

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 February 24, 2014

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 February, 2014.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Dr. REENA DEY

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Copy to:

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

NMNH-HQ

World Wetlands Day (2nd Feb 2014):

To commemorate World Wetlands Day (2nd February, 2014), an Out-reach programme was organized for specially challenged children. Two categories of specially challenged children (Physically challenged and Hearing impaired) were taken for a visit to National Zoological Park (Delhi Zoo) to observe Migratory Water Birds and other animals. Battery operated vehicles were provided to take children around the Zoo. The Delhi Zoo officials interacted with children and made them aware of habits and habitat of migratory birds and other animals. This visit also made them aware of varied components of nature present around them.

These children also participated in a session on art and creativity in natural surroundings. The children were given token gifts and also provided with refreshment/lunch.

26 specially challenged children (physically challenged and hearing impaired) from 3 schools along with 6 teachers participated in this programme.

Programme for Special Challenged Children:

National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) organizes a variety of educational programmes and extension activities throughout the year for students in particular and public in general. It also makes effort to involve the section of our society that includes special children who have immense capacity to understand and capture the knowledge imparted to them.

Programme for specially challenged children is an annual programme organized by the Museum in the months of January-February. The aim of this programme is to create an equal opportunity for children with disabilities and bring awareness among them regarding environment, nature and wildlife through different educational activities.

This year the programme started with **“Braille Essay Writing Competition” for visually challenged children held on 29th January, 2014 to commemorate Louise Braille Day (4th January, 2014) and “Declamation Competition” held on 31st January, 2014.**

On 29th January 2014 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 following:

Junior category (classes V-VII): “Pollution is Killer, Stop it; Conservation is the Healer, Start it”

Senior category (classes VIII-XI): “Love the Nature, Worship the Green, Keep the Surroundings & Water Clean” 26 visually challenged children (16 in senior category and 10 in junior categories) along with 6 teachers from 4 schools participated in “Braille Essay Writing Competition”.

On 31st January 2014 visually challenged children from different schools for the Blind in Delhi & NCR participated in Declamation Contest. The contest was held for the students of classes VIII- XI. The topic of the Declamation Contest is: “If Our Environment has Life, Only then We can Survive” 13 visually challenged children along with 5 teachers from 3 schools participated in “Declamation Contest”

NMNH in collaboration with National Bal Bhawan, New Delhi organised the “Programme for Specially –Challenged Children” from 11th to 13th February 2014.

Mentally Challenged, Hearing Impaired and Physically Challenged Children from various special schools in Delhi participated in this programme. All the activities were held at National Bal Bhavan.

On 11th February, 2014 36 Mentally Challenged children along with 11 teachers from 7 schools participated in activities like Mask making, Clay modeling and Dance. The children were judged for clay modeling competition.

On 12th February, 2014 32 Hearing Impaired children along with 7 teachers from 4 schools participated in activities like Paper Toy making, Painting and Handicraft. The children were judged for painting contest.

On 13th February, 2014 38 Physically Challenged children along with 5 teachers from 4 schools participated in activities like Paper Toy making, Art from waste material and Clay modeling. The children were judged for Art from waste material.

Officials from NMNH and NBB were involved to make the programme a success. All the participating children were provided with refreshments.

Valedictory Function (15th Feb., 2014):

The Valedictory Function of the Programme for Specially Challenged Children was held on 15th February, 2014 at Museum Auditorium, NMNH. Dr. Usha Kumari MC, Director, National Bal Bhawan, New Delhi was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Sh. Gaurav, Scientist-B, NMNH welcomed the

introduced the Chief Guest. Dr. Jaya Prasoan, Sr. Edu. Asstt., NMNH gave the Brief Report of the programme. The prizes and certificates were awarded to the winners of various competitions held for the specially challenged children which included “Essay Writing in Braille” (Senior & Junior Categories) and “Declamation Competition” for visually challenged, “Clay Modelling” for mentally challenged, “Painting” for hearing impaired and “Art out of waste” for physically challenged.

Vote of Thanks was given by Sh. Vikas Rana, Edu. Asstt., NMNH.

The programme was compered by Sh. K. S. Attri, Sr. Edu. Asstt., NMNH.

School visits and Family groups/General visitors:

4,749 Students & teachers/coordinators from 47 schools/institutes in Delhi / NCR visited museum.

