by the UG community of the Indian Institute of Science. Pravega, from its inception, has grown in reach and size as a science fest over the years and now claims the spot of one of the biggest in the country. The sci-tech events, which form one of the main pillars of Pravega, conduct a plethora of unique events aiming to communicate science to the public and uphold the scientific tradition prevailing in IISc (Indian Institute of Science).

What Would Darwin Do is a one of its kind evolution and ecology competition which defies the monotonicity of conventional pen-and-paper science competitions and replaces it with fun and engaging activities that inform as to how science is conducted in the real world. Our campus is itself a large ecosystem, with high-tech laboratories and serene forests that coexist side by side. Lush woods, a vibrant ecosphere consisting of various flora and fauna, define the campus of IISc. A perfect place for ecological experimentation, the IISc campus will expose high school students to ecology's adventures, thrills, and opportunities. Come and join us in this enthralling campaign to spread science and the story of a sustainable future to the 'future of the country,' as this is not only a competition but also a celebration of science and nature!

## The event structure:

The event will consist of 2 stages, The prelim, and the finals. The prelim will be held on campus on the second day of Pravega, i.e., 3<sup>rd</sup> September. It will be a school student-based event where people can register online before or after coming to the campus.

The event will be entirely offline on campus. The preliminary examination will be a pen-and-paper exam structurally, but the questions will be of distinguishable creativity. Not only conventional ecology questions, but the prelim will also encompass interesting analytic questions and entertaining puzzles. We will have 3-hour prelim from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

There will be a small interactive lecture on the same day from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm by one of our ecology professors about some recent research in their field. This can be attended by some of the top performers in the exam.

From the initial pool of students, 24 finalists will be chosen to participate in the stages of the competition that will take place the following day (i.e., the last day of Pravega, 4<sup>th</sup> of September).

On the final day (i.e., 4<sup>th</sup> of September), we will have the most distinctive sub-events of 'What Would Darwin Do,' which will start with a quiz competition. Teams of 3 will be made, and members of the top 3 teams will get handsome prizes. This will be followed by a campus-wide treasure hunt where participants will be given indirect clues about some organisms and they will have to find hidden treasures. It will be followed by some lab tours where participants get to see how an ecology lab works. The winners of the treasure hunt (6 teams with each team having four participants) will be rewarded with additional prizes. Memorabilia and vouchers will be given to every finalist. The detailed timeline of these events will be intimated to the finalists later.

## Registration:

Registration will start in July, and students can register online through the Pravega website. The registration will be open till the prelim, and we will keep an option for the people to come to the campus and register on the day of the preliminary examination.

We highly encourage the students to register online and well in advance. This helps us in organizing the event in a more efficacious manner. To this end, there will be a registration fee of 100 rupees for online registration and on-the-spot registrants will have to pay 150 rupees.

## Eligibility:

This is an event meant for high school students, and the eligibility is class 9 to class 12.

## Rules and regulations (Prelim):

- 1) The online registrations will be allowed till the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> of September (i.e., 11.59 pm).
- 2) The on-the-spot registrations will start at 7 am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September and close half an hour before the start of the prelim exam (i.e., 9 am, since the prelim exam starts at 9.30 am). No registrations will be accepted afterwards.
- 3) A total of 24 finalists will be chosen. The prelim paper will constitute both MCQ and subjective questions. First, some top performers will be selected solely based on MCQ marks. From among them, the top 24 will be chosen by judging both types of questions. Participants will have to answer the MCQ questions in the OMR sheet provided.
- 4) The students must fill OMR sheet for the MCQ-type questions; utmost care should be taken while filling up the personal details demanded in the OMR sheet. NO EXTRA OMR SHEET WILL BE GIVEN.
- 5) The MCQ and subjective paper will be given to the students as a unified question paper. The answers to the MCQ questions must be filled in the OMR, and the required space will be given for subjective-type questions.
- 6) Any participant resorting to unfair means will be disqualified, and any types of plagiarism, discussion, or cheating will not be tolerated.
- 7) The results of the prelim exam will be published within 2 hours of the conclusion of the exam, and the list of the finalists declared by us will be considered final.
- 8) What Would Darwin Do reserves the authority to disqualify any students based on appropriate reasons other than those mentioned above.
- 9) What Would Darwin Do reserves the authority to refrain from publishing the MCQ exam's answer keys and disclosing participants' marks.
- 10) Students must arrange for their travel and residence (if needed).

## Rules and regulations (Finals):

- 1) The following details and timings are tentative and a concrete timeline will be intimated to the finalists later.
- 2) The quiz
  - a. The quiz will commence at 9 am, where students will be divided into 8 groups of 3.
  - b. The quiz will consist of two rounds.
  - c. The quiz will end at about 10.30 am.
  - d. Any cross-communication between teams during quizzes is strictly prohibited, and any such act will be punished.
- 3) The lab tour
  - a. The students will be divided into groups.
  - b. The lab tour will be from 11 am to 1 pm.
- 4) The treasure hunt
  - a. The students will be divided 6 groups of 4.
  - b. The treasure hunt will take place from 2.30 pm onwards.

## Additional terms and conditions:

We may, to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law and in our sole discretion, change the Terms and Conditions or cancel the Contest at any time; or modify, terminate, or suspend the Contest should viruses, worms, bugs, unauthorized human intervention, or other causes beyond our control corrupt or impair the administration, security, fairness or proper play of the Contest or submission of entries.

We are not responsible for:

- Lost, misdirected, late, incomplete, or unintelligible entries or inaccurate entry information, whether caused by you or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Contest, or by any technical or human error that may occur in the processing of submitting the entries.
- Any error in the operation or transmission, theft, destruction, unauthorized access to, or alteration of, entries, or for technical, network, telephone, computer, hardware or software, malfunctions of any kind, or inaccurate transmission of, or failure to receive any entry information on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet or at any website.

### Force Majeure:

This Contest is subject to force majeure circumstances, including pandemics, floods, natural disasters, war, terror, political unrest, technical snags, acts of God, or any cause beyond reasonable control Pravega IISc, Bengaluru ("Force Majeure Event"). Pravega IISc, Bengaluru shall be not liable for any delay or adverse effect caused to the participants in the Contest, including the winners, because of a Force Majeure Event.

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