

NMNH
Monthly Report for the month of March, 2012

NMNH HQ, NEW DELHI

National Workshop on 'Intangible Natural Heritage' (INH)

A National Workshop on the theme of 'Intangible Natural Heritage' (INH) was organized by the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), New Delhi during 23-24 March, 2012. About 40 participants from all over the country participated. In the forenoon, the Chief Guest of the event Dr. P.S. Ramakrishnan, INSA Senior Scientist, School of Environmental Sciences, JNU, New Delhi inaugurated the Workshop. His keynote speech on Sustainability science was appreciated by all. Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, NMNH presented the background paper on Intangible Natural Heritage in Indian context. Smt. Naaz Rizvi, Scientist D, NMNH gave vote o thanks. The workshop deliberated upon case studies of various aspects of INH.

Exhibition on INH:

As a backdrop to the National Workshop, an Exhibition on INH was inaugurated in the NMNH New Delhi by the Chief Guest Dr. Nandita Chatterjee, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests in the afternoon of the 23rd March 2012. Dr. Venkataraman, Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata was the Guest of Honour. The Exhibition includes examples of intangible natural heritage in five domains as defined by the UNESCO and have examples from many states in the country. Feedback of the Exhibition by the participants of the workshop on INH, was a useful exercise.

Programme for differently abled:

A special workshop for specially challenged children is being organized by the NMNH from 28nd to 29th March 2012 at NMNH in collaboration with Association for Learning Performing Arts & Normative Action (A.L.P.A.N.A.), an NGO. Workshop will be held on 28th March 2012 in the Discovery & Activity Room on the 2nd floor. The Exhibition and the Valediction of the programme will be held on 29th March 2012 in the Museum Auditorium. Specially challenged children in and around Delhi/NCR will be participating in various activities during the programme. The activities include Drawing, Painting, Sketching, Origami, working with Clay & Ceramic, Vase decoration, Making of Wall hangings, etc. All the participants will be given token gifts and participation certificates.

World Forestry Day (21st March 2012) and World Day for Water (22nd March 2012)

Special films on Forest Resources, Water Resources, Wildlife and Life in Water were screened for public on the occasion of World Forestry Day and World Day for Water.

Visitors

5530 school students and teachers from 40 schools/institutes in Delhi & NCR visited NMNH Museum galleries. Around 2546 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.

RMNH, MYSORE

Observation of National Science Day-2012

As a part of outreach and schedule programmes, RMNH Mysore organized a programme called “Observation of National Science Day-2012” at Orchids Public School, Kumarabeedu, Mysore Tq. on 28th Feb.2012 at 10.30 a.m. Sh. H.L. Satheesh, Science Teacher, Demonstration School, Regional Institute of Education was the **Guest Speaker** and Shri. M.B. Mahesh, Learning Designer, Excel Soft technologies Pvt. Ltd was the **Resource person** for the programme called “**Magic with Science**”. A group of 400 students from Govt. High School, Beerihundi also joined for the programme in addition to the Orchids Public School. Overall it was a great success as the Guest Speaker Speech on the occasion was quite appropriate for that day.

Observation of World Water day on 22nd March 2012 at Govt. Higher Primary School, Arakere. Srirangapattana Taluk. .

Visitors

During the month, a total number of 4893 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

Leap Day Programme

The Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal along with Centre for Environment Education, observed ‘Leap Day’ on February 29, 2012 by conducting activities and programmes on Amphibians. Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist-E released live Frog to Sunken Bridge as symbolic gesture to enhance the ecosystem service of the man-made lake witnessed by hundreds of children. Students from Govt. Naveen Hr. Sec. School, Arera Colony, Govt. Naveen Hr. Sec. School, Chunna Bhatti and Govt. Rajabhoj Hr. Sec. School numbering 100 attended the lecture, student activity and games, programmes. Special poster and Packets on “Frogs are part of Biodiversity” were distributed to all participants. Mr. Amol Adholiya from Govt. Naveen Hr. Sec. School, Arera Colony, Mrs. Jyoti Saxena from Govt. Rajabhoj Hr. Sec. School and Mrs. Sunita Pataria from Govt. Naveen Hr. Sec. Schol, Chunna Bhatti participated in the programme. Resource persons Shri Joseph and Shri Dilip Chakravarty were drawn from CEE, Bhopal. The resource materials received from Zoo Out-reach Organization, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu were distributed to students and general public.

Collaborative Programme

Crusade for Revival of Environment and Wildlife (CREW), Bhopal organized two days film festival during February 26-27, 2012 with the logistic support of RMNH, Bhopal. The theme of the film festival was “Central Indian Highland Wildlife”. Hon’ble Minister of Forest, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh Shri Sartaj Singh inaugurated the film festival. Shri Bittu Sahgal, Editor, Sanctuary Asia, Mumbai, Shri Sandeep Shrivastava from CMS Vatavaran, New Delhi and Smt.

