

Government of India
National Museum of Natural History
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
4th Floor, Block-3, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110003

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS: NOVEMBER, 2020

For the containment of COVID-19 Pandemic, the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), New Delhi and its Regional Centres at Mysore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and SawaiMadhopur were closed for the general visitors. The museums are working with minimum essential staff and the rest of the officials are assigned duties to work-from-home.

I. NMNH, New Delhi

➤ Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal Memorial Lecture Series: (4th to 6th November, 2020)

The National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), New Delhi and Trans-Disciplinary University of Health Sciences and Technology (TDU), Bengaluru jointly organized three day long National Webinar series to mark the Birth Centenary Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal “**Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal Memorial Lecture Series on Plant Taxonomy and Ethnobotany in India – Future and Challenges**” from 4th to 6th November, 2020 between 11:00 am to 01:00 pm.

The webinar series was coordinated by RMNH Mysuru and was attended by officials from NMNH and its regional centres, officials from TDU- Bengaluru, eminent scientists and experts, school, college and university students from various parts of the country.

Day-1, Welcome address was delivered by Mrs. Naaz Rizvi, Director, NMNH. Dr. A. G. Pandurangan, Advisor (Env. & Biodiversity, CISSA & Ex. Director of JN Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute, Kerala delivered “A Bibliographical journey of Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal – A path breaking Indian Botanist”. Dr. S. S. Samant, Director, Himachal Forest Research Institute, Himachal Pradesh delivered lecture on the topic “Ethnobotanical uses of floristic diversity by native communities in Indian Himalayan region”.

Day-2, Dr. M Sanjappa, Sr.Scientist, INSA & Ex. Director, BSI spoke on the topic “Kas Plateau: a botanical paradise in Western Ghats”. Dr. Aparna Watve, Head of School, Ecology, Society and Sustainable Development, MIT World Peace University, Pune delivered her lecture on the topic “Nature and Culture of Maharashtra”. Dr. Deshworjit. Singh. Ningomban, Asstt. Prof., Dept. of Botany, Jadonang Memorial College, Manipur delivered lecture on the topic “Wild Edible Plants used by different Ethnic Communities of Manipur”.

Day-3, Dr. M. U. Sharief, Scientist-E & In-charge, BSI, Southern Regional Centre, Coimbatore delivered lecture on the topic “Conservation of Biodiversity with special focus on Andaman and Nicobar Islands – A BSI Perspective”. Dr. Hui Tag, Associate Professor and Head of Dept. of Botany, Rajiv Gandhi University, Rano Hills, Arunachal Pradesh spoke on the topic “Ethnobotany: Opportunities in North-East India”.

Prof. Anant Darshan Shankar, Vice Chancellor, TDU-Bengaluru delivered lecture on the topic "Need to strengthen the epistemological foundations of ethnobotany".

The organizers received an overwhelming response. All the registered participants were asked to give their responses in an online Evaluation sheet. The responses were compiled to put together a summative report to further recommendations from this webinar series to the Govt. of India. E-Certificates were issued to all the registered participants.

➤ **Constitution Day 2020: Online Competitions:**

National Museum of Natural History and its Regional Centres are organizing various online competitions to celebrate "Constitution Day 2020" (26th November, 2020). The theme for the competitions is – "Hamara Samvidhan – Hamara Abhiman" (Our Constitution – Our Pride).

Different online competitions organized are as following:

- i) Slogan Writing Competition for school students of Class 8th to 12th is organized by NMNH, New Delhi.
- ii) Poster Making Competition for school students of Class 9th to 12th is organized by RMNH, Mysuru.
- iii) Essay Writing Competition for Undergraduate students is organized by RMNH, Bhopal.
- iv) Painting Competition for school students of Class 5th to 8th is organized by RMNH, Bhubaneswar.
- v) Quiz Competition for school students of Class 6th to 10th will be organized by RGRMNH, Sawai Madhopur on 3rd December.

The details of these online competitions were made public on 26th November, 2020 through information posters/advertisement on website of MoEF&CC and various social media platforms like facebook, instagram, twitter, whatsapp and through e-mails to schools/colleges.

The last date to submit the entries for various competitions is 4th December, 2020.

For online Quiz Competition interested participants have to register online till 2nd December, 2020.

Top Five best entries will be declared winners in each competition will be awarded trophy and e-certificate.

Selected best entries in Slogan Writing, Painting, Poster making and Essay Writing competitions will be published on website/social media of MoEF&CC and popular environmental awareness publications of NMNH.

➤ **Results declared of Painting Competition held to commemorate Teachers Day**

The Result of the Painting Competition organized to commemorate Teachers Day in September 2020 was declared and all the winners have been informed. The entries were evaluated by a panel of judges/experts nominated by the Director, NMNH. In total

289 entries were received. The competition was organized for the school students of classes IX to XII. The theme of the Painting Competition was – “Environment and Health”. Twelve best entries will be awarded and will be utilized in the Environmental Awareness Desk Calendar of NMNH. The cash prize will be credited to the bank accounts of the winners and e-certificates will be dispatched through e-mail.

