

Government of India
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
(Ministry of Environment & Forests)
Tansen Marg, New Delhi-110 001

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

Dated the December 24, 2013

To

Shri R.K. Agarwal,
Deputy Secretary (GC),
Room No.1030, Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi-110 003.

Sub: Monthly Report for the Cabinet – reg.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith the Monthly Report of the National Museum of Natural History for the month of December, 2013.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Dr. REENA DEY

SCIENTIST C

Copy to:

Shri M.M. Pandey, Under Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110 003.

Monthly Report for the month of December, 2013
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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 28th November, 2013. It was journey through busy roads of Delhi with noise and chaos all around. But, as the children entered the Park, there was a drastic change in the atmosphere. A Kutcha path through thick jungle lead to the office of ABP where they were received by the officials of ABP. 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 Ms. Balwinder, Nature Education officer, ABP. 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 the officials 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.

Winter Nature Camp - 2013: (13 – 15 December, 2013)

NMNH organised “Winter Nature Camp -2013” at “Aravalli Biodiversity Park”, Vasant Vihar, Delhi on 14th & 15th December, 2013. A selection test was conducted on 7th December, 2013 to select 15 children in the age group of 13 to 16 years to participate in the Winter Nature Camp. An orientation to the programme was done on 13th December, 2013. All the participants were in the Nature Camp for two days and one night stay. They got the opportunity to interact with the officials 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, and Nursery 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 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. A short film on the diversity of life in the Park was shown. A session on tips for 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: (20th December, 2013)

A Prize Distribution Function was organised on 20th December, 2013 in the museum auditorium of NMNH to give prizes, trophies and certificates to the winners of various competitions held at NMNH. Dr. Usha Kumari MC, Director, National Bal Bahwan, New Delhi was the Chief Guest of the Function and Mrs. Enu Rodrigues, Manager- Curriculum, HT PACE was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Reena Dey, Scientist-C and HO, NMNH gave the Welcome and Introductory talk followed by Briefing about the programmes and contests held at NMNH by Sh. Gaurav, Scientist-B, NMNH. Kriti Malik, winner of NMNH-HT PACE Essay Writing Contest in Junior Category recited a beautiful Poem on safeguarding our environment. The winners of the following contests received the prizes:

“Poem Writing, Essay Writing and Poster Making Competitions” held on 16th September, 2013 to commemorate “International Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer”

“NMNH – HT PACE Essay Writing Competition” held on 12th November, 2013.

“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-2013 received participation certificates and token gifts. Sh. K. S. Attri, Sr. Edu. Asst., NMNH coordinated the programme. Vote of Thanks was given by Dr. Jaya Prasoon, Sr. Edu. Asst., NMNH.

School visits and Family groups/General visitors

11,620 Students & teachers/coordinators from 93 schools/institutes in Delhi / NCR visited museum. 1,261 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. The visitors are given museum publications on demand.

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

Special Guided visit

The officers of department of Mines & Geology who were on training programme in Administrative training Institute, Mysore visited our Museum for study purpose on 6th December 2013. Sh. S.J.Sreenivas MEP, interacted with the team during gallery visit.

Know your Museum

One day museum study programme has been arranged for the high school students of Rabindranath tagore memorial School, Bannur at RMNH, Mysore on 19th Dec 2013. Sh. Yogendra, Scientist- B, interacted with the student and explained about the resources of museum and its optimum utilization through active

participation public in general and student community in particular. Sh. S.J Srinivas accompanied and guided them through the galleries.

School visits and Family groups/General visitors

Total Number of visitors were **9277** which included 6134(87 groups) of students group from different Institutions, 2523 nos. of general visitors (97 groups) and 620nos. of individual visitors, visited museum during the month.

Nature on Screen

Films on the themes of Environment, Nature and Wildlife are screened in the museum auditorium twice a day at 12 am and 4 pm, for the Museum visitors.

RMNH, BHOPAL

Collaborative Programme

(a) Teachers training programme was organized by Ms. Neerja Gour, Director, Vigyan Bhawan, Board of Secondary Education of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal on December 19, 2013. There were 23 teachers attended the programme. Shri Arvind Anupam shared the information and techniques used on various media like POP, Clay etc for making low cost teaching aids.

(b) Special interactive session with the Environmental Education Course (EPCO) participants was arranged on December 3, 2013.

Maintenance Works

(a) Showcase lighting was the focus of the month. The existing illuminating status were checked and replaced. Similarly all the ramps leading to gallery as well office were repainted. The renovation of sunken bridge works continued. Desilting of water sources at wetland diorama was attempted.

(b) The fore ground courtyard falling leave were rearranged in the Pragati Putra Diorama “Baiga” as well that of endangered animal. The baseline works in preparation of artificial leave for wetland diorama was also finalized.

Civil Works: The construction of demonstration island hall works continued.

NGO Collaboration Programme

The activities of “The museum school” by Parvarish has been continued during this period also along with approximately one hundred deprived children.

