

**Government of India**  
**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**  
**(Ministry of Environment & Forests)**

Tansen Marg,  
New Delhi-110001.

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

Dated the December 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 December, 2012.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

  
o/c (Dr. Reena Dey)  
Scientist 'C' &  
Head of Office

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

### MONTHLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 2012

#### NMNH HQ, New Delhi

#### Visit to "Aravalli Biodiversity Park" by the winners of "NMNH - HT PACE Essay Writing Competition":

The 16 winners of NMNH – HT PACE Interschool Essay Writing Competition had a chance to visit Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi for Nature Study Tour on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2012. All the participants collected at National Museum of Natural History by 9 am for attendance and briefing about the tour. At 9.30 am all boarded the Bus hired by NMNH along with Ms. Reetika Aggarwal & Ms. Shipra Jha from HT PACE and Shri K. S. Attri, Sr. Educational Assistant and Shri Jai Prakash, Gallery Attendant from NMNH. It was journey through busy roads of Delhi with noise and chaos all around. But, as the Bus entered the Park, there was a drastic change in the atmosphere. A Kutcha path through thick jungle lead to the office of ABP where all got down. All were made to sit in the amphitheatre sort of place with green trees, wild bushes and flowering plants surrounding the area. Dr. M. Shah Hussain, Scientist Incharge, ABP gave an introductory talk to the participants explaining the importance of Biodiversity Parks in Delhi followed by walk through the Park with the expert Ms. Balwinder. Participants visited Butterfly conservatory where participants were introduced to various types of Butterflies, their host plants and life-cycle of butterflies. In the Medicinal Herbs Garden participants observed various medicinal plants and came to know about different body ailments and the medicinal plants used to cure the ailments. A visit to the Park Nursery helped the participants to know how different plants are made to grow and transplanted in the Park. A short film was shown on growth of ABP from a wasteland and mining area to a green natural jungle and its becoming habitat to various living wild animals and birds. In the end all the participants participated in written Nature Quiz based on information received during the tour. The experts clarified all the queries of the participants regarding conserving our natural heritage. Participants bade good bye to the Park promising to help conserve nature and work towards the betterment of the environment.

#### Workshop with children to make "Seed Balls" and Interactive installation of "Seed packed Mud Balls":

In order to sensitize the school children regarding understanding the human-nature relationship, a workshop was organized by NMNH with children to make "Seed Balls" from 29<sup>th</sup> November to 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2012. Visitor Resource Centre on the Ground Floor in the Museum was the venue for the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to explain the technique of making "Seed Balls" and its use. The focus was on the Indian history of plants especially food crops and influences and value in today's urban context that seeds have life and how it grows and become food. An interactive installation with thousands of seed packed mud balls are prepared by the children. The mud balls consist of food crops, herbs, vegetables and flowering seeds. The seed balls are installed in the form of exhibit in the first floor gallery of the museum from where the

visitors can take away the seed balls and throw them on any cultivable soil in their locality or in the flower pots at their home and see the natural growth of the plant from a seed.

The workshop was open for the children from classes IV - VI. The schools were invited to send their students to participate in the workshop through prior booking and registration. 480 students along with their teachers from 10 schools in Delhi/NCR participated in this workshop.

Shri Sunoj D, Visual Artist (based in Bangalore) and Artist in residence programme in Natural History Museum, London was the Resource person.

### **Winter Nature Camp (2012-13):**

NMNH organized Winter Nature Camp at Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Vasant Vihar, Delhi on 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2012. A selection test was conducted on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 to select 15 children in the age group of 13 to 16 years to participate in the Winter Nature Camp. All the participants were taken to Nature Camp for two days and one night stay. They got the opportunity to interact with the staff of Aravalli Biodiversity Park who enriched the children with their experience and expertise. The children were allotted tents for night stay. They were taken for Nature Trail through the thick forest of the Aravalli Biodiversity Park and also visited the Herbal Medicinal Garden, Butterfly Conservatory, Orchidarium, Fernarium and Wet lands in the Park. A visit to the Park Nursery helped the participants to know how different plants are made to grow and transplanted in the Park. They also learnt to prepare polypacks of soil mixed with manure for the growth of seeds into plants. They observed the fauna and flora of the area and learnt to identify different plants and birds present in the Park. Written Quiz and Painting contests were organized for the children. Two short films on the diversity of life in the Park were shown. A session on wildlife photography was also held. The stay at the Park concluded with giving the prizes for the quiz and painting contests and awarding the Best Camper.