Gouri Ramnarayan, Theater Director, Music & Film Critic, Chennai were the speakers of the programme. Shri Ajay Singh 'Rahul' Leader of Opposition in Madhya Pradesh Assembly was the Chief Guest of the valedictory session of the film festival on second day. The Chief Guest distributed the prize for best films contested during the film festival.

Collections of tiger trophies

RMNH, Bhopal has collected two Tiger trophies from the office of Chief Conservator of Forest, Sagar on March 05, 2012. Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist-E and Shri Manoj Kumar Sharma, Taxidermist were deputed to CCF Office, Sagar to collect these trophies

Lectures

Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist-E delivered lectures as a Course Coordinator at Institute of Environmental Studies, Bhopal for first contact session (2nd Batch) for students of PGDEM (EPCO-IGNOU) on March 17 & 19, 2012.

Visitors

A total number of 3721 public visited the Museum during the month of March 19, 2012. 5 groups of students/teachers were provided guided tours at museum's galleries. Students numbering twenty two of Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Management (PGDEM) from Institute of Environmental Studies, Bhopal also visited on March 14, 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.

RMNH, BHUBANESWAR

Special Programme for children with Special Needs (6th & 7th March, 2012)

The museum organized a two days special programme for children with special needs in association with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, District-Mayurbhanj, Odisha from 6-7th March, 2012 at Bhanjapur High School, Baripada. Various activities like clay modeling, painting, sand art, craft, touch, feel & identify, identifying calls of birds & animals and singing competition on nature and environment was organized to create an opportunity for children to learn, participate and use their creativity and imaginative skills to express their feelings about nature. Around 118 children with special needs like visually challenged and hearing impaired in junior and senior groups, participated in the programme. At the valedictory function, cash prizes and certificates were distributed among the prize winners of various activities by District Collector, Mayurbhanj.

Workshop for M.Sc. (Life Science) Ed. students of RIE (NCERT), Bhubaneswar (10th - 12th March, 2012)

The Museum organized a three day workshop for about seventeen M.Sc. (Life Science) Ed. students of Regional Institute of Education (NCERT), Bhubaneswar. Two days out of the workshop period (10th and 12th March, 2012) was held in the museum with talks and interactions with the experts and one day field visit to Bhitarkanika National Park (11th March, 2012) to have a field knowledge about the flora and fauna of the mangrove ecosystem. The inaugural function was held in the presence of Dr. Sudarshan Panda, IFS, Director, Nandankanan Zoological Park as Chief Guest, Dr. S. P. Pattnaik, Principal, Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar as

Guest of Honour, Prof. D.G. Rao, H.O.D, Zoology Department and Shri G.N. Indresha, Scientist-C & H.O., Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhubaneswar. During the workshop, Dr. Sudarshan Panda delivered a talk on role of forest and wildlife conservation. Dr. L.A.K. Singh, Former Senior Wildlife Research Officer, Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha presented a talk on “Forest and Wildlife of India with special reference to Odisha”. Following it, he delivered a talk on various aspects of wildlife research. Dr. V.P. Upadhyay, Director, MoE&F, Eastern Regional Office, Bhubaneswar delivered a talk on “Sustaining Ecology and Ecological Services”. Shri G.N. Indresha presented the students on the topic “Understanding Biodiversity”. During the workshop, a guided visit to the galleries of the museum was given to the students with a brief discussion on exhibits of the galleries by the Museum Interpreters. Students were given brief introduction about various methods of collection and preservation along with special film shows were screened for them. A field trip was organized to Bhitarkanika National Park on 11th March, 2012. The objective of this nature tour was to explore and make aware of the conservation aspects of the mangrove biodiversity along with field knowledge about flora & fauna of Bhitarkanika National Park. At the end of the programme participatory certificates were given to the participants by Dr. NLNS Prasad, Director, MoEF, Eastern Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.

Exhibition on Wheels

Exhibition on Wheels on the theme “Forest Wealth” was on display on 7th and 8th March, 2012 at Bhanjapur High School, Baripada for the benefit of students and public to promote inclusive education. Around 1500 students with guardians, teachers and general public visited the mobile exhibition which was on display in the school campus.

Taxidermy Work: Curing and tanning of a Leopard skin received from Rayagada Forest division, Odisha with different chemicals has been carried out. In addition, regarding the Skeletal Display of Baleen Whale, articulation of different bones of the skeleton has been completed for the purpose of display and positioned in the specially prepared structural framework of 50’ length. Preparation of foreground modeling is in progress.

Visitors

During the month 9059 people visited the Museum.