



Capsule APR-JUN 1992 **25**

INAUGURATION NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE NEW DELHI



The Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao dedicated the Centre to the nation on January 9, 1992, in presence of Shri Arjun Singh, Minister of Human Resource Development.

The Centre having an exhibition area of 18,000 sq.mt, is the largest of its kind in Asia.

The objectives of this Centre are to popularise science and technology, supplement school science

education through exhibitions, popular lectures, film shows, science seminars, fairs, demonstration lectures and setting up of Regional & District Centres in the states of Northern India.

The Centre was opened to public with four galleries—Heritage, Fun Science, Information Revolution and the giant Energy Ball exhibit, one of the largest in any science museum.

While riding the escalator to reach the gallery on the third floor, the Energy Balls roll around, performing all types of acrobatics, explaining several principles of mechanics.

The hall on **Heritage** projects the history of 5 millennium of Indian science, technology and culture and is portrayed through working exhibits.

The gallery of **Fun Science** is a sort of wonderland to play and learn. The gallery is virtually an indoor play ground for children. It also accommodates a Model School Science Centre, Children Activity Area and demonstration of the

Taramandal, an inflatable dome planetarium.

The gallery on **Information Revolution** provides the story of information & communication in India from prehistoric time to modern era.

Another facet is the Activity Corner for visitors to actively

participate and learn candle making, coil winding etc.

The Centre is equipped with a 330 capacity air-conditioned auditorium with provision for simultaneous translation, a conference system spread in three enclaves, a cafeteria and a reference library.

Raman Science Centre, Nagpur Inaugurated



Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India, inaugurated Raman Science Centre, Nagpur, on March 7, 1992.

The Centre has a Science Park on 2 hectares of land with fifty participatory exhibits. The main building houses exhibition halls, auditorium and other activity areas. The Centre also runs Mobile Science Exhibition unit on 'Perception'.

The main exhibition building of the centre covers an area of 1,500 sqm.

The ground floor has the **Umbrella** – 'The atmosphere that protects us' gallery, and also a 130 seat air-conditioned auditorium.

The first floor has the **Fun Science** gallery while the second floor houses the Childrens' Activity Hall, Teachers' Training Area, Computer Library and Office.

There are about 100 exhibits in the building. A new Mobile Science Exhibition unit on **Time** is being developed, which is to be opened for the public in July, 1992.



FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS Tirunelveli

The 4 week long Fifth Anniversary celebrations got underway at the District Science Centre's auditorium on the evening of February 4, 1992.

February 4-10 was observed as Teachers' week in which a teachers' training programme



was conducted while February 10-16 was observed as Students' week. Community week was observed between February 16-22, while



February 22-28 was celebrated as the Anniversary week.

The Fifth Anniversary Day of the centre was celebrated on February 27. The Director of VITM, Bangalore, presided over the function and Shri S. Singh, Additional Collector Tirunelveli, was the Chief



Guest.

Lectures on Computers, Computer in day to day life and Computer Architecture were delivered on that day while a lecture on Super Conductivity was delivered on the next day.

A sit and draw contest for the school students of std VI-VIII was conducted on February 24, as part of anniversary week celebrations. A poster competition was conducted on February 23 and an essay writing contest for college students on the topic 'Ozone depletion and future of mankind' was conducted on February 25.

EASTERN INDIA SCIENCE FAIR 1992

Youth Service Department, Government of West Bengal and Birla Industrial & Technological Museum collaborated with the State Governments of Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland and Manipur to organise the competitive 17th Eastern India Science Fair-1992 between January 28-February 1.

In each state, the Fair was organised first at the district and then, the state level. Subsequently, the winners of the state level competed against each other at the fair.

Projects and models were on agriculture, energy, environment and pollution, transport, communication and teaching aids, among others.

A work experience Camp organised simultaneously had participants taking up projects on electronics, photography, computers, amateur radio, aeromodelling and ship building.



Dr. A. P. Mitra, Bhatnagar Fellow, CSIR, New Delhi, inaugurated the Fair and the Minister for Higher Education, West Bengal, presided as chief guest.

A sit and draw competition on 'Man and Environment' was jointly organised with the Rotary Club of BudgeBudge and Central Calcutta and Rotary International Dist 3290 at the Museum premises on January 18. Entries were judged by renowned artists and prizes were awarded on February 1, 1992.

SOUTHERN INDIA SCIENCE CAMP

The Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum organised the Southern India Science Fair-1992 along with the Department of Education, Government of Pondicherry. It was inaugurated on January 31 by Thiru 'A' Gandheraj, Minister of Education.

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY Celebration

A host of science popularisation activities were organised by the National Council of Science Museums' units on

February 28, as the occasion demanded.

On this day in 1928, Professor C.V. Raman announced his Raman Effect, which fetched him the Nobel Prize in 1930, the first for science in Asia. Since 1987, this day is observed throughout India as the National Science Day.

Nehru Science Centre, Bombay organised a health awareness programme which included a free health camp and an eye check-up camp. Popular lectures on 'Drugs and Psychological Problems of Adolescent', 'Diseases of Childhood', and drug related



problems among children were held. Other programmes included sit and draw competitions and poster contests, elocution, science quiz competition, special demonstration lectures on 'Properties of matter at very low temperature' and a presentation on 'Science Vs Miracles'.

