

**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
2012

Dated the February 24,

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 February, **2012**.

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.

NMNH
Monthly Report for the month of February, 2012

NMNH, NEW DELHI

World Wetlands Day

To commemorate World Wetlands Day, an Out-reach programme was organized for specially challenged children in two categories, i.e., Physically challenged and Hearing impaired. These children were taken for a visit to National Zoological Park (Delhi Zoo) to observe Migratory Water Birds and other animals. The Delhi Zoo officials interacted with children and made them aware of habits and habitat of migratory birds and other animals.

These children also participated in activities like Origami and Paper Craft in the natural environs of the Delhi Zoo. Two resource persons hired by NMNH interacted with the children. The children were given token gifts and also provided with refreshments.

49 specially challenged children along with their teachers from 04 schools participated in this out-reach programme.

Programme for specially challenged children

An annual programme for specially challenged children started on 31st January 2012 and ended with valedictory function on 8th February 2012. The programme was organized in collaboration with National Bal Bhavan which provided venue and resource persons. Special schools, NGOs and other schools were invited to send children from their institutions for this programme. Specially challenged children in different categories like physically challenged, mentally challenged, visually challenged and hearing impaired, participated in various activities.

The aim of the programme is to make specially challenged children aware of their environment, nature and wildlife through various activities like Animal & Bird Clay Modeling, Waste Paper Craft, Nature Painting, Dance, Wood Craft, etc.

The participants participated in various contests also for which they were awarded prizes during the valedictory function. All the participants were given token gifts and provided with refreshments.

Visitors:

10,829 school students and teachers from 55 schools/institutes in Delhi & NCR visited NMNH Museum galleries. 2,558 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.

National Workshop on Environmental Education in Museums and Formal Educational Institutions (18-19 February, 2012)

A National Workshop on Environmental Education in Museums and Formal Educational Institutions was organized on 18-19 February 2012 in collaboration with Department of Museology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. The venue for the workshop was Cultural Hall, Maulana Azad Library, AMU, Aligarh.

On this occasion a “Poster Making Competition” was held in the Lawns of the Deptt. of Museology, AMU, Aligarh on 19th February 2012 in two categories for school students and college students. The topic for the competition was “Save Our Planet”. The First, Second, Third and Consolation Prizes in both the categories were awarded during the Valediction function of the workshop.

National Museum of Natural History was represented at the workshop by Dr. Reena Dey, Scientist-C, Sh. Vipin Saxena, Publication Asstt., Sh. K. S. Attri, Sr. Educational Asstt., Sh. R. C. Lall, Artist, Sh. Vikas Rana, Educational Asstt., Sh. Jagdev Sharma, Lab. Asstt. and Sh. Parveen Malik, L. D. C.

A Paper was presented at the workshop by Dr. Reena Dey, Shri K. S. Attri and Shri Vikas Rana. The topic of the presentation was “Role of Museums in Environmental Education. Dr. S. M. Nair, Ex-Director, NMNH and Centre for Environmental Education gave the Keynote Address as Chief Guest at the Inaugural function. Prof. Iftikhar Alam Khan, former Chairman, Department of Museology, AMU was the Guest of Honour. Presidential Address was given by Prof. S. U. Farooqui, Vice Chancellor, AMU. Dr. Reena Dey, Scientist-C, NMNH gave the Introductory Remarks and Prof. S. Asif A. Naqvi, Department of Museology, AMU gave the Theme Presentation on “Environmental Education in Museums and Formal Educational Institutions”.

RMNH, MYSORE

Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2012

The Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore organized programme for persons with disability from 25th Jan. to 10th Feb. 2012. The programme was inaugurated on 25th January 2012 with a Museum visit of a Special School of Mentally Challenged. The programme was designed in such a way that it should suite the different categories of Disabilities such as Hearing Impaired, Visually Challenged & Mentally Challenged etc.

Painting competition on “Nature & Forest” was arranged for Hearing Impaired children under higher Primary & High School Category on 02-02-2012. Nearly 74 students participated in Painting competition.

Singing Competition (Environmental Songs) was arranged for Visually challenged on 04-02-2012 for higher Primary & High School students at Ranga Rao School for disabled, Metagahalli, Mysore. The said programme was inaugurated by Shri. C. Rajasundaram & presided by Shri. R.N. Murthy, Co-chairman, Ranga Rao School for disabled. Dr. Naik & others were present during the programme.

Regular Museum visits were also arranged for mentally challenged children of different institutions of Mysore. Approximately, 380 students along with their parents had visited the Museum during this programme.