➤ **Forthcoming Programmes:**

Constitution Day 2020 – Online Slogan Writing Competition for school students of class 8th to 12th is being organized by NMNH. The last date to submit the entries is 4th December, 2020. The entries will be downloaded and evaluated by panel of judges/experts to select Five Prize Winners (First, Second, Third and Two Encouragement Prizes).

II. RMNH, Mysuru

➤ **Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal Memorial Lecture Series**
on “Plant Taxonomy and Ethnobotany: (4th to 6th November, 2020)

Regional Museum of Natural History Mysore conducted three days National Webinar on “Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal Memorial Lecture Series on “Plant Taxonomy and Ethnobotany in India - Future and Challenges” from 4th to 6th Nov. 2020 which was organised by National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi in collaboration with University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, Bengaluru.

The first day programme started with opening remarks by Shri M. Vijay, Scientist-C and introductory remarks by Dr A. P. Tiwari Scientist-C & H.O. Mrs. Naaz Rizvi, Director NMNH, New Delhi, during her welcome address stressed the importance of Ethnobotanical knowledge which has played important role in the development of new drugs for many centuries and becoming increasingly important in defining strategies and actions for conservation or recuperation of residual forests. Later Dr. Noornissa Begum, Asst. Professor, TDU introduced the speakers of the first day programme. The first session lecture and presentation was delivered by Dr. A. G. Pandurangan, Advisor (Envt. & Biodiversity), Centre for Innovation in Science & Social Action (CISSA) & Ex. Director Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute, Kerala on “A bibliographical Journey of Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal: A path breaking Indian Botanist” . The second session lecture and Presentation was delivered by Dr. S. S. Samant, Director, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Himachal Pradesh on Ethnobotanical uses of floristic diversity by native communities in Indian Himalayan region.

On the second day of Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal Memorial Lecture Series, there were three lectures and presentations. The first lecture and presentation was delivered by Dr. M. Sanjappa, Senior Scientist, INSA & Ex. Director, Botanical Survey of India on “Kas Plateau: a botanical paradise in Western Ghats”. The second lecture and Presentation was delivered by Dr. Aparna Watve, Head of the School, Ecology, Society &

Sustainable Development, MIT World Peace University, Pune on “Nature and culture of Maharashtra”. The third lecture and presentation on “Wild Edible Plants used by different Ethnic Communities of Manipur” was delivered by Dr. Deshworjit Singh Ningombam Assistant Professor, Department of Botany Jadonang Memorial College, Manipur.

The third day of Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal Memorial Lecture Series, there were three lectures and two presentations. The first lecture and presentation on Conservation of Biodiversity with special focus on “Andaman and Nicobar Islands – A BSI Perspective” was delivered by Dr. M.U. Sharief, Scientist-E & In-Charge, Botanical Survey of India, Southern Regional Centre, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. The second lecture and presentation on “Ethnobotany: Opportunities in the North-East India” was delivered by Dr. Hui Tag, Associate Professor and Head Department of Botany, Rajiv Gandhi University Rono Hills, Arunachal Pradesh. The third lecture was on “Need to strengthen the epistemological foundations of Ethnobotany” and was delivered by Prof. Anant Darshan Shankar, Vice-Chancellor, TDU, Bengaluru.

In all the 3 days, 251 participants participated in each webinar session. Shri M. Vijay Scientist-C along with Dr Noornissa Begum, Asst. Professor, TDU moderated the webinar session on all three days. Shri John Thomas, Taxidermist, Shri B. S. Yogendra and Dr Abdul Kareem, Asst. Professor, TDU were all involved in various stages of conducting three days webinar. The participants were mostly students, followed by scientists, researchers, amateur naturalist and subject experts from different parts of the country

➤ **Webinar on Island Birds & their Conservation:** (12th November, 2020)

A webinar was organized on the theme - “Island Birds & their Conservation” on the occasion of birth anniversary of Dr. Salim Ali - The Bird Man of India on 12th November 2020.

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Manchi Shirish S., Principal Scientist, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Coimbatore. During his speech Dr. Shirish shared his research work related to conservation efforts taken towards Andaman Island Birds such as Narcondam Hornbill, Edible nest swiftlet, and Andaman Serpent Eagle.

During the programme, power point slides were also shared to make the talk more effective. Shri M. Vijay, Scientist-C moderated the webinar session and about 150 participants participated during the programme.

➤ **Gallery Development work:**

The background work for King Cobra exhibit at minus gallery was further enhanced through painting on canvas. The cave portion of “Life through Ages” gallery were repainted with spray paint.

➤ **Forthcoming Programmes:** (Tentative)
International Mountain Day on 11th December 2020

III. RMNH, Bhopal

➤ **National Birding Day - Green Talk 12:-** (11th November, 2020)

An online lecture was organized on 11th November, 2020 on occasion of National Birding Day under an Online Series of Popular Lectures on “Nature and environment Conservation”. The theme of the lecture was “Avifauna of Central India and their Conservation” and delivered by Dr. Sangeeta Rajgir, Founder & Member Secretary of Bhopal Birds, Bhopal. Sixty number of participants participated in the programme.

