

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 August 26, 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 August, 2010:

1. N. M. N. H., NEW DELHI

Orientation Workshop for Trainee Teachers:

A 3 days orientation workshop for trainee teachers was organized from 11th to 13th August 2010 for the group of 35 students pursuing B.El.Ed in the Department of Elementary Education of Mata Sundri College for Women (University of Delhi). The theme of the workshop was “Using Museum Resources for Teaching Environmental Science” for creating awareness about the worth of museums in teaching and learning about our environment and help teachers learn to interpret Nature by developing science models to be used as teaching aids. The workshop was conducted from 10.30 am to 3.00 pm daily and feedback was taken from the participants.

A welcome address and introduction to the programme was provided by Mrs. Naaz Rizvi, Scientist-D followed by an interactive session with a theme of “Nature as a Teacher” by Dr. Faiyaz A. Khudsar, Scientist Incharge, Yamuna Biodiversity Park. They were explained about using the Discovery Boxes/Loan Kits for class-room teaching along with briefing of educational

programmes and activities organized by the museum. The session on the first day was ended with the visit to museum galleries and working with worksheets.

On second day a Lecture cum Demonstration session was held by the Art Section, NMNH where “Tips on making Low cost Science Models” was provided followed by group activity involving hands-on experience of making the science models by the participants. In the second half, the participants were taught “Nature Interpretation through Clay-Modelling” by the Modelling Section of the NMNH.

The participants went for Nature Study Tour to Aravalli Biodiversity Park on the third day of the workshop. Besides Nature walk through the park to learn about flora and fauna of the area, the participants were also taken to the Orchidarium, Fernery, Herbal Medicinal Garden, Butterfly park and Wetlands where they got a chance to observe the rare plants and learnt a lot about relationship and interdependence of living organisms with their environment thus knowing how nature works in harmony.

School Visits and Family Groups:

1895 school students from 19 schools/institutes in Delhi & NCR visited NMNH. 1376 family groups/general visitors visited the museum.

Special Visits:

1. Forty students of vocational classes (paper craft, wood work, tailoring, photocopy, spiral binding, greeting card unit) and Paavan (hearing impaired) accompanied by 8 teachers and 4 attendants from “Aanchal” NDMC special school for mentally retarded visited museum on 3rd August 2010.
2. Amb. Preciosa S. Soliven, Ed. D., Secretary-General UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines accompanied by her Assistant visited NMNH and met the Director, NMNH on 4th August 2010.

“Growing up with Biodiversity”-

A media Literacy Project aimed at producing series of short films:

A 3 days workshop in collaboration with CHINH INDIA TRUST on “Growing up with Biodiversity”- A Media Literacy Project with children and young people was held from 26-28 July 2010 at NMNH and concluding session was held on 6th August 2010. This was a film making workshop initiated for children in Delhi and NCR to celebrate International Year of Biodiversity with children. The workshop invited 40 participants from 9 schools in the age group of 10–15 years. The films made by them would be webcast on Chinh Web Channel www.chinh.in and would be screened in schools and film festivals across the world. Children came up with their own scripts and then made video films or photo documentaries on them. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, NMNH. Addressing children at the museum auditorium, he introduced them to the theme – Biodiversity and the necessity to conserve it.

The second day opened with a film appreciation session where children saw and analyzed their footage from the day one of the workshop. This process not only helped children to reflect/introspect and retrospect their work but also inspired them to think about their concepts in visual language. 3rd day opened with screening of 6 of the films made by the children during the workshop. Among 6 films, three were ready with the visuals for reflection of the students. These were Anant, Tigers & Centipede. The remaining three films were played with the ready audio tracks which were about song on biodiversity, a small social spot and a poem.

At the end of the workshop, Dr. B. Venugopal joined the children for the final screening of the films made by them. This was followed by a concluding speech by him in which he appreciated how the children documented their own workshop. He also appreciated utilization of the audio-visual medium to instill sensitivity among the children towards biodiversity & environmental conservation. Children were invited on stage by CHINH to receive their group photograph mementoes from Dr. B. Venugopal. The workshop ended on a positive note with a visionary plan by CHINH and NMNH to organize such workshops in Regional Centres of NMNH and conclude with a film festival on Biodiversity marking the celebration of International Year of Biodiversity. Children were visibly excited at the idea of getting their films included in the film festival.

On Friday the 6th August 2010, the films produced and other work done during the 3 days workshop were released and presented to the Media and on CHINH WEB CHANNEL at the museum auditorium in the presence of NMNH staff. The CDs of copies of the short films were gifted to the museum for public presentation.