1,342 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

Seminar on Protection & Conservation of Wildlife from diseases:

One day seminar was arranged by the Department of Veterinary, Mysore region on “Control of foot and Mouth Disease in domestic animals for protection and conservation of Wild animals” at Museum Auditorium on 20-01-2014, to sensitize the doctors and farmers about the disease and to take precautionary measures for the effective control over the spreading of disease even among wild animals.

One day workshop for House wives on kitchen & Terrace gardening: 30-01-2014

One day workshop on “Kitchen & Terrace Gardening” has been organized for 150 Housewives of Mysore city in association with District Horticulture Department under their central Govt. sponsored scheme to

grow greens and vegetables by using the waste generated from their kitchen and with fallen dried leaves. Sh. Raju, Asst. Director of Horticulture (State Sector) had explained the steps involved in the process of growing greens and vegetables at their home and also demonstrated in the field. The Museum received very good response from the public for registration and the programme was highly appreciated by them. Sh. Yogendra, Scientist InCharge – RMNH, Mysore and Dr. Hanumaiah, Retd. Director of Horticulture Dept. were present during the programme.

Promotion of Eco-club & Lecture Programme: 01-02-2014

An Activity of Eco-club at BhaghyaJyothi PU College was promoted and a lecture was delivered on “Green House Gases and Global Warming”. Students were actively participated during post lecture session and interacted to know more about the other phenomenon’s of Nature.

Programme for Integration of Special Children-2014: 13th to 15th Feb 2014

3days integrated programme was planned in association with Pratham, Mysore-an NGO that caters to the cause of educating the underprivileged children for their association. More than 150 students, 40 teachers and parents of the participating students from various special schools participated in the programme. Dr.M.A.Saleem Police Commissioner,Mysore and Dr,Ravindra Bhat ,Special Correspondent of Prajavani News paper were invited to be the Chief Guest on the inaugural session of the programme.

The inaugural session began with watering the plants by the chief guests and the participants of the programme. Shri.B.S.Yogendra,Scientist-B RMNH.Mysore welcomed the gathering that was followed by the speech on ‘**How I want my Environment to be ?**’ by some of the participants followed by the inaugural address by Dr. M.A.Saleem Police Commissioner. Mysore. In his inaugural address the Chief Guest spoke on the eco friendly atmosphere at various points for these special children of our country with more stress on the co-operation of the teachers and parents in making learning more meaningful with interactive sessions and nature trials with power point projection. His speech was very effective , inspiring and thought provoking to the audience of the programme. This was followed by a talk by Dr. Ravindra Bhat.

The first session of the programme was started with a speech on “How the children want their environment to be?” followed by the interactive session with the parents and teachers with the panel members on the dias.

The second day session was exclusively planned for a fancy dress of mentally challenged children on the topic Nature. Here, special children dressed themselves as various elements of nature and some activities

were arranged for these children. The third day's programme was a cultural event on Nature for the various categories of special children where in the participants choose dances, skits, miming and singing etc. to depict the environmental issues. The programme came to an end with distribution of participatory certificates to the students, teachers and volunteers. Vote of thanks proposed by Shri.B.S.Yogendra,Scientist-B, RMNH, Mysore, followed by the distribution of refreshments.

School visits and Family groups/General visitors:

Total Number of visitors were **6025** which included 3807 (65 groups)of students group from different Institutions, 1442(61 groups) of general visitors and 776 nos. 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

Romance of Birds:

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal arranged a programme on "Romance of Birds" on February 14, 2014 by 04:00 pm in the Eco-theater to match with the romance in the air of Bhopal. Dr. Sangeeta Rajgir and Shri Mohamed Khaliq from Birds of Bhopal were the resource persons to conduct this interactive show. Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist-E of the museum welcomed the gathering. Followingly Dr. Sangeeta Rajgir presented a slide show detailing sexual dimorphism of birds and their breeding behaviour, change in costume to attract female and courtship dancing displayed by the birds.

Dr. Namdev, Former Senior Manager, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Department, Shri Abrar Khan, Photo Journalist, Shri Abhishek Mishra Professors from Department of Botany, M.L.B. College, Prof. Jyoti, Department of Chemistry from Polytechnic College, Deputy Commandant, Himachal Pradesh Shri Yadav and Shri Vivin Yadav were the few participated.