➤ **Maintenance / updation:-**

- Base prepared for LED TV to be installed in Gallery-I
- Cleaning & setting of Discovery Centre
- Lighting & maintenance of food pyramid showcase, fresh water fishes and translite of Rivers of MP
- Deep cleaning of endangered animals, Bio-geochemical cycle, Rivers of MP, Geological time scale & Food pyramid showcases.
- Maintenance of temporary exhibition Wilderness in Dark.

IV. RMNH, Bhubaneswar

➤ **Conservation:**

- The skeleton of toothed whale is being treated and curated to prevent further degradation due to non-functional air conditioners in the gallery since past few years.
- The Baleen whale is under preservation process with dusting and chemical cleaning.
- Taxidermical presentations have been made from the tortoise specimens preserved in reserve collection.

➤ **OTHER WORKS:**

Ongoing developmental/maintenance works:

- i) Toothed Whale skeleton is being treated with chemicals, cleaning and peroxide treatment has been completed.
- ii) Garden maintenance done to keep plants and landscape in good shape.
- iii) Fish tanks and aquariums cleaned and maintained to keep live corner healthy and safe.

iv) Reserve collection is checked upon time to time for chemical treatment to keep collections safe from fungal attack and deterioration.

V. RGRMNH, Sawai Madhopur

➤ World Heritage Week – 2020 (19th to 25th November) Online Festival of Documentary Films

Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History (RGRMNH), Sawai Madhopur, in collaboration with MIT Institute of Design, Pune (MIT-ADT University, Pune) organized an online film festival in which about 13 rare documentary films on Environment, Wildlife, and Natural Heritage were screened during WORLD HERITAGE WEEK, 2020 from November 19 to 25, 2020. The documentary movies were screened on YouTube channel of RGRMNH, SWM. During this period more than 10,020 viewers benefitted and 227 people subscribed the channel.

➤ International E-Conference held on 19th and 20th November, 2020 on “Management of Forest and Wildlife under Changing Climate Scenario”

Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History, Sawai Madhopur, organized two days International E-Conference on, “Management of Forest and Wildlife under Changing Climate Scenario” in collaboration with JDB Govt. Girls College, Kota, Rajasthan. Mrs. Susmita Adhikari, Scientist-C, RGRMNH, SWM was deputed officially to coordinate in organizing the E-Conference.

About 700 intellectual participants participated online from more than 75 Institutions across the world. More than 7 eminent speakers from US, Canada, Kazakhstan, and Australia and in India from Jammu & Kashmir in the North to Kerala in South and from Rajasthan in the West to Assam and Mizoram in the East delivered online power point presentations on different topics and shared their valuable experience amongst participants of the International e-conference which was organized/held on 19th & 20th November, 2020.

Besides that 65 research papers were presented by various presenters i.e. professors, scientists and researchers etc. which may play vital role to understand wildlife and nature.

Selected scientific research papers will be published in magazine. All the participants of international e-conference have been awarded by E-certificates.

➤ Preservation:

- Chemical treatment of zoological specimens shifted from NMNH, New Delhi, was carried out at RGRMNH, SWM.
- Chemical treatment, modeling & finishing work is going on the Zoological Specimens

➤ **Documentation:**

List of displayed Biological Specimen in the gallery has been prepared and documentation and accession is started.

➤ Development of gallery is in progress.

➤ Cleaning in the museum campus is going on regularly.

➤ **Art Section:**

- A Road Map of RGRMNH from Sawai Madhopur Railway Station to the Museum is in progress.

➤ **Modelling Section:**

- POP moulding of life size Great Indian Hornbill has been completed.
- POP moulding of life size Grey Hornbill has been completed.
- Restoration of Wild Ass Taxidermy Specimen has been completed.

➤ **Education Unit:**

- Coordinated with participants through WhatsApp group titled “*International E-Conf*” for sharing web links, instructions etc. for smooth functioning of two days International E-Conference on, “Management of Forest and Wildlife under Changing Climate Scenario” in collaboration with JDB Govt. Girls College, Kota, Rajasthan held on 19th and 20th November, 2020
- Coordinated with participants in organizing Online Film Festival. Showcasing rare documentary films on Environment, Wildlife, and Natural Heritage during WORLD HERITAGE WEEK, 2020 from November 19th to 25th, 2020.
- Prepared Google form for Free Registration for International E-Conference and Online Film Festival.
- Designed Advertisement for wider publicity and E-Certificates for above mentioned Programmes.
- Coordinated with eminent speakers and experts for International E-Conference, held on 19-20 November, 2020.
- Verification of museum collection from old communications is in progress.
- As per instruction received from GA Section of MoEF&CC, New Delhi, counting of official files and its pages is under process for scanning/digitization of official files for future informational record.

➤ **Forthcoming Programmes:**

1. RGRMNH is going to organize “**Online Quiz Competition**” on **03rd** December 2020 in connection with “**Constitution Day**” (26th November, 2020) on the theme “**Our Constitution - Our Pride**” for 6th -10th Std. students.
2. RGRMNH is also going to organize “**Online Video Making Competition**” on **16th December 2020** in connection with Youth skill development on the theme “**Our Nature: Our Environment**” for 10th -12th Std. students.
