



सत्यमेव जयते

Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History



जहाँ है हरियाली ।
वहाँ है खुशहाली ॥

Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History (RG RMNH), Sawai Madhopur the historical city of Rajasthan which is renowned for an important Project Tiger site in Ranthambhore.

This Museum is the fourth Regional office of the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), a sub-ordinate office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. This Museum was conceived to highlight the natural heritage, plants and animals of the Western Region of the country, besides acting as a resource centre for public in general and children/ students in particular.

It is appropriate that the RMNH at Sawai Madhopur is named after Shri Rajiv Gandhi who was the Prime Minister of India during 1984-1989. He was instrumental in bringing the subject of Environment to higher levels for which purpose he upgraded the Department of Environment to a Ministry of Environment & Forests in 1985.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi has shown personal interest in Environment and Sawai Madhopur as he used to visit the Ranthambhore National Park (in Sawai Madhopur) on a regular basis primarily to see Tigers in their natural habitats. In fact these visits to Sawai Madhopur helped Ranthambhore National Park to attract visitors from all over the World.



BACKGROUND

The idea of establishing a National Museum of Natural History was proposed by a Committee of Ministers in April 1972 under the Chairmanship of the then Minister of Finance as part of the silver jubilee celebrations of India's independence, and later approved by our former Prime Minister (late) Smt. Indira Gandhi. The NMNH was opened to public on 5th June 1978 in New Delhi.

Over years the NMNH served the nation as the major national level institution involved in Environmental Education. However, it was felt that a single institution in New Delhi alone cannot cater to the needs of the vast country. Accordingly a few Regional offices were planned to extend the geographical coverage of the NMNH. Thus, Regional Museums of Natural History (RMNH) were established for Southern Region (Mysore), Central Region (Bhopal) and Eastern Region (Bhubaneswar). The RMNH being established in Western Region (Sawai Madhopur) is the fourth in this chain.

The Museum in Sawai Madhopur has been constructed on a piece of land provided by the Govt of Rajasthan. The Museum is adjacent to the following heritage attractions:

- ★ “Shilpgram”: This is being developed by the State Government to highlight the cultural heritage of the local area and to promote tourism.
- ★ Ranthambhore Fort: It has become part of the UNESCO’s World Heritage Site under Hill Forts series of Rajasthan.
- ★ Ranthambhore National Park: This protected area has become world famous on account of Tigers.

The combination of the RG RMNH along with the Ranthambhore National Park and the cultural heritage hubs such as Shilpgram and Ranthambhore Fort has brought Sawai Madhopur as one of the finest heritage attractions in the country.

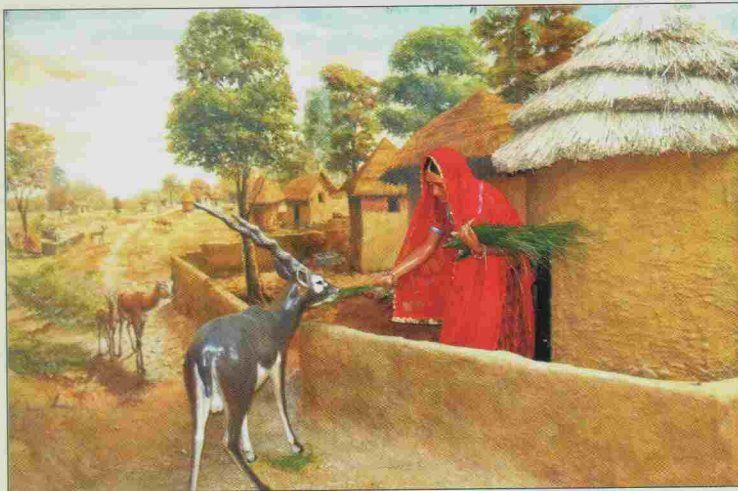


A bird's eye view of the Museum campus

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Museum are:

1. To implement the policies of the Ministry of Environment & Forests under the scheme of EIEA (Environment Information, Education and Awareness) and related schemes such as Biodiversity through the NMNH (National Museum of Natural History) in the Western Region of India in general and Rajasthan in particular,
2. To develop scientific temper in the Western Region of India on environment, biodiversity and natural heritage through Communication, Education and Public Awareness,
3. To develop appropriate educational programmes for the public in general and children in particular to create environmental awareness in the Region,
4. To publish popular educational materials useful for environmental education,
5. To develop exhibits depicting the flora, fauna and geology of the Region, and
6. To help promote heritage tourism in Sawai Madhopur



GALLERY ON "BIODIVERSITY OF RAJASTHAN"

The inauguration of the Museum marks the opening of the RG RMNH for the general public. Initially it is being opened with a Gallery 1 on "Biodiversity of Rajasthan" or "Forests and Wildlife of Rajasthan". It depicts the diversity of Rajasthan with respect to its plants, animals, wildlife and forests. The Gallery has digitally mounted panels, interactive exhibits and photographic depiction of wildlife, besides important dioramas on different themes highlighting human interface with nature in his/her efforts for conservation of nature and natural resources. It also includes a diorama on the Bishnoi community, famous for sacrificing their lives to save trees.

OTHER GALLERIES

Other Galleries to come up in future includes the following:

Gallery 2: Biomes & Ecosystems

Gallery 3: Desert

Gallery 4: Ecology (Nature's Network) & Conservation

Gallery 5: Origin and Evolution of Life

OTHER RESOURCES

After the inauguration the following resources will be developed in phased manner:

Auditorium:

The Museum will have a large auditorium with a sitting capacity of about 300 people. This will be utilised for daily film shows on popular subjects relevant to the Museum. The facility may also be used for other public programmes such as seminars, workshops and conferences besides acting as an inter-institutional facility for conducting programmes at Sawai Madhopur.

Library:

The Museum will have a small Library which is built up to accommodate about 10,000 books on different subjects relevant to nature, natural resources, wildlife, environment and conservation.

Khojkaksh:

The Khojkaksh is a modified version of the Discovery Centre available in the NMNH incorporating elements of innovation. It provides avenues to have 'minds-on' and 'hands-on' experience in biology for children who may use senses such as vision, touch, speech/hearing, smell and even taste.

Nature Camp facility:

The Museum will have facility for Nature Camps in the form of a transit hostel for the benefit of participants from outside.



Visiting Hours:

All Museums under NMNH are open to public between 10 am to 5 pm on all days except Mondays and National Holidays.

National Museum of Natural History

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Regional Museums of Natural History

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2. Regional Museum of Natural History

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3. Regional Museum of Natural History

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