### **Prize Distribution Function:**

A Prize Distribution Function was organized on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 in the Museum Auditorium of NMNH to give prizes, trophies and certificates to the winners of various competitions held at NMNH. Prof. S. C. Bhatla, Head, Deptt. Of Botany, University of Delhi was the Chief Guest of the Function and Mrs. Enu Rodrigues, Manager- Curriculum, HT PACE was the Guest of Honour. Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, NMNH gave the Welcome and Introductory talk followed by briefing about the programmes and contests held at NMNH by Dr. Reena Dey, Scientist-C, NMNH. "TRYST WITH NATURE" – a green magazine on Explore Nature and Environment, Museums' programmes 2012 was released by the Chief Guest on this occasion and a small introduction to the magazine was given by Mrs. Naaz Rizvi, Scientist-D, NMNH. Two participants of Winter Nature Camp shared their experience of stay at the Nature Camp. The winners of the following contests received the prizes.

"Poem & Essay Writing Contests" held on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 to commemorate "International Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer

"NMNH – HT PACE Essay Writing Competition" held on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2012

"NMNH – HT PACE Trophies" were awarded to the schools of the first prize winners in the junior and senior categories

The participants of the Winter Nature Camp received participation certificates.

Vote of Thanks was given by Dr. Jaya Prasoon, Sr. Edu. Asstt. NMNH

**School visits and Family groups/General visitors:**

14,666 Students & teachers/coordinators from 99 Schools/institutes in Delhi / NCR visited museum.

1,943 general visitors visited museum during the month.

The educational staff interacted with the visitors and provided information on the exhibits displayed in the galleries.

The visitors were also requested to fill the Feedback forms giving their remarks and suggestions regarding the facilities available in the museum.

**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.

**RMNH, MYSORE**

**Second Indian Biodiversity Congress & Indian Biodiversity Expo.**

The Indian Biodiversity Expo. was inaugurated on 08<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at 2.00 pm at Indian Institute of Science & Veterinary College ground, Hebbal, Bangaluru by Shri Aravind Limbavali, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Karnataka and Dr. Vamanacharya, Chairman, Karnataka Pollution Control Board, Govt. of Karnataka grace the occasion. The inauguration & inaugural speech was followed by the visit of Expo by the delegates. The exhibition titled "Biodiversity of Western Ghats" was highly appreciated by the Guests and by public as well and bagged the "EXCELLENCE" Prize during the Valedictory function of Second Indian Biodiversity Congress. Shri C.Rajasundaram, Shri John Thomas, Shri Yogendra, Shri Lakshmana & Shri Shah Nawaz Khan represented Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore. Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, NMNH was also present during the Conference and presented a paper on "NMNH initiatives on Biodiversity Education and public awareness" during first session of Second Indian Biodiversity Congress.

**Visitors**

During the month, a total number of 9671 visitors from different schools, organizations, institutions and family groups visited the Museum.

**Film Shows:**

Daily film shows on environment were shown from 12.00 Noon to 1.00 pm and from 4.00 to 5.00 pm.

**R.M.N.H., BHOPAL**

**Poster Design Contest:**

Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Bhopal organized a Poster design Contest for hearing impaired students from 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> class on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2012. The topic of the

competition was "Climate Change and Biodiversity". The Students from Umang Gauravdeep Welfare Society, Kotra Sultanabad, Bhopal participated in this competition. Mrs. Deepti Patwa, Director, Umang Gauravdeep Welfare Society, Bhopal and staff members of museum were present in the programme. Shri Manik Lal Gupta, Educational Assistant was the co-ordinator of the programme.

#### **Quiz Competition:**

Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Bhopal organized a Quiz Competition for the students from 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> class on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2012. The theme of the competition was "Environment and Wildlife". Sixteen teams from various schools of Bhopal participated in this competition. Shri Manik Lal Gupta, Educational Assistant was the co-ordinator of the programme.

#### **Written test for Winter Nature Camp:**

To select participants for Winter Nature Camp 2012-13 at Patchmarhi during January 2 - 4, 2013, a written test was conducted on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 by Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal. 29 students from various schools of Bhopal participated in the written test while 33 registered. 20 students will be selected for this camp. Shri Manik Lal Gupta, Educational Assistant was the co-ordinator of the programme.

#### **Taxidermy Works:**

Cleaning and maintenance of the tiger is going on for displaying in the temporary exhibition on "Wildlife Conservation and Ecotourism".

#### **Barrier Free Accessibility for Challenged Community:**

Two ramps with steel railing has been completed and the construction of special toilet for challenged is almost nearby completion.

