

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

**FICCI Museum Building,
Tansen Marg,
New Delhi-110001.**

No. 13(6)/2010-11/NMNH
2011

Dated the December 22,

To

Shri R.K. Agarwal,
Deputy Secretary (GC),
Room No.1030,
Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi-110003.

Sub: Monthly Report for the Cabinet – reg.

Sir,

Please find enclosed the Monthly Report of the National Museum of Natural History for the month of **December, 2011**.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. B. Venugopal)
Director

Copy to:

Shri M.M. Pandey, Under Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003.

National Museum of Natural History
(Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India)
New Delhi-110001

Division of Educational Services (Visitor Services)
Monthly Report for the month of December, 2011

Out-reach Programme for Specially-Challenged Children

To commemorate International Day for Disabled (3rd December 2011) an Out-reach programme for Specially-Challenged Children was conducted by NMNH. The educational staff of the museum visited various institutions and organizations to interact with students who otherwise could not visit the museum. Through different activities children are made to understand their environment and thus inculcate love for nature and wildlife.

On **2nd December 2011** educational staff from the museum visited Andh Mahavidyalaya and Institute for the Blind, Panchkuian Road, N. Delhi and interacted with visually-challenged students who then participated in Story Writing in Braille.

On **8th December 2011** educational staff from the museum interacted with physically-challenged students at Institute for the Physically Handicapped, Vishnu Digamber Marg, N. Delhi. These students did nature painting, worked with worksheets and solved word puzzles.

Nature Study Tour to Aravalli Biodiversity Park

The winners of NMNH – HT PACE Interschool Essay Writing Competition visited Aravalli Biodiversity Park, New Delhi on **10th December 2011**. The visit to ABP helped participants learn more about the variety of plants and other related information on plants, animals and birds. Dr. M. Shah Hussain, Scientist Incharge, ABP, explained children the importance of the Biodiversity Park. They visited Butterfly Conservatory where they observed various types of butterflies, their host plants and life-cycle of butterflies. In the Medicinal Herbs Garden they observed various medicinal plants learned about different body ailments cured by them. A short film was shown to the participants on the growth of ABP from a wasteland and mining area to a green jungle and its becoming habitat to various animals and birds.

In the concluding event, children participated in a written quiz based on the information they received during the visit. Participants also made a promise to conserve nature, work towards making the environment greener and spread awareness among the masses.

Prize Distribution Function

The function was held on **17th December 2011** in the museum auditorium. Sh. M. M. Pandey, Under-Secretary, MoEF was the Chief Guest and Mrs. Enu Rodrigues, Manager-Curriculum, HT PACE was the Guest of Honour at the function. Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, NMNH gave the welcome address on this occasion. The winners of Nature Painting Contest (held on 16th Sept. 2011) and NMNH-HT PACE Essay Writing Competition (held on 14th Nov. 2011) received individual prizes, certificates and token gifts. NMNH-HT PACE Rolling Trophies were awarded to the schools of first prize winners in junior and senior categories.

School Visits and Family Groups:

47,250 school students and teachers from 109 schools/institutes in Delhi & NCR visited NMNH. 2689 family groups/general visitors visited the museum.

The educational staff interacted with the students and general visitors in the museum galleries for exhibit interpretation. Their queries were satisfied and information on exhibits displayed in the gallery was provided. Publication material was also provided to them.

Nature on Screen:

Films on the themes of Environment, Nature and Wildlife are screened in the museum auditorium twice a day at 11 am and 3 pm, for the visiting public and school students.

International Conference:

The Director, NMNH, was invited by the Natural History Museum, London (UK) as chairman of Panel 1 of the international conference on “Wallich and Indian Natural History” held during 6-7 December 2011. The conference was organized by the NHM in collaboration with the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew and British Library. The Director held discussion with scientist 1 Museologists at NHM, Tring Museum and RBG (Kew) regarding Indian collection of Natural History held in Museum/Garden in UK.

R.M.N.H., Bhopal

Programme in Chhattisgarh:

RMNH, Bhopal organized a “Poem Compose and Recite Competition” at Mayaram Surjan Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Choubey Colony Raipur in collaboration with Chhattisgarh Regional Science Centre Society, Raipur coordinated by Mayaram Surjan Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Choubey Colony Raipur on December 16, 2011. Prof. S. K. Panday, Vice Chancellor, Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur was the Chief Guest while Dr. P.K Bhat, Director of General, Chhattisgarh Regional Science Centre Society, Raipur was the Guest of Honour. The other Guest of Honour was Principal Ms. Seema Verma.

The topic of the competition was “Nature at Your Service”. There were 143 different students submitted their poems in Hindi and 9 students for English. Among these students 27 students for Hindi & 9 students for English were selected for recite the poems by jury members. Dr. P.K. Shrivastava, Scientist, Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Bhopal, Dr. Sudesh Weghmare, ACF, Bhopal and Dr. Madhu Jain, Professor, Excellence College, Bhopal were the jury member at Raipur for evaluation of poems.

The Chief Guest and Programme President distributed prizes to the winners and participants of the competition.

Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist-E was deputed to Raipur alongwith Shri Manik Lal Gupta, E.A., Shri Gautam Singh Yadav, Photographer and Shri Anil K. Sonparatoe to organized this programme. Shri Manik Lal Gupta, E.A., was the co-ordinator of the programme.

