

Government of India  
National Museum of Natural History  
(Ministry of Environment & Forests)

FICCI Museum Building,  
Barakhamba Road,  
New Delhi-110001.

No.13(6)/2010-11/NMNH

Dated the May 25, 2010

To

Shri Narain Das,  
Deputy Secretary (GC),  
Ministry of Environment & Forests,  
Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodi Road,  
New Delhi-110003.

Sub: Monthly Summary for the Cabinet – reg.

Sir,

The National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi and its Regional Museums organized the following educational programmes, in addition to its normal activities, during the month of May, 2010:

### N.M.N.H., New Delhi

#### International recognition:

Recently the NMNH (India) was selected by the ICOM (International Council of Museums) as one among ten leading Natural History Museums in the world for developing an international exhibition on Climate Change to be opened in 2012 in connection with Earth Summit 2012.

#### **Summer Vacation Programme-2010 (SVP-2010):**

NMNH is organizing annual "Summer Vacation Programme" from 15<sup>th</sup> May to 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2010. Students are invited to participate in the programme conducted under two groups: Group-I (Green Teens) for the students of class VIII to X, Group-II (Green Cubs) for the students of class V to VII. The objectives of the programme are:

- 1) To inculcate among students an appreciation of Environment resources of the country, their use and management.
- 2) To create opportunities for hands-on experiments in the field.
- 3) To understand the importance of locally available Environmental Resources, their sustainable use and conservation.
- 4) To interact with leading experts in the field of Environment including core and visiting faculty.

This year it was decided to standardize the Summer Vacation Programme (SVP) activities of NMNH HQ and RMsNH. Accordingly, the SVP-2010 involved two programmes, i.e., Green Teens (Group-I) coordinated by Education Division and Green Cubs (Group-II) coordinated by Technical Units. The programme was advertised in the leading newspapers on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2010. Registration was open from 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2010. Fifteen participants were finally selected in Group-I on the basis of their combined performance in a special written test and subsequent group discussion held on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2010. Fifteen participants were selected in Group-II through draw of lots.

The programme for students in Group-I (Green Teens) is a unique mix of Lectures, Slide/CD presentations, Institutional visits, working with microscopes, project work, Nature photography contest, Art out of Clay on Potters Wheel, preparation of Nature Magazine and Nature Study Tour, etc.

Lectures and Slide/CD presentations on different environmental themes were given like Birds and Trees in our surroundings, Biodiversity of microbial world, Life in coastal waters; Institutional visits are arranged such as visit to Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) to study Rain water harvesting, Botanical Garden of Indian Republic to study endangered and medicinal plants, Mother Dairy to observe pasteurization of milk; Live microorganisms in stagnant water/pond water were observed under the microscope. Presentations of Projects on environmental themes, Nature photography contest, Art out of Clay on Potters Wheel, preparation of Nature Magazine were other activities during the programme. A Nature Study Tour to Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Delhi is arranged to give first hand knowledge about Fauna specially reptiles, amphibians and flora of Aravallis. The participants also prepared Skit and Songs based on environment to be presented at the Valedictory Function.

Similarly, the participants of Green Cubs (Group-II) were introduced to the Museum galleries to understand the natural history. They participated in making 3 D models and relief models out of Clay. The children learnt the Art hidden in clay through Potter's wheel. Paper Origami, Pencil/Colour shading, Nature Painting, Animal/Bird Mask making, making artificial flowers and Art from waste materials are also taught. A visit to Botanical Garden of Indian Republic, Noida is arranged to observe endangered and medicinal plants. Children also prepared songs on environment.

### **International Day for Biological Diversity (22<sup>nd</sup> May 2010):**

The Green Teens (Group-I) participants of SVP-2010 paid a visit to Botanic Garden of Indian Republic (BGIR), Noida to observe the endangered and medicinal plant species on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2010. The participants were taken to Nature Trail through medicinal garden followed by presentation on Biodiversity and environmental issues. The teenagers participated in a Quiz competition also. A talk was given on making of Herbarium specimens and their importance.

### **School visits:**

2322 school students from 32 schools/institutes in Delhi & NCR visited NMNH. The educational staff interacted with the students and took them around the museum galleries for exhibit interpretation. The museum publication was provided to the accompanying teachers.

### **Family Groups / General Visitors:**

Around 2497 general visitors visited the museum. Their query was satisfied and information on exhibits displayed in the gallery was provided. Publication material was also provided to them.

