

**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

Dated the January 24, 2012

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 January, **2012**.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. B. Venugopal)
Director

Copy to:

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

Monthly Report for the month of January, 2012

NMNH, NEW DELHI

Winter Nature Camp-2012

To make children aware of Delhi's rich natural heritage and to observe the natural flora and fauna of the region, a 3-day Winter Nature Camp will be organized for the children in Delhi & NCR. The nature camp will be held on 27th, 28th & 29th January 2012. 15 children from classes VII, VIII & IX are selected for the nature camp. The advertisement, inviting the children for the nature camp, appeared in the newspapers on 30th December 2011. The registration of the interested children was done from 3rd to 5th January 2012 followed by face-to-face interaction for final selection on 7th January 2012 and orientation about the nature camp on 11th Jan. 2012.

The schedule for Winter Nature Camp is as follows:

27th & 28th January 2012 (Two days and one night) at Aravalli Biodiversity Park

29th January 2012 (Day schedule) at Asola Wildlife Sanctuary

Louise Braille Day (4th January 2012)

To commemorate Louise Braille Day, Division of Educational Services, NMNH conducted competitions for visually challenged children from Delhi & NCR. On 20th January 2012 visually challenged children from different schools for the Blind in Delhi & NCR participated in Essay Writing in Braille in two categories. The topics for the two categories were as follows:

Junior category (classes V-VII): "Make the country clean and green,
Come together we all should be keen"

Senior category (classes VIII-XI): "For a healthy and better life,
Please protect the forest life"

On 27th January 2012 visually challenged children from different schools for the Blind in Delhi & NCR will participate in Declamation Contest. The contest is for the students from classes VIII- XI. The topic of the Declamation Contest is: "Man is such a creature, who always disobeyed the nature, has polluted the environment and made wildlife endanger"

Programme for Specially Challenged Children

The annual programme for specially challenged children in four categories (visually, physically, hearing & mentally challenged) will be held from 31st January to 8th February 2012.

Visitors:

5,877 school students and teachers from 31 schools/institutes in Delhi & NCR visited NMNH museum galleries. 4,184 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.

Meeting of Senior Officials:

A meeting of Senior officials of the NMNH was organised during 10-11 January 2012 in order to review the Annual Action Plan for the current financial year and prepare new AAP for the next FY 2012-13. Scientists, other officers and other officials from all the offices under the umbrella of the NMNH (New Delhi, Mysore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and Sawai Madhopur) attended. There was a session on Roadmaps to the new Regional Museums at Sawai Madhopur and Gangtok.

An Expert Committee meeting was also arranged in order to give inputs into the proposals for the 12th Five Year Plan. Dr M V Nair (Professor at National Museum Institute), Dr Sudha Gopalakrishnan (Executive Director, "Sahapaedia") and Dr. H.B. Singh (Scientist G and Head, Raw Materials Museum and Herbarium, NISCAIR) presented their expert opinions for incorporation in the 12th Five Year Plan proposals.

Meeting in National innovation Council:

The Director was invited on the 12th January 2012 to discuss with Chairman and Member Secretary of the National innovation Council based in the Planning Commission, possible involvement of the NMNH in establishing Innovation Centres/ cubicles in its six Museums (New Delhi, Mysore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Sawai Madhopur and Gangtok) as well as to help in establishing such centres in all districts in the country.

R.M.N.H. MYSORE

Winter Nature Camp-2011-12

Winter Nature Camp was organized from 3rd to 6th January, 2012 at Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary (North Karnataka). A team of 15 participants with 05 No. of resource persons and supporting staff left Mysore to Dandeli by office Vehicle TATA-407 reached Kulgi Nature Camp, Dandeli at 08.30 pm. On 04.01.2012 the camp started with the nature trail in dark as early as 5.00 am followed by a lecture- cum-slide show on the bio-diversity of Western Ghats by the expert Manu.K. This was followed by an activity of collecting different kinds of leaves to know the diversity among plants and to help them identify the plants. Afternoon session was exclusively planned for a trek to point called Cyntheri rocks made of igneous material of 300 feet in length. Evening session was on screening of films with a discussion on conservation of our flora and fauna.

