

Education Reports

World Environment Day Celebration at St. John's Public School, Chennai, TN

The Principal Mrs. Shanthi Samuel started the celebration with an introductory talk and a note of welcome after the prayer song by the School Choir. The resource person Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran, member, ZOO's Educator's Network motivated through an insight of the day's significance in a gathering of 100 students & staff. The Theme "Raise your voice not the sea level" was exemplified through various activities conducted during the session by the Resource Person.

The proceedings of the day included the theme song, initiation of the theme by UN, significance of the climatic change, the technical session through demonstrations, role-play by students, placards, and great insight in various species of frogs. The agenda of the day moved the children to bring forth awareness among the society on regular basis through various activities. The session proved to be a real motivating one as they spontaneously showed the concern towards conservation of frogs and decided to raise their voice for the Biodiversity Campaign. **Submitted by: Ms. Jessie Jeyakaran, Chennai. Email: jessyjey@rediffmail.com**



Role - play on frog conservation

Western Ghats Freshwater Biodiversity programme-Follow up

The students of Nalanda Matriculation School, Kambam, carried out a follow up of Sahyadri Freshwater fishes on 20 June 14. The students visited the local fish market to know more about fishes where they had an excellent discussion with shop owners. Most of the students said that it was their first visit and an unforgettable experience. Pre-entry knowledge showed that they were familiar with size and the shape but not the names. The poster supplied by the Zoo

Outreach Organization, India helped them to learn few of the fish names. Out of the 10 students 4 identified the marine fish and 7 the fresh water fishes sold in the market separately. Jessie Jeyakaran was the coordinator and explained about the names of the fins and its functions. The air sacs of the fishes were also taken out to explain them. Mr. Shahul and Raja, the shopkeepers admitted that they themselves came to know some of the fish names today. Mr. G. Viswanathan, the Correspondent arranged the visit and his presence with four



St. John's Public School students with ZOO's amphibian posters



Identifying the fish with the help of poster



Students study visit to the local fish market

teachers were of more useful.

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Van Mahotsav celebrated at Tata Steel Zoological Park, Jhamshedpur

Tata Steel Zoo has been celebrating *Van Mahotsav* for many years now with the sole intention of instilling and reinforcing the value of afforestation and seeks to promote inclusive participation in this initiative from diverse sections of the society from in and around Jamshedpur. As part of meeting the AICHI TARGET -1 of the strategic plan for biodiversity conservation 2020, the Zoo has

taken the initiative to make more and more people aware of the value of biodiversity by organising various educational activities throughout the year with the aim of educating one lakh students and planting 50000 trees in the Kolhan region of Jharkhand by the year 2020. Over the last year, the Zoo has organised educational and awareness activities where more than 15,000 students have been made aware of biodiversity and wildlife conservation through such programs.

Tata Steel Zoological Park commenced *Van Mahotsav* celebrations with the commemorative planting of *Sal* saplings by Mr. Satyajit Singh, I.F.S., CF (T) along with Mr. Karma Zimpa Bhutia, I.F.S. D F O– Dalbhum Forest Division. *Sal (Shorea robusta)* is a species native to Jharkhand and is Jharkhand’s State Tree. In order to preserve and further expand *Sal* forests, Tata Steel Zoo promotes children, students, civil society and corporates in and around Jamshedpur to plant more and more of these trees so that the legacy of Jharkhand’s forest is preserved for future generations. Students from Kerala Public School, Burmamines and JUSCO School, South Park, Lions Club of Jamshedpur Steel City and Inner Wheel Club of Jamshedpur Zest



Herb medicinal plant sale at Tata Steel Zoo on the occasion of Van Mahotsav



Mr. Satyajit Singh IFS C.F. Territorial Circle Jamshedpur planting a Sal tree during Van Mahotsav at Tata Steel Zoo

also participated in tree plantation drive.

The Zoo received a munificent donation towards the *Van Mahotsav* activities from Ms. Dipali Talwar, Group General Counsel, Tata Steel. On the occasion, the Zoo set up a sale counter of herbs and medicinal plants such as Aloe Vera, Lemon Grass, Turmeric, Tulsi and hibiscus, which Zoo visitors may purchase anytime during the Van Mahotsav celebrations this month. Ms. Seema Rani, Biologist cum Education Officer and Sandeep Raj Singh, Zoo Volunteer coordinated the event. **Submitted by: Ms. Seema Rani. Email: cmarani00@rediffmail.com**

Megamix Nature Club, Assam - Recent activities

An environment education orientation programme was held on 3-5 February for 40 secondary School teachers of Dhemaji District and it was held at Dhemaji College jointly organise with D-VERDS, Assam Science and Technology, Guwahati and Inspector of Schools jointly organized it. On 5 Feb, Mr. Debojit Phukan provided training on the topics, environment vs development and environmental initiatives in broad context. On 09 March, a daylong training on

Lakhimpur Forest Division organized legal awareness training program for 35 forest staff on 23-24 June 2014. Megamix provided training on biodiversity and other forest and wildlife related acts. An environmental awareness talk was delivered at the Children's Conference organized by Dhenukhana-Batomari, GP on 6 July. At the Abha Kala Mhavidyalaya student's summer camp, environment training was given and it was held at Pachim Dhakuakhana High School on 27 July.

As part of students Science Seminar convened by Directorate of Secondary Education, Assam a preparatory training was provided to the students of Pachim Dhakuakhana High School on the theme "Innovation in agriculture



Students attending biodiversity training at Bengenagora HS School

biodiversity was held at Bengenagora HS School for 75 students and 5 teachers representing from two schools. Mr. Phukan was the main resource person and training on biodiversity, wildlife, wetlands, village forest and chiroptera (bats). As apart of the training 15 education kits on various species were demonstrated. The copy of the packets were given to the school Vipnet Club for further use.

for a sustainable future: prospects and challenges". Two radio talks were given on 'Wild life of our backyard (Assamese)', on 05-05-2014 and Community awareness on environment (Assamese), on 10 June broadcasted by AIR- Dibrugarh. **Submitted by: Mr Debojit Phukan, Secretary. E-mail: phukan.debojit@rediffmail.com**