

**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 February 25, 2011

To

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

Sub: Monthly Report for the Cabinet – reg.

Sir,

The National Museum of Natural History and its Regional Museums organized the following educational programmes, in addition to its normal activities, during the month of February, **2011**.

1. N.M.N.H., New Delhi

Programme for Special Children (1st to 8th February 2011)

National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) organizes a variety of educational programmes and extension activities throughout the year for students in particular and public in general. It also makes effort to involve the section of our society that includes special children who have immense capacity to understand and capture the knowledge imparted to them.

Programme for special children is an annual programme organized by the Museum in the month of February. The aim of this programme is to create an equal opportunity for children with disabilities and bring awareness among them regarding environment, nature and wildlife through different educational activities. This programme was organized by the Division of Educational Services from 1st to 8th February. Besides Division of Educational Services, staff from Art and Modelling Units of the Museum was also involved to make the programme a success. Various schools/institutions/NGOs concerned with special children from Delhi and NCR were invited to participate in this programme. The activities were conducted for four categories of special children viz. Visually challenged, Physically challenged, Hearing impaired and Mentally challenged.

On 1st February 2011 Visually Challenged children participated in Animal Clay Modelling workshop. On the occasion of "**World Wetlands Day**," i.e. on **2nd February 2011** Physically Challenged and Hearing

Impaired Children were taken to the National Zoological Park, Mathura Road, New Delhi to interact with migratory birds. They also had a session on Origami art and clay modeling to gain a better insight of the nature around them. On the spot prizes were declared by the Zoo authorities and given to the participants who stood First, Second, and third in both the activities. On 3rd February 2011 Hearing Impaired and Mentally Challenged children were involved in hands on activities as collage painting and Paint Nature on paper respectively. To encourage the participants, animal clay-modeling and nature painting contests were conducted for Hearing Impaired, Mentally Challenged and Physically Challenged children on 4th February 2011.

Approximately 550 children along with 125 teachers/parents participated in the programme. Students of Masters of Design at National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi, who had taken design for Special Needs as an elective course in their semester, took permission to interact with these students and observe relief cases.

The Visually Challenged children were similarly judged for their knowledge towards environment and nature through Essay Writing in Braille (Junior and senior Category) and Declamation Contest on 18th and 20th January 2011 to commemorate the Louis Braille Day (4th January 2011).

All the winners of Animal clay-Modeling Contest, Nature Painting contest, declamation contest and essay writing in braille were given prizes at the valedictory function of the programme for special children that was organized on 8th February 2011 at the Museum Auditorium. Mrs. Indira Chaudhri, principal, Akshay Pratishthan, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, the Chief Guest, presided over the function.

School visits:

18,997 school students from 129 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. The schools included MCD primary schools, Government/Govt. Aided schools, Public schools and NGO groups.

Family Groups / General Visitors:

Around 1551 general visitors visited the museum. Their queries were satisfied and information on exhibits displayed in the gallery was provided. Publication material was also provided to them.

Special visiting groups:

A group of 98 students pursuing Elementary Teacher Education (ETE) from D.I.E.T., Dilshad Garden, Delhi-95 visited NMNH along with 6 faculty members on 11th February, 2011. On 15th February 2011, 16 students pursuing ECCE from Daisy Dales Institute of Education, East of Kailash, New Delhi were taken around the Museum galleries for exhibit interpretation and were made aware of Museum's role in Education by education staff of the Museum.

2. R.M.N.H., Mysore

The following activities and programmes were conducted during the month of February 2011.

Programme for the Persons with Disabilities:

Programme for the persons with disabilities was organised from 2-12 February, 2011 for different categories of the disabled students as follows:

- (a) eMntally Challenged Students:** Painting Programme conducted for junior & senior groups from 2nd to 9th Feb 2011 at various schools of Mysore.
- (b) Physically Challenged students:** written quiz on Environment was conducted for Physically Challenged students at JSSPH, SJCE Campus, Mysore on 10.2.2011.
- (c) Hearing Impaired Students:** Modelling Competition was conducted for the Hearing impaired students on 11.2.2011 at RMNH Mysore.
- (d) Visually Impaired Students:** Environmental Songs Competition was conducted for the Visually Impaired Students at Govt. School for Blind, Bamboo Bazaar, Mysore on 12.2.2011.

Valedictory and Prize distribution function was organised for the Persons with Disabilities on 15.2.2011 at RMNH auditorium. Prof. M.S.Venugopal (visually impaired person), Visiting Prof. of JSS Law College, Mysore was the chief Guest on the occasion and he also delivered a lecture to the students and general public.

Programme for the Declaration of Heritage Trees:

RMNH, Mysore participated in the programme for the Declaration of 4 Neem Heritage Trees on 6.2.2011. The programme was organised in collaboration with the Committee for Protection of Heritage Trees, Mysore. Students and General Public participated in the function.

Observation of National Science Day-2011

RMNH, Mysore is going to organise National Science Day-2011 on 28.2.2011. on that day RMNH, Mysore will organise a Magic with science programme and a Guest Lecture for the School Students and General public.

Preparation for the Exhibition on "Biodiversity of Western Ghats"

The exhibiton on "Biodiversity of Western Ghats" was fabricated in the Museum's temporary exhibition hall and awaiting for the inaugural date to be finalized by the Hon'ble Minister for Environment & Forests.