R.M.N.H., Mysore

#### Summer Vacation Programme

- a. *Green Teens: Summer Programme Green Teens organized for the class VIII to X students from 13<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010. 15 students were selected for the programme through entrance test. The programme is organized and handled by the Education Unit of the RMNH, Mysore.*

*Green Cubs: Summer Programme Green Cubs organized for the class V to VII students from 13<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010. 15 students were selected for the programme through entrance test. The programme is handled by the Technical Unit of the RMNH, Mysore.*

#### Observation of International Museum Day-2010 and 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RMNH, Mysore:

Observation of International Museum Day-2010 and 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RMNH, Mysore was held on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 at 10.30 a.m. with guest lecture by Dr. N.S. Rangaraj, Professor, P.G. Dept of Ancient History & Archeology, Manasagangotri, University of Mysore. The participants of Summer Vacation programme and general public participated in the programme. He spoke about different types of museums and their role, maintenance, safety, security and display of exhibits of Museums in Karnataka and India.

#### Public Visits:

*About 7699 Nos. of visitors upto 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010 had visited to this Museum which includes organized groups, students, family groups, tourists and individuals.*

### **1. R.M.N.H., Bhopal**

#### Written Quiz Competition:

Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Bhopal organized a written Quiz Competition about "Our Rich Biodiversity" on April 22, 2010. Thirty four students studying in class 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> participated in this competition from twenty schools of Bhopal. The objective of these competitions was to select national level "Young Environmentalist of the Year-2010".

#### Summer Vacation Programme:

Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Bhopal inaugurated a programme named as "Green Teens and Green Cubs" under Summer Vacation Programme-2010 on May 10, 2010. These programmes are arranged for two categories namely 'Green Teens' (Class VIII to X) and 'Green Cubs' (Class V to VII). The schedules for these programmes are from 10<sup>th</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.

### Collaborative Programme:

RMNH, Bhopal organized a film show on e-waste advocated by Central Pollution Control Board, and a lecture by Shri Abhilash Dubey, Madhya Pradesh Biodiversity Board, Bhopal with the collaboration of Environment Planning & Coordination Organization (EPCO), Bhopal on Earth Day - April 22, 2010.. 'Biodiversity – Network of Life' 'E-waste Management' and 'Freeze-Global Warming' were the short films screened for the students to impart the conservation of biodiversity.

The activities of "The museum school" by Parvarish was continued during this period also along with approximately forty deprived children.

### Visitors:

A total number of 4050 public visited the Museum during April 20 to May 19, 2010. This is more than the previous year record i.e. 3213 of the same period.

### R.M.N.H., Bhubaneswar

### Development of Northeast Biodiversity Gallery:

Work is under progress. Labels and panels on north-east biodiversity are yet to be completed. Illumination of the diorama is completed.

### Summer Vacation Programme

The Summer Vacation Programme was held from 5<sup>th</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2010 for two groups i.e. Green Teens (Std VIII-X) & Green Cubs (Std V-VII). A total no. of 30 students with 15 each participated in the programme.

The summer camp was organized for 09 days with various in-house and outreach educational activities. Students were exposed to wide biodiversity of Orissa.

- Ø In-house programmes:- Guided workshop was held in one session to teach the participants of both the groups about molding and casting with Plaster of Paris. Besides that, students took active part in clay modeling. Students learnt the techniques of dry and wet preservation. Green teens had quite good exposure at our reserve collection laboratory. Students had first hand experience in making potteries, learnt art & craft as demonstrated by the resource person. Snake show by Shri Subhendu Mallick (Resource Person) was organized for the participants to create awareness among them on myths and realities of snake followed by power point presentation on identification of snakes and medical treatment and along with live specimen demonstration.

- Ø Out reach programmes:- Apart from knowledge based information students enjoyed nature trail in Bhitarkanika National Park, Jaydev Vatika, Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary and visit to lion safari, tiger safari in Nandankanan Zoological Park was an enchantment for the participants. They also visited Central Poultry Development Organization and Regional Plant Resource Centre.

### Taxidermy Work

Two dead specimens of Bank Myna were collected from Nandankanan Zoological Park on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010 and are preserved.

### Exhibition on Wheels

The Exhibition on Wheels will travel to Khorda to participate in the Power Grid All Odisha Science Festival of Khorda Zilla Lok Utsav from 23<sup>rd</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2010 to create awareness among the students as well as general public on "Forest Wealth" and its importance to conserve it.

### Visitors

During the month the visitor's book recorded a total number of 2981 visitors from different organizations, institutions & family groups.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. B. Venugopal)

Director

Copy to:

- 1) Dr. G.V. Subrahmanyam, Adviser, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003.
- 2) Smt. Usha Subramaniam, Addl. Director, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003.