The Prize distribution Programme and Valedictory Session of the programme was arranged on 10th February 2012 at 11:00 a.m. in the Museum Auditorium, Shri. Nanjunda Swamy, Principal, J.S.S. Polytechnic for differently abled, Mysore was the Chief Guest & Dr. T. Padmini, Retd. Professor, Dept. of Education, University of Mysore was the Guest Speaker on the Occasion. Sh. C. Rajasundaram, Scientist – D, presided over the function. The winners of the Painting & Singing Competition were awarded with Cash Prize and Certificates. Also, cash prizes were distributed for the winners of “Software development competition” on BD of Western Ghats..

Observation of National Science Day Programme

Observation of National Science Day Programme on 28th Feb. 2012 at Orchid Public School, Kumar Bedu, Mysore Taluk. Sh. H.L. Sateesh, DMS School will be the Guest Speaker & Sh. M.B. Mahesh, learning designer will be the resource person for “ Science behind Magic”.

Visitors

During the month, a total number of 7,633 visitors from different organizations, institutions and family groups 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.

RMNH, BHOPAL

Special Exhibit:

RMNH, Bhopal displayed special exhibit on “Rose” on 14 February, 2012 – Valentine Day. This exhibit showed various interesting aspects of Rose.

World Wetland Day:

In collaboration with Ramasar Convention Secretariat, Switzerland, a mega size poster exhibit (20’ x 15’) was displayed in the Museum for the benefit of public.

Collection:

RMNH, Bhopal has collected one Leopard trophy and very rare white tigress skin from Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal on February 04, 2012

Lectures:

Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist-E attended “World Wetland Day” Programme at Regional Science Center, Bhopal as a Chief Guest on February 02, 2012. He also delivered lectures as a Course Coordinator at LCA, Bhopal organized by Institute of Environmental Studies, Bhopal for students of PGDEM (IGNOU) during February 3 – 4, 2012.

Visitors

A total number of 4328 public visited the Museum during the month of February, 2012.; 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 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.

RMNH, BHUBANESWAR

Visits of public

During the month visitor book recorded a total number of 17000 visitors from different organizations, institutions and family groups.

Exhibition on wheels

The Exhibition on wheels on the theme "Forest Wealth" was on display at O.D.M Public School, Patia, Khurda District on 17th February, 2012 to create an understanding and awareness among the students about the forest resources, their role, and sustainable use of forest resources. Around 1200 students witnessed the mobile exhibition.

Demonstration on "Turtles and Tortoises"

A practical demonstration class was given to around 72 SC & ST students from Nirmala High School, Sundargarh. With the aid of live corner specimens, the information about the different types of turtles and tortoise, their difference and their habit and habitat supported by gallery visit was provided on 16.02.2012. The students got the opportunity to handle and experience live turtles to know their adaptive features for terrestrial and aquatic life.

A programme on "Know your Birds"

An orientation programme for field identification of common wetland birds was organized for an interested group of 15 students in the premises of Kanjia lake on 20th Feb.12. The variety of bird species were identified with the aid of binoculars and "Hand book Indian birds" by Salim Ali. The scientist-in-charge and Museum Interpretors briefed in detail about the field ornithology and conservation of wetland to the participants. Participants were exposed to different bird habitats, spotted and identified some common waterfowls like Bronze Winged Jacana, Purple Moorhen White Breasted Water Hen, White Throated Kingfisher, Black Capped Kingfisher, Oriental Darter, Cattle Egret, Little Egret, Spotted Dove, Black Drongo, Jungle Babbler, large green barbet, golden backed woodpecker, oriole, spotted owlet, darter etc..

Special Visit

i) About 64 students of National Talent Search Award programme conducted by R.I.E, Bhubaneswar with 4 teachers visited the museum on 09.02.2012 for exposure visit. A special film show on "Snakes of India" was screened for them.

ii) A guided visit was provided to 46 differently abled students and parents with their teachers from Puri in the museum on 05.02.2012.

iii) About 750 students from D.A.V Public School, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar visited the museum in two groups on 05.02.2012 and 12.02.2012. Students were exposed to wide variety of wildlife and their conservation issues through exhibits in the galleries and special film shows on nature and wildlife.

RMNH, SAWAI MADHOPUR

The temporary site office of the RMNH Sawai Madhopur was shifted to the RMNH Campus in Ramsingpura village on the 15th February 2012.

DIRECTOR'S PROGRAMMES

Dr. B. Venugopal, Director NMNH, was invited to attend a meeting organised by the Ministry of Env't. & Forests on the 6th February 2012 to discuss about various events in connection with the COP 11 (Conference of Parties) to be arranged in Hyderabad in October 2012. The proposal of NMNH regarding two events (an International Seminar and an Exhibition) was positively considered.

Dr B. Venugopal was also invited by the M.S. University of Baroda to act as a Member of Selection Committee for a post of Professor of Museology on the 23rd February 2012.