R.M.N.H., Mysore

Special Wildlife film show was organized on “Truth about Tigers” in collaboration with Voice for Wildlife Trust Advocating the interest of wildlife, Mysore. About 200 public and environmentalist attended the film show.

About 40 Nos. of D.Ed.(Teacher Trainee) Visually Impaired students from Helen Keller teacher training college, Mysore had visited the Museum and TFL Garden as a special visit.

Film Shows:

Regular film shows from 12.00 Noon to 1.00 P.M. and 4.00 to 5.00 P.M. were arranged for visitors.

R.M.N.H., Bhopal

Scrap Book Exhibition

Dainik Bhaskar Media Group/DB Corp.Ltd., Bhopal organized a Scrap Book Exhibition on July 13, 2010 in collaboration with RMNH, Bhopal. 500 Scrap Books were displayed in this

exhibition. 681 public visited that exhibition. The aim of the exhibition was to inform and educate kids on environmental topics like global warming and water conservation.

Meeting of CPCB

Central Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office (Central), Bhopal organized one day interactive meeting on August 13, 2010. "Green Building" was the theme of the above said meeting. Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist 'E' attended the meeting. Tata Engineering Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi official were the resource persons.

W.W.F. Programme

W.W.F. Bhopal organized a workshop on Young Climate Savers (YCS) on August 17, 2010 in collaboration with RMNH, Bhopal. 60 participants including teachers and students from 20 YCS schools participated in the workshop.

Participation

Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist 'E' attended a programme at Van Vihar National Park on July 28, 2010 on Bats, Bears organized by Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu.

NGO Collaboration Programme

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

Foot Falls

A total number of 4828 public visited the Museum.

Visit of Organized Groups

13 groups of students/teachers were provided guided tours at Museum's galleries.

Film Shows:

Regular film shows from 3.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. were arranged for visitors. The rare films received during the CMS Wild Life Film Festival were screened which gained greater applause from the wildlife enthusiast and general public.

R.M.N.H., Bhubaneswar

Painting competition to commemorate 6th anniversary.

The museum has organized a painting competition on 8th August, 2010 for students of class V to VII and VIII to X on the topic 'Birds in a tree' and "Biodiversity of my school campus" to commemorate 6th anniversary of the museum. About 300 students participated in the competition.

Written Quiz competition for +2, +3 and Post Graduate students

The museum organized a written quiz competition on the topic nature, environment, wildlife and biodiversity conservation on 8th August, 2010 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm to commemorate 6th anniversary of the museum. The winners were awarded prizes and certificates on the occasion of 6th anniversary day.

Special programme for Hearing Impaired.

The museum has organized special programme for hearing impaired on 6th August 2010 in the museum. The programme included exposure visit to the museum galleries and competitions like clay modelling, sand art, craft and painting. About 80 students from BBC school for the Deaf and Shree Harsha Mishra Memorial school participated in the activities.

APC Sub-committee meeting

The first sub-committee meeting of the Advisory Planning Committee of the RMNH was held on 9th August 2010 in the Conference Room of the museum under the Chairmanship of Prof. H.N.Dash. The meeting discussed various developmental activities of the museum including review of progress of work on Northeast biodiversity gallery and the works of CPWD to be undertaken during the year on priority basis.

6th Anniversary of Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhubaneswar

The museum completed its 6th year of service to the public on 10th August 2010. To mark the occasion, Museum has organized various competitions like painting and quiz for school and college students. Dr. Sruti Mohapatra, Chief Executive, Swabhimani, State Disability Information and Research Centre graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Dr. V.P.Upadhyay, Director, MOEF, Eastern Regional Office, Bhubaneswar was the guest speaker, Dr B.Venugopal, Director, NMNH was the Chief Guest and Prof. B.K.Behura, Former Vice Chancellor, Utkal University graced the occasion as president of the function. Prizes were distributed by the guests to the winners of various competitions held to mark the anniversary.

Display of 47.3 ft skeleton of baleen whale

The processed skeleton of 47.3 ft baleen whale collected from Gopalpur sea beach was displayed for public view in the museum on the occasion of anniversary day.

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Exhibition on wheels

The mobile exhibition was on display in Bhagvatdev Vidya Peetha, Junkia, Khurda on 12th August, 2010 in association with Centre for Environment Studies, Bhubaneswar in which about 1200 students visited the exhibition from nearby schools.

Visit of Public

During the month visitor book recorded a total number of 2664 visitors from different organization, institutions and 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.