Foot Falls

A total number of 4506 public visited the Museum during November 20, 2013 to December 19, 2013.

Visits of Organized Groups

8 groups of students/teachers were provided guided tours at museum's galleries during November 20, 2013 to December 19, 2013.

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

Selection test for Nature Orientation programme for UG life science student (1st December 2013)

Selection test for Nature Orientation programme for undergraduate life science students was held on 1st December 2013. Publicity was made through banners and circulars sent to various colleges of Odisha. Registration of candidates was open up to 30th November 2013. A total 52 students registered their names, out of which 38 students participated in the selection test through a written quiz. Finally 25 (twenty five) students were selected for the programme on 6th -8th December, 2013.

Nature Orientation programme for UG Life Science Students (6th- 8th December 2013)

Nature Orientation programme for UG Life Science Students was organized for 25 selected Under Graduate Life Science Students during 6 - 8 December 2013. Students were given orientation to the biodiversity of the state through interpretation in the biodiversity gallery of the museum followed by films on nature and wildlife of the state and the country on 6th December viz. Symphony of Chilika, Bhitarkanika and snakes of India. Post lunch session was followed by a power point presentation on biodiversity and conservation by Scientist-C & H.O. followed by demonstration of water analysis kit to test some common parameters like pH, DO, water temperature etc by hands on experience and the use of GPS.. On 7th December, a field visit to the largest fresh water Lake of Odisha- Ansupa was organized with orientation on the biodiversity of lakes with identification of common aquatic plants and identification of water fowls of the lake. It was followed by address of Shri.A.K.Mishra, DFO on the efforts in conservation of the lake of national importance. On 8th a field visit to the largest brackish water lagoon Chilika was made to study the biodiversity of the brackish water lake ecosystem. The objectives of the camp was to explore the fresh water and brackish water bio-diversity, to provide first-hand field knowledge about flora & fauna, to make students aware of the conservation aspects of the both ecosystem, to orient students about wildlife, to make them understand the impact of socio-cultural aspects of ecosystem. The activities included trekking, bird watching, identifying the flora and fauna, understanding through interaction in the interpretation centre, understanding the importance of Irrawaddy dolphin conservation project through visit to project site etc.

Preparatory meeting of the Odisha Environment Congress-2013

Second preparatory meeting of the Odisha Environment congress-2013 was held on 17th December to take stock of the situation for the forthcoming congress to be held on 23rd and 24th December to be inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha on 23rd December. Odisha Environment congress is being organized by HDF, CED and RMNH.

Visit of public

During the month, the visitor's book recorded a total number of 16487 visitors from different organizations, institutions & family groups.

Forth Coming programmes

1. Odisha Environment Congress-2013 from 23rd – 24th December, 2013
2. Orientation workshop for teachers
3. Winter nature camp for PG Life Science students

RGRMNH, SAWAI MADHOPUR

Following works has been done in Modelling and Art sections of the museum:

1. **Modelling Section**
 - a. Prepared Armature of State Animal of Rajasthan i.e. Chinkara and its clay modelling. Now it is ready for moulding & casting.
 - b. Clay modelling, moulding, casting & finishing of Red wattled Lapwing has been completed and ready for fixing in the diorama of Ranthambhore National Park.
2. **Art Section**
 - a. A painting has been prepared (2' x 4') on canvas for the Reception.
 - b. Prepared a special painting on Film Roll (6' x 4') for Entrance of Eco-theatre/Classroom on acrylic sheet.

Educational Programmes for Special Children

This museum organized educational programmes/Activities for special children (MR, PH, HI, and VI) at Vinayak Mook Badhir Vidyalaya SWM and Chetna Viklang Sanstha, SWM on 25th Nov 2013 and 26th Nov. 2013 respectively. On the day students /Children benefitted by Collage, Tensil art, Painting, Paper sand art, Clay Modelling, moulding and casting of fruits. A Documentary film was also projected on wildlife and nature for audio-visual quiz competition.

Observation of International Day for Disabled

This museum observed International day for disabled on 3rd Dec., 2013 at museum premises. Cash Prizes along with certificates was distributed to winners of the competitions for special children through Chief Guest, Dr. P. Ray, Ex-Sc 'D', RMNH, BBSR & President, Sh. M.D. Parashar, Wildlife artist & photographer. On the observation of International Day for Disabled, four categories i.e. MR, PH, HI & VI were considered & awarded cash prizes, First, Second, Third & five consolation prizes in each category as Rs. 1000/-, 750/, 500/- & Rs. 250/- (for five).

Special Visit/Meeting

A meeting has been held with Superintendent Engineer Shri L. Dungdung & Executive Engineer Shri Raj Kumar of CCU, New Delhi on 11th December, 2013 to discuss pending issues, with regard to main building of the museum, Hostel Block, Auditorium, landscaping & also works related to erecting statue of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi at RGRMNH, campus etc.