

**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 January 25, 2011

To

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

**Sub: Monthly Summary for the Cabinet – reg.**

Sir,

The National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi and its Regional Museums organised the following educational programmes, in addition to its normal activities, during the month of January, 2011.

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

**Braille Day (4<sup>th</sup> January, 2011)**

NMNH makes effort to involve the section of our society that includes specially challenged children who have immense capacity to understand and engulf the knowledge imparted to them. Variety of programmes and activities are conducted by the museum involving these children to achieve its mission of conservation of nature.

To commemorate Louise Braille Day, a special programme for visually challenged children was conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011. An “*Essay Writing Competition in Braille*” was organized on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011 in two categories – Junior Group: class V to VII and Senior Group: class VIII to X. Total number of participation was 53 from 07 schools for visually challenged children in Delhi. The external judges were deputed by NMNH to evaluate the copies. First, Second, Third and Five Encouragement Prizes in each category will be given.

**Topics for essay writing:**

**Junior Gp.- . Save trees to save environment  
Save environment to save life.**

**Senior Gp.- . To ensure a wealthy and worthy future  
Always live in harmony with the nature**

**“Declamation Contest”** was organized on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 for visually challenged children from classes VIII to XI. 22 students from 08 Schools for visually challenged children in Delhi participated in the programme. First, Second, Third and Five Encouragement Prizes will be given to the winners.

**Topic for Declamation:**

**Nature is full of bounty and beauty  
To protect this is every citizen’s duty**

**School Visits:**

7878 students from schools in Delhi & NCR visited NMNH galleries. Educational Staff interacted with the students in the galleries. Museum publications were provided to the accompanied teachers. The schools included MCD primary schools, Government/Govt. Aided schools, Public schools and NGO groups.

**Family Groups / General Visitors:**

Around 2321 general visitors visited the museum. Their query was satisfied and information on exhibits displayed in the gallery was provided. Publication material was also distributed to them.

**2. R.M.N.H., MYSORE**

**Preparation for the Exhibition on “Biodiversity of Western Ghats”**

The exhibition on “Biodiversity of Western Ghats” was fabricated in the Museum’s temporary exhibition hall and is awaiting for the inaugural date to be finalized by the Minister’s office.

**Participation in the All India Annual Conference of the Museums Association of India**

Shri C. Rajasundaram, Scientist D, Shri B.S. Yogendra, Shri H.R. Rajendra, Shri Kaliah and Shri Ramu of this Museum participated in the All India Annual Conference of the Museums Association of India during 15 – 17 January 2011 at RMNH, Bhubaneswar and presented papers.

**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.

**3. R.M.N.H., BHOPAL**

**Participation**

(a) Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist ‘E’ attended All India Annual Conference of Museums Association of India (MAI) on Museums, Accessibility and the Differently abled Visitors during January 15-18, 2011 at Bhubneswar. Shri Nand Lal, Exhibit Preparator, Shri Manik Lal Gupta, Educational Assistant, Shri

Navin Kumar, Artist, Shri Sukhchain Prasad Shrivastava, UDC and Shri Urba Dutt, LDC also attended the said conference.

(b) Shri Manoj Kumar Sharma, Taxidermist attended State Level Environmental Prize Programme and Conference on Environmental Management in Mine Industries on January 10, 2011 at Hotel Jahannuma Palas, Bhopal. The said programme organized by Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board and Residential & Environment Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

**Study of Birds:** The bird watching studies earlier initiated at Shahapura lake has been continued by Scientist-E.

**NGO Collaboration Programme:** The activities of “The museum school” by Parvarish was continued during this period also along with approximately forty deprived children.

**Foot Falls:** A total number of 5832 public visited the Museum during December 20, 2010 to January 19, 2011.

**Visits of Organized Groups:** 4 groups of students/teachers were provided guided tours at museum’s galleries during December 20 to January 19, 2011.

**Film Shows:** Regular film shows from 3.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. were arranged for visitors in the eco-theatre of museum. The rare films received during the CMS Wild Life Film Festival were screened which gained greater applause from the wildlife enthusiast and general public.

#### **4. R.M.N.H., BHUBANESWAR**

##### **Visits of public**

During the first month of New Year visitor book recorded a total number of 25,119 visitors from different organizations, institutions and family groups.

##### **Competitions and activities for differently abled students**

Museum organized various competitions like clay modeling, painting, sand art and craft for hearing impaired students in the museum campus on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2011. There was a touch, feel & learn competition for visually challenged students also on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011. About 100 students took part in the above competitions. Winners of the competitions were awarded with prizes & certificates during MAI valedictory function on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

##### **All India Conference on “Museums, Accessibility and Differently abled visitors”**

The National Museum of natural History (NMNH), New Delhi through Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Bhubaneswar and Museums Association of India (MAI) organized a three (03) days All India Museums Conference from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 on the theme “Museums, Accessibility and Differently abled visitors”.

The conference was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik. Shri Debi Prasad Mishra, Hon’ble Minister of Higher Education, Culture & Tourism was the Guest of Honour. Prof. (Mrs.) Priyambada Mohanty-Hejmadi, Former Vice Chancellor, Sambalpur University & Chairperson, Advisory Planning Committee, RMNH, Bhubaneswar Presided over the function. Dr. Sruti Mohapatra,

Chief Executive, Swabhiman delivered the Keynote address. Dr. C. B. Patel, Superintendent, Odisha State Museum also addressed the audience and presented the glimpses of State Museum. During the occasion besides release of MAI journal, eminent Museologists & Conservator namely Dr. Saroj Ghosh, Dr. Sadashiv Sorakshekar and Dr. N. Harinarayana were awarded with MAI life time achievement award. Website of MAI was also launched during the function by the Chief Guest. Dr. Motichandra Memorial lecture on the topic “Youth in India Art” was delivered by Dr. Shayamal Kanti Chakraborty, Former Director, Indian Museum, Kolkata.

Valedictory function was held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 with prize distribution to winners of competitions conducted for differently abled students. Mrs. Kasturi Mohapatra, State Commissioner for Persons with Disability was the Chief Guest of the function. Cultural programme by differently abled students of Swabhiman, State Museum and Natya Chetana were added an attraction to showcase the cultural heritage of Odisha along with visit to State Museum. During the conference between 15 - 17 January 2011 seven (07) sessions were held which were chaired by eminent scholars like Dr. S.M.Nair, Dr. T.S.Sridhar, Dr. Sujit Som, Dr. R.C.Agarwal. Twenty (20) papers were presented by delegates related to the theme of the conference as well as some general papers.

#### **Exhibition on “NMNH Initiatives in Museum Accessibility”**

There was an exhibition on NMNH Initiatives in Museum Accessibility during the MAI conference. Different activities and programmes conducted for the benefit of differently abled visitors in National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi and Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar were highlighted in the exhibition. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) and Swabhiman were also put up their stalls to showcase their efforts in the field.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. B. Venugopal)  
Director

Copy to:

- (1) Dr. G. V. Subrahmanyam, Scientist ‘G’, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110001.
- (2) Smt. Prema Mohan, Under Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110001.

(Dr. B. Venugopal)  
Director