

NMNH HQ, New Delhi

Nature Study Tour to Aravalli Biodiversity Park

All 16 Prize winners of NMNH – HT PACE Interschool Essay Writing Competition were taken on a Nature Study Tour to Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi on 1st December, 2012 under the supervision of the accompanying Education Staff of NMNH. The visiting children interacted with Dr. M. Shah Hussain, Scientist Incharge of the ABP, who gave an introductory talk on the importance of Biodiversity Parks in Delhi. Later, the children walked through the park with an expert Ms. Balwinder and came to know about the flora and fauna of the park. The participants also visited the Butterfly conservatory where they were introduced to various types of Butterflies, their host plants and life-cycle. In the Medicinal Herbs Garden the participants observed the various medicinal plants growing there and came to know about their uses in treating various body ailments. A visit to the Park Nursery helped the participants to know how different plants are made to grow and transplanted in the Park. A short film on the park was also shown to the participants where they could get to know how a wasteland and mining area got converted in to a lush green natural jungle, which is becoming a habitat to many different wild animals and birds. In the end the participants revisited their experience in the park through a written Nature Quiz based on information received during the tour. The experts clarified all the queries of the participants regarding conserving our natural heritage.



Nature tour participants interacting with the Resource Person at Aravalli Biodiversity Park

Workshop on making Seed Balls

To sensitize the school children on human-nature relationship, a Seed Ball Making workshop was organised by the Museum from 29 November to 6 December, 2012 at the Visitor Resource Centre of NMNH. The objective of the workshop was to explain the technique of making “Seed Balls” and using in dispersal of seed as an anthropogenic activity. The workshop highlighted the significance of plants for human life, especially the food crops and to make children understand, that seeds have life before they are being grown to turn in to plants become food on our plates.

An interactive installation with thousands of seed packed mud balls were prepared by the participating children. The mud balls consisted of seeds of food crops, herbs, vegetables and flowering seeds. The mud balls containing seeds were installed in the form of an exhibit at the first floor gallery of the museum, from where the museum visitors may take them away and throw them on any cultivable land or in flower pots to let the seedlings grow out of them to become a plant in due course of time, provided they are watered.

The workshop was attended by 480 students of IV - VI standard, from 10 schools in Delhi/NCR region with prior booking and registration. Sh. Sunoj D, a Bangalore based Visual Artist and another Artist from Natural History Museum, London were the Resource person.



Students learning to make seed ball using mud

Winter Nature Camp 2012

A Winter Nature Camp was organized by the Museum at Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Vasant Vihar, Delhi on 14th & 15th December, 2012. The participants for the Camp were selected through a selection test held on 7th December, 2012 to select 15 children in the age group of 13 to 16.



Winter Nature Camp participants in the Nursery at Aravalli Biodiversity Park

All participants stayed in tents overnight in this two day Nature Camp. The children interacted with the Park staff and enriched themselves with the valuable information and knowledge imparted by the trained staff. They enjoyed the Nature Trail through the thick forest cover and learnt about the fauna and flora present in the area with important clues to identify different plants and birds in the Park. The children also acquainted themselves with many medicinal plants through their visit in the Herbal Medicinal Garden, learnt about butterfly behaviour in Butterfly Conservatory, observed many orchids growing in Orchidarium, Fernarium and Wet lands inside the Park. They also trained their hands in packing plant seedlings in to poly packs to be transplanted in the park. A Written Quiz and a Painting contest was organized for the children as a past time activity. Two short films on the diversity of life in the Park were also shown, besides a wildlife photography session to help children learn some techniques of wildlife photography. The stay at the Park concluded with giving the prizes for the quiz and painting contests and awarding the Best Camper.

Prize Distribution Function for programmes held during Septmeber to December 2012

The Prize Distribution Function for the programmes held at the Museum during September to December 2012 was organised on 20th December, 2012 in the Museum auditorium. Prof. S. C. Bhatla, Head, Deptt. Of Botany, University of Delhi was the Chief Guest and Mrs. Enu Rodrigues, Manager- Curriculum, HT PACE was the Guest of Honour of the function. The function was attended by the Prize winners and their parents. The Welcome address was given by Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, NMNH, followed by a briefing of the programmes and contests by Dr. Reena Dey, Scientist-C, NMNH. A Green Magazine "TRYST WITH NATURE" on Explore Nature and Environment 2012 was released by the Chief Guest. The winners of the following contests received the prizes in the function:



The Winner of the NMNH- HT Pace Essay Writing Competition receiving Rolling Trophy at the function

"Poem & Essay Writing Contests" held on occasion of "International Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer on 15th September, 2012 to commemorate

"NMNH – HT PACE Essay Writing Competition" held on 9th November, 2012

"NMNH – HT PACE Trophies" were awarded to the schools of the First Prize winners in the Junior and Senior categories of the NMNH- HT PACE Essay Writing Competition.

Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore

Second Indian Biodiversity Congress & Indian Biodiversity Expo.