World Wetland Day:

In collaboration with Ramasar Convention Secretariat, Switzerland, a mega sized poster exhibit (20 x 15 feet) was displayed on February 2, 2014 to convey the thematic message.

Collaborative Programme:

- Special interactive session with the Environmental Education Course (EPCO) participants around 150 were arranged on January 25, 2014.
- Jointly with Regional Science Centre, M. P. Council of Science & Technology and Makhan Lal Chatturevedi, University for Journalism, Bhopal a programme for popular Science writing for the journalism students have been discussed at Regional Science Centre, Bhopal on February 7, 2014.

A fibre glass model of scorpion (three feet) depicting the “parental care” was made ready during this month by RMNH Modeller for the display at discovery centre.

Participation:

Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist-E attended State level Paryavaran Mitra Puruskar selection at Centre For Environmental Education, Bhopal as Jury Member on January 29, 2014. The jury selected best school, best student and best teacher for state award as the part of national level campaign.

Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist-E attended evaluation meeting of subject “Science Popularization, S&T Promotion & Scientific Validation of Traditional Knowledge” on January 31, 2014 as an expert member at Vigyan Bhawan, M. P. Council of Science & Technology, Bhopal.

NGO Collaboration Programme:

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

Foot Falls:

A total number of 3734 public visited the Museum during January 20, 2014 to February 19, 2014.

Visits of Organized Groups:

Seven groups of students/teachers were provided guided tours at museum’s galleries during January 20, 2014 to February 19, 2014.

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: (1st February, 2014)

Museum organized a Special programme for Children with Special Needs on 1st February, 2014 in collaboration with Institute of Health Science, Bhubaneswar. Special programme included various creative activities like clay modeling, painting, sand art on nature & environment etc. This programme provided a special opportunity for differently abled students to participate in various museum activities like regular students and express their talents related to natural history. About 40 children took part in the above competitions. At last all prize winners were awarded with trophy and certificates during the prize distribution function graced by Shri G. N. Indresha, Scientist-C & H.O. and Prof. Satya Mahapatra, Founder of the IHS, Bhubaneswar.

Celebration of World Wetland Day: (2nd February, 2014)

The museum organized an awareness programme on Wetlands at Ansupa lake- a wetland of national importance in Cuttack district during World Wetland Day on 2nd February 2014 for school students to create awareness about wetlands with special reference to Ansupa-Wetland of National importance. The programme included written quiz on wetlands, bird watching etc. involving school students from villages in and around the Ansupa Lake. Apart from creating awareness about wetlands, students were provided with firsthand knowledge about the flora and fauna of Ansupa Lake and the importance of conservation of bio diversity of lakes. More than 200 students participated in the programmes.

The programme was organized in collaboration with, Athagarh Forest Division, Forest Department, Government of Odisha. Scientist-C&HO, RMNH, Bhubaneswar, Additional Chief Executive, Chilika Development Authority and the DFO, Athagarh Forest Division addressed the gathering. A large number of people from nearby villages attended the meeting and function. At the end of the programme, prizes and certificates were given to the winners by dignitaries.

Special programme for differently abled Children: (18 February 2014)

Museum organized special programmes for differently abled students on 18th February 2014 in collaboration with Neelachal Seva Pratisthan, Kanas, Puri district. Special programme included various creative activities like touch, feel & identify the stuffed specimen, identifying calls of birds & animals and singing competition on nature & environment etc. This programme provided a special opportunity for differently abled students to participate in various museum activities like regular students and express their talents related to natural history.

The programme was envisaged outside Bhubaneswar to provide opportunity to the students of Puri district in Odisha. The students were involved in various activities as per their aptitude, ability, interest. The programme was undertaken under visually challenged students. About 70 visually challenged students took part in the above competitions. At last all prize winners were awarded with trophy and certificates during the prize distribution function graced by Shri G. N. Indresha, Scientist-C & H.O. and Bidyadhar Paschmimakabata, Principal of the school.