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

Teachers Orientation Workshop

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal organized three days Teachers Orientation Workshop on School Loan Kits during January 27th -29th, 2011. Twenty two Teachers drawn from thirteen schools of Bhopal participated in the workshop. Ms. H.K. Sanhotra, Assistant Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Bhopal region was the Chief Guest for the valedictory session.

World Wetland Day

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal observed 'World Wetland Day' on February 2, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. Eighty students and staff of Museum School participated in this programme. The students drew a picture of Terai cricket frog and their prey cricket which are found in open grasslands close to permanent pools of India and Nepal. The resource materials provided by Z.O.O Outreach, Coimbatore were utilized. Shri Manik Lal Gupta, Educational Assistant co-ordinated this programme assisted by Shri Nand Lal, Exhibit Preparator.

V-day-Butterflies at RMNH

RMNH displayed Shri Aseem Shrivastava, IFS photographs on butterflies to show the way to youth's to romance nature which have plenty of such lovable interludes. Public visited museum from 13th -28th February, 2011 to have a unique experience with butterflies and they were each supplied a motif of butterfly freely. The copies of photographs of the forester Shri Aseem Shrivastava, I.F.S. displayed conveyed the role of butterflies in the ecosystem services especially that of "Male Butterflies" which had the tremendous potentiality for pollination leading for afforestation. This low key programme attracted more than 18 news coverage and Doordarshan and almost all local channels evinced keen interest in the programme. Shri Gautam Singh Yadav, Photographer and Shri Devender Sharma co-ordinated this programme.

Participation:

Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist-E delivered a power point presentation on Biodiversity on January 30,2011 in the National Seminar on Biodiversity and livelihood issues at Barkuttauh University, Bhopal. Also he acted as member of panel discussion. He was also invited by Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology on February 2,2011 to evaluate the projects awarded as an experts.

Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist-E attended a evaluation meeting as desired. Shri Manij K. Sharma, Taxidermist was deputed to Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu to attend the course on Herpetology from 24th January to 7th February, 2011.

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 5011 public visited the Museum during January 20, 2011 to February 19, 2011.

Visits of Organized Groups

05 groups of students/teachers were provided guided tours at museum's galleries during January 20, 2011 to February 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 wild life enthusiast and general public.

4. R.M.N.H., Bhubaneswar

Visits of public:

During the month visitor book recorded a total number of 22,958 visitors from different organizations, institutions and family groups.

Exhibition on Wheels:

The mobile exhibition was on display in KITT University campus from 14th to 16th February 2011 during the Annual Techno-Management Festival, Kritansh-2011. About 4000 students visited the exhibition.

Post sanction workshop for NEAC programme in collaboration with CES:

In collaboration with Centre for Environmental Studies, Govt. of Odisha Museum organised a two days workshop for NGOs, Schools & Colleges in the Museum campus on 17th & 18th February 2011. During the workshop training on different activities and programmes that can be taken up at school/village level for creating awareness was imparted to participating organizations for successful completion of programme on the theme "Biodiversity Conservation". Shri Bhagirathi Behera, Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary, Forest and Environment Department was the Chief Guest during the programme.

WILDSCREEN- World's Largest Wildlife and Environmental Film Festival-2011 in collaboration with British Council & CEE-East:

British Council in association with Regional Museum of Natural History and Centre for Environment Education, Bhubaneswar organized Wildscreen Festival (Global Wildlife & Environmental Film Festival) on 19th & 20th February, 2011. The festival was inaugurated in the

presence of Mr Richard Edwards, Wildscreen, UK, Dr Ted Oakes, BBC Natural History Unit, UK, Ms. Radhika Singh, British Council, Kolkata, Shri Ajit Das Eminent Cine Artist, Mr. S.K.Patnaik, Eminent Wildlife Experts, Dr. D.P.Rath, CEE-East and Dr. L.N.Acharjyo, Eminent Wildlife Expert. The two day festival witnessed screening of some of the most acclaimed wildlife and environmental films including winners of the Green Oscar awards. The programme also included master classes on various aspects of film making like Trends in Wildlife Film making in the Indian context and ten rules of T.V. etc.

The films screened as part of this year's Festival have an environmental focus, including engaging stories about climate-change and aim to inspire and enthuse those who were interested in preserving and protecting India's precious biodiversity. The following films were screened during the festival.

01. The Man Who Stopped the Desert
02. Birds
03. North-Eastern Dairies-Seeking Wildlife in the Eastern Himalayas
04. How Earth Made Us- Human Planet
05. Green
06. The Wild Meat Trail
07. Challenges of Life

About 2000 people witnessed the film screening and about 50 participated in the master classes held on 19th and 20th February.

Special Visit:

- 170 students of Children with special needs, Dhenkanal visited on 1.2.2011
- 50 members from Dept. of Pali & Prakrit Nagpur University visited on 3.2.2011
- 80 students of children with special needs, Kurda visited on 6.2.2011
- 50 students of children with special needs, Nayagarh visited on 16.2.2011

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. B. Venugopal)

Director

Copy to:

- (1) Smt. Prema Mohan, Under Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003.

(Dr. B. Venugopal)

Director