

National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi

OUTREACH PROGRAMME FOR SAPERA COMMUNITY OF DELHI (5-7, July, 2012)

Sapera or the **Snake charmer community** in Delhi is an isolated community for their profession of catching and charming snakes. Many myths associated with the snakes have also been spread by this community to make their livelihood sustainable. However, they remained the identity symbol of India in abroad till few decades ago.

NMNH organized a three-day special outreach programme for the children of this community to make them aware of their environment and help them use the museum resources in enhancing their knowledge about nature and wildlife.



Sapera Children making peacock and tortoise with waste and handmade paper

The programme included many interactive sessions between children and resource persons from the museum and other coordinating agencies like National Bal Bhavan, an NGO "Khushi" for underprivileged children and Aravalli Biodiversity Park. The children were informed about keeping their surroundings clean and green for a healthy life, given tips on the personal hygiene and importance of regular exercise besides good food habits.

The children also participated in many activities like clay modeling, making of different types of caps using old magazines and newspapers and also peacock and tortoise with handmade paper and developing flower pots and flowers by using used plastic bottles.

On their outdoor trip to Aravalli Biodiversity Park the children learnt about different trees species in the park, the clues drawn from the animals' dropping and gathered information about butterflies and their host plants besides many colourful bugs and birds. An expert on Snake Sh. Debonik Mukherjee gave a talk on snakes, their evolution, habits & habitats and types of poisonous & non-poisonous snakes found in India. Finally, Sri Karmanath- a snake, charmer shared his knowledge about the herbs used for treating snake bites, and played a tune on his "Been".

SAVE OUR TIGERS CAMPAIGN (July 2012)

The logistic support for a televised event by NDTV – Aircell on "Save Our Tigers" campaign was extended by NMNH on Sunday, 15th July, 2012. The campaign was aimed at spreading awareness about the state of tigers and threats to its survival. The event was a collaboration between NMNH, Sanctuary India and NDTV and was covered Live during the telethon, in which a mix of children activities like Drawing competition, Collage making, Mask making and Clay modeling etc. were conducted with the help of resource persons from the Museum and outside. A large number of school children from Delhi and NCR, and their teachers, parents/guardians participated in this event. Some special guests also made their presence felt by encouraging children in their Endeavour to save tiger.



Children interacting with resource person to know about the skull of tiger

SPECIAL VISIT OF ETE TRAINEE TEACHERS (17th July)

Around 145 second year ETE trainee teachers from D.I.E.T., Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi visited the Museum on 17th July 2012. The resource persons from the Museum interacted with the trainee teachers and acquainted them of the role of the Museum in education. They were helped to develop the worksheets for the elementary level of students on the topics based on museum.

The Principal of DIET, Rajinder Nagar also had a meeting with the Director and Scientist-D to explore possibilities of using the museum resources for teachers' workshops and production of a film on museum as resource of teaching.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

A group of 9 students from Delhi Institute of Heritage Research & Management (DIHRM) are attending an Internship Programme at the Museum from 5th July to 5th August 2012. They have interaction with the officials from Technical Units and Education Division of the museum to study the different aspects of museum functioning.

VISIT OF EXPERTS FROM IRAN

Two dignitaries from Iran Cultural House Mr. Ali Dehgahi, Director and Mr. Majid, In-charge of cultural activities, visited Museum on 19th July 2012 and discussed with the Director and Scientists about the possibilities of organising programmes on subjects of bilateral interest such as Persian gardens and Spice route.

Forthcoming Programme

WORKSHOP ON EVALUATION OF MUSEUM VISITORS AND EXHIBITIONS

A national workshop on "Evaluation of Museum Visitors and Exhibitions" is being arranged by the NMNH during 30th and 31st July, 2012. It is a capacity building training programme for the staff from the NMNH and other Museums as well as students of Museology/Heritage etc

Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore

ORGANIZATION OF VANMAHOTSVA-2012

Various programmes were organised by the Museum on following locations on the occasion of Van Mahotsav 2012.

9th July 2012,	Govt. High School and PU College, Mylaarapattana, Nagamagala,
11th July 2012	Govt. High School, Karadahalli, Nagamanagala Tq.
13th July 2012	Govt. High School, Guthulu, Mandya on , .
16th July 2012	Shri Gurumalleshwar High School, Hallere, Nanajanagud Tqand
18th July 2012	Govt. High School, Annur, H.D. Kote Tq. Mysore Dist on

EXHIBITION DEVELOPMENT

Preparations are going on for the development of a temporary exhibition on "Namma Mysooru"

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FOSSILS COLLECTION

Three numbers of fossils were collected by the Museum from Shri Vinod Shrivastava, Umriya, Madhya Pradesh.

MEETING WITH ZSI

A meeting was arranged on July 10, 2012 between 02:30 pm. to 03:30 pm. with Dr. S. Sambath, Scientist C & Office-in-Charge of Zoological Survey of India, Zonal office, Jabalpur in order to explore the possibility of bilateral collaboration.

AMENITIES FOR CHALLENGED COMMUNITY

Construction of two ramps and a toilet are being completed for challenged community by Civil Construction Unit, MOEF.

SPECIAL VISITS

Ten students of M.Tech. from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, visited the Museum on June 23, 2012. Master Sattha, class 6th student from Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 3, Bhopal and two students from Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Ratanpur, Bhopal visited the Museum for their projects under the guidance of the Scientist E.

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Environmental Awareness Programme-2012 at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas

Two Environmental Awareness Programmes-2012 were held by the Museum, one at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Khordha on 18th July 2012, and other at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mundali, Cuttack on 20th July 2012, respectively. Each programme included a written quiz on environment, a Film show on nature, environment & wildlife and a presentation on poisonous and non-poisonous snakes by "Snake Helpline". In each programme, nearly 125 students participated in the quiz competition and about 260 students took part in the interactive session on nature conservation, biodiversity and ecology, which was held through power point Presentation by Scientist-in-charge.

The winners were awarded with the cash prizes of Rs. 1,000/- to 1st, Rs. 750/- to 2nd and 500/- to 3rd prize winner respectively, along with 05 consolation prizes of Rs. 200/- each and certificates in the presence of the Principal and staff of the School.

Van Mahotsav

The Museum observed Van Mahotsav during 1st week of July by planting saplings of different species in the campus.

Exhibition of Baleen Whale Skeleton

Articulation of different bones of the baleen whale skeleton has been completed for the purpose of display and positioned in the specially prepared structural framework of 50' length. Panel work is being completed and the exhibit will be ready for inauguration shortly.

Taxidermy work

A dead pangolin collected from Berhampur Forest Division was processed and preserved for display in the Gallery.

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Co-coordinators:

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