Interactive meeting on Climate Change with Mr. David Waskow- US Climate Change Expert: (21st February, 2014)

Museum organized an interactive programme with Mr. David Waskow, Director, International Climate Action Signature Initiative, World Resources Institute, USA, on **Climate Change - Issues and its Management** in collaboration with Center for Environmental Studies, Dept. of Forest and Environment, Govt. of Odisha on 21st February in the museum. Mr David Waskow, delivered a talk and interacted with Stakeholders of Climate change action plan, NGOs, Researchers and Students from University. About **150** participants took part in the above programme. This programme graced by Mr. Gurdit Singh, Asst. Public Affairs Officer, US Consulate General, Hyderabad, Shri S. B. Samant, Director, Environment-cum- Special. Secretary, Forest and Environment Department, Govt. of Odisha, Shri G. N. Indresha, Scientist-C & H.O. and Dr. S.B. Padhi, Director, Centre for Environmental Studies, Bhubaneswar.

Visit of public:

During the month, the visitor's book recorded a total number of **21,265** visitors from different organizations, institutions & family groups.

RGRMNH-SwaiMadhopur

Winter Nature Camp-2014:

Winter Nature Camp for two days i.e. 24th and 25th Jan., 2014 has been organized. In connection with, **20 participants (9th to 12th class from different schools) of in and around Sawai Madhopur** for Winter Nature Camp-2014 has been selected for Winter Nature Camp out of 35 entries through lot system.

On first day of Winter Nature Camp-2014, a power point presentation has been given by **Dr. Sitaram Tagore, Sr. Project Officer, SWM, WWF India** on “A general Scenario of Chambal River in account of its flora & fauna”. Other presentation by **Shri Rang Lal Chaudhary, DCF (Re-location) Project Tiger, Sawai Madhopur** on “Ranthambhore National Park and re-location”.

After lunch, participants taken to visit Ranthambhore National Park, Sawai Madhopur through a canter along with a guide and few staff of this museum.

All the participants observed number of animals in Ranthambhore National Park like Tiger, Leopard, Wild boars, spotted deers, Sambhar, Crocodiles, turtle, snakes, Hyena, Vulture & other birds etc. and briefed them significance roles of the above animals in the nature.

On Second day of Winter Nature Camp-2014, Participants were taken to visiting **Chambal Sanctuary, Rameshwar Ghat** (Khandar), Dist. Sawai Madhopur, which is famous for its fresh water crocodile, Gharial as well as other local migratory birds.

Mr. Bhawani Singh, ACF, Chambal Sanctuary briefed to participants about its flora and fauna. Participants were taken to ride boating in Chambal River to better enhancement the knowledge. They were benefitted to watch and observe crocodiles, gharials, monitor lizards, water snakes, fishes, water birds, terrestrial birds, blue bulls, jackal, mongoose, red sand boa etc. Certificates also issued to all the participants of WNC-2014.

Special Visit/Meeting:

- Director, ZSI Kolkata and Jodhpur visited this museum on 29th January, 2014 along with other staff.
- Smt. Diya Kumari, MLA, Sawai Madhopur along with her team (50 Nos.) visited this museum on 4th Feb., 2014 and discussed with undersigned on mission and objectives of this museum and other issues.

A team consisting of **Smt. Naaz Rizvi, Sc-'D', Sh. M.M. Pandey, Under Secretary, Sh. Mohammad Yunus, Sc-'C', Sh. K. N. Sathyanarayana, O.S. and Sh. Hukam chand, UDC** were on official tour to Jaipur to inspect the statue of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi which is to be installed in RGRMNH, SWM.

Following works has been done in different sections of the museum:

Modelling Section:

- Casting & finishing of Chinkara (01 No.) and sparrow (05 Nos.) has been completed.
- Prepared High relief model of Great Indian Hornbill in fibre.
- Clay modelling of Indian Roller has been completed. Now it is ready for moulding & casting in fibre.

Art Section:

- Colour on Great Indian Hornbill (high relief in fibre), Kingfisher and sparrow has been completed.
- A special painting on film roll fixed at the entrance of eco-theatre/classroom.
- A painting (11' x 4') on canvas fixed at the reception.
- A Background painting work is going on in the movable diorama of Chinkara.
- Signages and museum boards were prepared and fixed the same in the museum.

Carpentry Work:

- Three panels of 8' x 4' (vertical) prepared.
- Two panels of 15' x 5' (horizontal) prepared for mounting canvas rolls.
- Two aquarium of 5' x 2.5' prepared.
- Prepared one movable diorama for chinkara habitat.
- Glasses were fixed in the diorama of lioness, tiger, great Indian bustard and skulls of the tiger.