#### **NGO Collaboration Programme:**

The activities of "The museum school" by Parvarish has been continued during this period also along with approximately forty deprived children.

#### **Visitors**

A total number of 7936 public visited the Museum during November 20, 2012 to December 19, 2012. 11 groups of students/teachers were provided guided tours at museum's galleries during November 20, 2012 to December 19, 2012.

#### **Film Shows:**

Film shows on environment were shown to public daily at 3.00 p.m.

### **R.M.N.H., BHUBANESWAR**

#### **Written quiz to select participants for winter Nature Camp (9<sup>th</sup> Dec-12):**

To select the participants for Winter Nature Camp 2012-13 at Bhitarkanika National Park during 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> January 2013, a written quiz competition was held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2012. For this

purpose wide publicity through banners has been made and circulars were sent to schools in Bhubaneswar/Cuttack. In response to the publicity a total of 50 students registered their names. Out of the registered 46 students participated in the selection test and twenty (20) were selected among them for Winter Nature Camp 2012-13.

#### **Environmental Awareness Programme-2012 for JNVs of Odisha at JNV, Baro, Kendrapara Dist and JNV, Belpada, Bolangir Dist.:**

Environmental Awareness Programme-2012 for JNVs of Odisha was held at JNV, Baro, Kendrapara District on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec-12 and at JNV, Belpada, and Bolangir District on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec-12. The programme included a written quiz on environment of 30 minutes duration followed by Film show on nature, environment & wildlife of 30 minutes duration, presentation on poisonous and non-poisonous snakes and interaction with the participants. A total of 235 students participated in the quiz competition and about 800 students took part in the interaction session about the nature conservation, biodiversity and ecology through Power Point Presentation by Scientist-C & H.O. The winners of each school were awarded with cash prize of Rs. 1,000/-, Rs. 750/-, 500/- as Ist, IInd and IIIrd prize respectively along with 05 consolation prizes of Rs. 200/- each and certificates in the presence of the Principal and staff of the respective schools.

#### **Orissa Environment Congress-2012:**

To mark the International Year of Sustainable Energy for all, Odisha Environment Congress-2012 was organized from 20-22 December-2012 on the focal theme of 'Energy and Environment: Issues, Challenges and Potentials for Odisha'. This congress is jointly organized by Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Centre for Environment & Development (CED), Human Development Foundation (HDF) and supported by Forest & Environment Department, Science & Technology Department, Energy Department, Govt. of Odisha. Programme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik on 20<sup>th</sup> December in the presence of Shri Bijayashree Routray, Minister, Forest & Environment & Labour & ESI, Govt. of Odisha, Shri Arun Sahoo, Minister, Information and Public Relations & Energy, Odisha, Shri Ramesh Ch. Majhi, Minister, Science & Technology, Youth & Sports, Odisha, Shri R.K.Sharma, IAS, Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment, Shri P.K.Jena, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Deptt. Of Energy, Govt. of Odisha, Shri D. K. Roy, Chairmen of OEC-2012. During the programme various topics discussed viz. 1) Sustainable energy for all-Policy & Regulation, 2) Challenges for energy sector in Odisha, 3) Role of energy in urban & rural development, 4) Coal, oil and Carbon footprint, 5) Opportunity in renewable energy, 6) Captive generation; solution for energy crisis, 7) Energy access, energy efficiency, green building. On the Valedictory day there will be an open house discussion and prize distribution.

#### **Forthcoming programmes:**

1. Prof. R. Mishra Birth Centenary Lecture-2012 on 26.12.2012 by Prof. M.C. Dash, Former V.C., Sambalpur University on 'Sustainable Development: The Journey from Rio 1992 to Rio+ 20-2012 and Beyond' jointly organized by National Institute of Ecology, Delhi, RMNH and Orissa Environmental Society.

### Visitors:

During the month 19,433 visitors from different organizations, institutions and family groups visited the Museum.

## RGRMNH, SAWAI MADHOPUR

### Development of Exhibition

The development of the Exhibition on "Biodiversity of Rajasthan" is the final stage.

### Special visit/Meeting

- A meeting was held with the Executive Engineer & Assistant Engineer of JVVNL of Sawai Madhopur on 13.12.2012 and discussed regarding permanent electrical connection to RGRMNH, Sawai Madhopur.
- The works related to permanent electrical connection to RGRMNH, Sawai Madhopur is in progress.
- Mr. Mohd. Yunus, Scientist C participated in 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of Heads of Science Museums/ Science Centres at Birla Museum, Pilani (Rajasthan) from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 and presented a power point presentation on "Networking with Science Centre and Museums".