The Indian Biodiversity Expo. and the Second Indian Biodiversity Congress was inaugurated on 8th December, 2012 at 2.00 pm at Indian Institute of Sciences & Veterinary College ground, Hebbal, Bangaluru by Shri Aravind Limbavali, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Karnataka. Dr. Vamanacharya, Chairman, Karnataka Pollution Control Board, Govt. of Karnataka graced the occasion. The inauguration & inaugural speech of the Congress was followed by the visit of the delegates to the Expo. The exhibition titled "Biodiversity of Western Ghats" was highly appreciated by the participating dignitaries and public as large and was adjudged with the "EXCELLENT" Prize during the Valedictory function of Second Indian Biodiversity Congress. Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, NMNH also presented a paper on "NMNH initiatives on Biodiversity Education and public awareness" during first session of the Biodiversity Congress. Shri C.Rajasundaram, Scientist in charge, RMNH, Mysore and Shri John Thomas, Shri Yogendra, Shri Lakshmana & Shri Shah Nawaz Khan represented Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore during the Congress.

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal

Poster Design Contest

Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Bhopal conducted a Poster Design Contest for the hearing impaired students of Class 9th & 10th on 24th November 2012. The topic of the competition was "Climate Change and Biodiversity". The hearing impaired students of Umang Gauravdeep Welfare Society, Kotra Sultanabad, Bhopal participated in the competition.

Quiz Competition

Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Bhopal organized a Quiz Competition for the students of Class 9th & 10th on 5th December, 2012. The theme of the competition was "Environment and Wildlife". Sixteen teams from various schools of Bhopal participated in this competition.

Written test for participation in Winter Nature Camp

A written test was conducted by the RMNH, Bhopal for selection of the participants to the Winter Nature Camp 2012-13. The written test was conducted on 16th December, 2012 in which 33 students got enrolled for registration and only 29 students from various schools participated in the test. A total of 20 students will be selected for this camp, scheduled to be held at Patchmarhi during 2nd to 4th January, 2013.

Barrier Free Accessibility for Physically Challenged Community

Two ramps with steel railing have been executed at the Museum for barrier free accessibility of the Physically challenged community to the Museum. A special toilet is also being constructed for Challenged people visiting the museum.

NGO Collaboration Programme

The activities of "The Museum School" by Parvarish have again been started for approximately forty under privileged children of the society.

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhubaneswar

Written quiz to select participants for winter Nature Camp (9th Dec-12):

To select the participants for Winter Nature Camp 2012-13 at Bhitarkanika National Park during 7th-8th January 2013, a written quiz competition was held on 9th December 2012. For this purpose wide publicity through banners has been made and circulars were sent to schools in Bhubaneswar/Cuttack. In response to the publicity a total of 50 students registered their names. Out of the registered 46 students participated in the selection test and twenty (20) were selected among them for Winter Nature Camp 2012-13.

Environmental Awareness Programme-2012 for JNVs of Odisha

Environmental Awareness Programme-2012 for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) of Odisha was held at JNV, Baro, Kendrapara District on 8th December, 2012 and at JNV, Belpada, and Bolangir District on 16th December, 2012. The



JNV participants at the Written Quiz Competition

programme included a written quiz on environment of 30 minutes duration followed by film show on nature, environment & wildlife of 30 minutes duration, presentation on poisonous and non-poisonous snakes and interaction with the participants. A total of 235 students participated in the quiz competition and about 800 students took part in the interaction session about the nature conservation, biodiversity and ecology through Power Point Presentation by Scientist-C & H.O. The winners of each school were awarded with cash prizes of Rs. 1,000/-, Rs. 750/-, 500/- as 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize respectively along with five consolation

prizes of Rs. 200/- each and certificates in the presence of the Principal and staff of the respective schools.

Odisha Environment Congress-2012

To mark the International Year of Sustainable Energy for all, Odisha Environment Congress-2012 was organized from 20 – 22 December, 2012 on the focal theme of “Energy and Environment: Issues, Challenges and Potentials for Odisha”. The Congress was jointly organized by Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Centre for Environment & Development (CED), Human Development Foundation (HDF) and supported by Forest & Environment Department, Science & Technology Department, Energy Department, Govt. of Odisha.

Programme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik in the presence of Shri Bijayashree Routray, Hon'ble Minister, Forest & Environment & Labour & ESI, Odisha, Shri Arun Sahoo, Hon'ble Minister, Information and Public Relations & Energy, Odisha, Shri Ramesh Ch.

Majhi, Hon'ble Minister, Science & Technology, Youth & Sports, Odisha, Shri R.K.Sharma, IAS, Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment, Shri P.K.Jena, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Deptt. Of Energy, Odisha and Shri D. K. Roy, Chairmen of OEC-2012. During the programme various topics were discussed viz. 1) Sustainable energy for all-Policy & Regulation, 2) Challenges for energy sector in Odisha, 3) Role of energy in urban & rural development, 4) Coal, oil and Carbon footprint, 5) Opportunity in renewable energy, 6) Captive generation; solution for energy crisis, 7) Energy access, energy efficiency, green building. On the Valedictory day there will be an open house discussion and prize distribution.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha addressing the gathering at Odisha Environmental Congress 2012

Forthcoming programmes

1. Prof. R. Mishra Birth Centenary Lecture-2012 on 26.12.2012 by Prof. M.C. Dash, Former V.C., Sambalpur University on "Sustainable Development: The Journey from Rio 1992 to Rio+ 20-2012 and Beyond" jointly organized by National Institute of Ecology, Delhi, RMNH and Orissa Environmental Society.

Regional Museum of Natural History, Sawai Madhopur

Development of Exhibition

The development of the Exhibition on "Biodiversity of Rajasthan" is the final stage.

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Co-coordinators:

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