Collaboration:

National Law Institute University, Bhopal organized one day’s workshop was ‘Save Tiger’. Dr. Raka Areya from National Law Institute University Bhopal, Shri Ajay Dubey from Paryatna,

Shri Kumar Sambhav from Down to Earth, New Delhi, Caption Ruchi Vijaywargia, Managing Director, People Samachar, Bhopal and Shri Abhilash Khandekar, Editor, Danik Bhaskar, Bhopal participated in above said workshop.

Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist-E, RMNH, Bhopal acted in the workshop as panel member along with D. Ram Prasad, Chairman, Advisory Planning Committee, RMNH, Bhopal. Shri Manoj Kumar Sharma, Taxidemist, RMNH, Bhopal co-ordinated the arrangements.

CREW (NGO) & RMNH: A meeting with Shri Lalit Sastri, Editor, Asian Age as well Secretary CRW (Crusade For Revival of Environment & Wildlife, Bhopal) was held by Dr. S.Sethuramalingam, Scientist-E at RMNH, Bhopal to finalise Central India High Land Wildlife Film Festival during January-February, 2012 in collaboration with RMNH, Bhopal.

Visit of public:

A total number of 4587 public visited the Museum during the month of December, 2011. 11 groups of students/teachers were provided guided tours at museum's galleries during November 20, 2011 to December 21, 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.

R.M.N.H., Bhubanswar

Visits of public:

During the month visitor book recorded a total number of 18,000 visitors from different organizations, institutions and family groups.

Teacher's Orientation Workshop (12th - 14th December, 2011)

The Museum has organized a Teacher's Orientation workshop from 12th – 14th December, 2011 to highlight on various aspects of nature, environment, wildlife and bio-diversity to create an understanding about the need to protect and conserve nature and natural resources to meet the needs of the present generation as well as future generation through well informed teachers. The workshop enabled them to have hands- on training on collection, preservation and field identification of flora and fauna and gave an insight into proper use of museum resources for better teaching and learning process.

On the first day of the workshop, on 12th December, 2011, Dr. V.P. Upadhyay, Director, MoE&F, Eastern Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and Mrs. Bijaya Kumari Patra, Deputy Director (Science), Directorate of Teacher Education and SCERT, Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar inaugurated the workshop as guests of honour. Shri G.N. Indresha, Scientist-C, RMNH, Bhubaneswar delivered the welcome and introductory speech. Dr. L.A.K. Singh, Former Senior Wildlife Research Officer, Govt. of Odisha delivered a talk on wildlife of Odisha and its

biodiversity. All the participants of the programme were exposed to an interactive and guided Museum gallery visit to understand some basic concepts and glimpses of biodiversity of Odisha.

On 13th December, 2011, Dr. Kishore Chandra Mohanty, Expert, Science, Board of Secondary Education, Odisha delivered a lecture on Environmental Education. Snake show by Shri Subhendu Mallick 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. The participants were given an opportunity to try their hands in clay modelling where they were able to take mould and casts of different animal and plants in the medium of plaster of Paris, clay and fibre glass followed with a brief idea of drawing of various animals and birds through a class “Drawings made easy- some hints” by Shri D.B. Rao, Artist. Dr. Chittaranjan Mishra, Sr. Scientist, Author and Science Popularizer delivered a talk on role of teachers in popularizing science in the society and how to get success through exploring the science.

On 14th December, 2011, participants learnt the techniques of dry and wet preservation of specimens for reference and study in the laboratory to understand biodiversity. Dr. J.K Panigrahi, H.O.D, Zoology Department, Shri Jaydev College of Education and Technology delivered a lecture on “Environmental Disasters - a scientific approach to combat”. At the end of the programme participatory certificates were given to the participants by Shri Vinod Chandra Padhi, Ex- Chief Engineer, Govt. of Odisha who was the Chief Guest of the function.

Odisha Environment Congress-2011 (22nd – 24th December, 2011)

Odisha Environment Congress-2011 is being organized from 22nd to 24th December, 2011 on the focal theme “Forest Resources of Odisha- Issues, Challenges and Potentials”. This congress is jointly organized by Regional Museum of Natural History, Centre for Environment and Development, Human Development Foundation and Dept. of Forest and Environment, Govt. of Odisha. Inauguration of the congress was held on 22nd December 2011 in the presence of Shri. Debiprasad Mishra, Hon’ble Minister, Forest and Environment, Govt. of Odisha and Dr. P. J. Dillip Kumar, IFS, Director General of Forests, MoE&F and Shri P. N. Padhi, PCCF, Odisha.

Special Visit:

Dr. P. J. Dillip Kumar, IFS, Director General of Forests, MoE&F, Govt. of India

Guided visit was provided for about 146 students from Bhakti Vedanta Gurukul & International School, Vrundaban on 16.12.2011. A special film show on “Snakes of India” was shown to them. About 61 students from De Nobili Hindi High School, Dhanbad, Jharkhand visited the Museum on 17.12.2011.

About 49 students with their teachers from Sankardev Sishu Niketon, Dhakuakhana, Assam visited the museum on 21.12. 2011 and a special film show on “The wild meat trail” was screened for them. 78 students from Patha Bhavan, Kolkata visited on 20.12.2011