The 2nd day, participants were taken to a jungle safari in the Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary where the students could see some animals and birds. After breakfast the students were taken for a nature trail to Scantha falls. During the trail the participants were exposed to some of the trees and birds. After lunch, the team was taken to the interpretation centre of the sanctuary and the recreated village to show the workmanship in making cement models by famous artist Solabakka Navar. In the evening the participants were divided into four teams to give their feed-back about the camp. Participatory certificates were handed over to the participants by the expert. At night films on environmental conservation as well as on wildlife were screened. On 06.01.2012 as per the programme the team left Kulgi Nature Camp at 5.30 am and on the way visited the rock garden created by the above said artist and returned back to Mysore at 11.30 pm at night.

Programme for disabled:

Programme for Children with Disabilities will be held from 24th January to 7th February 2012.

Visitors:

During the month, a total number of 24,258 visitors from different organizations, institutions and family group visited the Museum.

Film Shows:

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

R.M.N.H., BHOPAL

Winter Nature Camp:

A Winter Nature Camp (WNC) was arranged at Amarkantak (Achanakmar – Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve) during January 10-12, 2012. Twelve participants from various schools of Bhopal participated in this nature camp. Shri P.K. Khatri, Range Officer, Amarkantak; Shri V.K. Diwan, free lance Environmentalist and Shri R.N. Verma, Chairman, Herbal Nursery were the resource person at Biosphere Reserve.

Participation:

Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist-E attended 14th Astronomy Olympiad at Regional Science Centre, Bhopal organized by Madhya Pradesh Vigyan Sabha, Bhopal on January 7, 2012 as a Chief Guest.

Visitors:

A total number of 4556 public visited the Museum during the month of January, 2012. 13 groups of students/teachers were provided guided tours at museum's galleries during January, 2012.

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

Winter Nature Camp:

A winter nature camp was organized at Bhitarkanika National Park from 15th to 17th January-2012 for 15 nos. of M.Sc. Life Science students of Utkal University, Sambalpur University and Ravenshaw University selected through a written test held on 8th January-2012. Circulars & Posters regarding programme were sent to all Universities of Odisha. Selection was made through written quiz based on nature, wildlife and environment. Around 38 students registered, out of which 28 students participated in the quiz competition for the nature camp.

The objectives of the camp was to explore the mangrove bio-diversity, to provide firsthand field knowledge about flora & fauna, to make students aware of the conservation aspects of the mangrove ecosystem, to orient students about wildlife, to expose them to the habitat of olive rudely nesting sites and to make them understand the impact of socio-cultural aspects of Bhitarkanika National Park.

On first day of the nature camp, students had a unique opportunity to camp in the Gahirmata Marine Sanctuary to explore and understand the unique habitat of Olive Ridley nesting site and the problems of sea erosion on the coast and its impact on the mangrove ecosystem. On second & third day of the nature camp, participants while camping at Dangmal gained firsthand knowledge about the habitat of the estuarine crocodile, different species of mangroves, their adaptation to adjust to salinity changes, zonation of mangrove species, re-generation programme of the mangroves, rear and release activities of the crocodile project etc through trekking, visiting the creeks by boat, interaction with experts and understanding through interpretation centre and interaction with local people. All the participants were awarded with participatory certificates.

Visitors:

During the month, visitor book recorded a total number of **27,568** (twenty seven thousand five hundred sixty eight) visitors from different organizations, institutions and family groups. In addition, 60 delegates of Indian Science Congress visited on 7.1.2012, 64 students from University School of Design, Mysore University, Mysore, Karnataka visited on 7.1.2012 and 11 students from Department of Museology, Kolkata University visited on 14.1.2012.

R.M.N.H., SAWAI MADHOPUR

Winter Nature Camp – 2012

A Winter Nature Camp was organized by RMNH, Sawai Madhopur for the students of class 9th to 12th from 14-16 January, 2012 in the World Heritage Site at Bharatpur National Park (Rajasthan). Fifteen students from in and around the Sawai Madhopur had exposure to the various natural heritage aspects of the Park.

Prize Distribution Function

A Prize Distribution Function was held on 8th January, 2012 to give away prizes and certificates to the winners who participated in the International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer held on 16th September, 2011 and Wildlife Week Programme held from 2-8 October, 2011. Shri Yugal Bihari Sharma was the Chief Guest and Shri Jagdish Prasad Sharma, and Shri Sharad Kumar Sharma, were the Guest of Honour at the function.