

PRESS RELEASE

National Conference on Museum Access: “MUSEUMS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES”

Organiser: National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi

Venue: MoEFCC, Jor Bagh, New Delhi-110003

Dates: 16-17 December 2015

The National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), an institution under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Government of India), has been a pioneer institution for the service of Persons with Disabilities under its thrust area, Museum Access Studies (MAS). It is the first Museum in Asia to develop Braille publications. It has established disable-friendly accessible infrastructural facilities in all its Regional Museums of Natural History (RMNH) located in Mysore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and Sawai Madhopur. It has also organised a large number of programmes in Museum Access as part of its mandate to make its facilities/ resources accessible to all including Persons with Disabilities.

In continuation of the initiatives on Museum Access, the NMNH will be organising a National Conference on Museum Access titled **Museums and Persons with Disabilities** during 16-17 December 2015 in New Delhi.

This is in tune with the **Accessible India Campaign** of the Government of India.

About 75 persons, largely belonging to the disability sector in India will be participating. They are from Mysore, Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Sawai Madhopur, Vadodara, Gurgaon and New Delhi. During the two days Conference, there will be sessions on Museums and Persons with Physical disabilities, Museums and Persons with Speech/ Hearing disabilities, Museums and Persons with Visual disabilities and Museums and Persons with Mental disabilities. It is expected to recommend various programmes by Museums for the benefit of all categories of Persons with disabilities.

The inaugural function will be held at 10 am on 16th December 2015 at the Ganga Auditorium of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change located in Jor Bagh, New Delhi and which is disable-friendly. Shri Hem Pande, Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) will be the Chief Guest. Shri Anil Bahuguna, Joint Secretary in the MoEFCC and Shri Mukesh Jain, Joint Secretary in the Department of Disability Affairs of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will be Guests of Honour.

During the inaugural programme, prizes will be distributed among the winners of the programme on Disabilities organised by the NMNH as part of the International Day on Disability.