On this occasion, a book titled 'Growing up with science in India' (1930-1985) was released by Dr. Virendra Singh, Director, TIFR. The author, Dr. B.V. Thozar, Retired Professor, TIFR also

talked on 'Reminiscences of C.V. Raman'.

Birla Industrial and Technological Museum, Calcutta celebrated National Science Day with an Open house quiz, 'sit and write' and 'show and tell' competitions



The celebration programme comprised of a 3 day film festival which drew a large audience and an astronomy awareness programme with Taramandal (inflatable dome planetarium) shows. An astronomy workshop, sky observation programme and a film show on astronomy were also held.

Shrikrishna Science Centre Patna, organised a 'sit and draw' competition on the theme 'Superstitions and scientific thinking', with 200 students participating from 15 local schools. Shri Abhishek Kumar of Loyola High School



and Shadan Tabassum of Ayub Urdu Girls High School stood first in the senior and junior sections respectively.

Popular lectures and film shows were also organised during the occasion.

The District Science Centre, Dharampur, organised the National Science Week-92 between February 22-28.

A training and workshop on fabrication of traditional and utility Bamboo Art for unemployed rural youth and house wives was held. As part of the programme, the finished items were put up as exhibits. Other programmes included a tribal art painting competition,



a science march and a demonstration on food and nutrition.

A programme on maintenance of domestic electric items was also organised under TRYSEM/DRDA. On the eve of National Science Day, a sit and draw competition on 'Science is doing' was organised along with a dramatic presentation on Science vs Miracles.

On February 28, **Raman Science Centre, Nagpur** organised Science Quiz Contest in which more than two hundred students participated from 45 schools situated in Nagpur. Vipin Sharma of Saraswati Vidyalaya won the first prize.

An overnight sky observation programme and a planetarium show were organised. Science films were



also screened during the day.

Regional Science Centre Bhopal, celebrated February 28 with a Science March by 142 students of 9 different schools, carrying banners and posters. The march began from Rosanpura Naka and ended at the Centre's doorstep. Film



shows were held along with a sit and draw competition for class VI-XII in which 56 students from 9 different schools participated. A science demonstration lecture and experiments on science were conducted.



SCIENCE CENTRE NEWS

BANGALORE

The Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum Bangalore, hosted a lecture on 'Environmental Hazards-Problems and Remedies' on January 1, 1992 at Nehru College. Dr. V.V. Badiya, Registrar, Karnataka University, Dharwad, spoke on the topic.

CALCUTTA

A Creative Science teaching workshop was organised at Imphal Manipur (D.M. College), between January 25 to February 2, 1992. It was sponsored by Department of Science and Technology, Government of Manipur, in which 7 teachers and 20 students took part.

DHARAMPUR

A workshop on fabrication of 'Science Teaching Aids' for teachers of primary section was conducted by the District Science Centre, between December 24, 1991 - January 14, 1992.

GULBARGA

The District Science Centre in association with Voluntary Health Association, Karnataka, held a one day workshop on 'Rational Drug Therapy' on March 18, 1992.

LUCKNOW

In a 13 day programme between January 13-25, 1992, Regional Science Centre, Lucknow, organised a



workshop for aspiring entrepreneurs. Forty participants were exposed to a wide variety of CSIR technologies to enable them to start their own business. Experts from National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Industrial Toxicology Research Centre (ITRC), Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) and State financial institutions lectured on their subjects.

NAGPUR

The Oral Science Quiz Contest, organised by Raman Science Centre, Nagpur, for all high school students of Nagpur

region, was held on January 28, 1992. Conducted on a knockout basis, it consisted of 21 games in which 128 students from 64 schools participated. The finalists were Providence Girls High School, St Francis School, St. Francis De Sales H.S. School, C.P. and Berar High School and Hadas High School. St. Francis stood first with C.P. and Berar High and Hadas High School coming second and third respectively.

PATNA

Srikrishna Science Centre inaugurated an exhibition on 'Prof. J. B. S. Haldane - A birth centenary tribute' on March 13, 1992 in its premises.

PURULIA

A workshop on 'Role of Community in 'Promoting awareness towards disability' was organised between February 23-24, 1992 jointly by the District Science Centre Purulia, District Social Welfare Office and Indian Red Cross Society



Purulia. It was sponsored by National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped.

TIRUNELVELI

January 1-7, 1992, celebrated as Road safety week all over the World, found a champion of the worthy cause in the efforts of District Science Centre, Tirunelveli.

A seminar, attended by 120 school students, mainly NCC cadets and Red Cross groups from different schools of the district, discussed several aspects of road safety and prevention of accidents.

In a programme for the handicapped persons, the centre had eleven participants from the Society for Social Movement and Rural Technology, who were trained in preparation of tooth paste, tooth powder, face powder etc. between February 16-19, while a work experience programme for the Deaf was organised between February 20-21. Thirty five students from Florence Swainson High School for Deaf participated in the programme and were instructed through interpreters.

On January 26, The Medical Association and the District Science Centre, held a lecture at the Centre's hall on problems of Cancer of Female Genital Tract. Dr. P. Rajaram Director-Professor Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Dean,

JIPMER, was the speaker on the occasion.

In a programme on maintenance of household appliances held between January 28-30, 40 rural youth and house wives were trained in the repair of electric fan, tube light, electric iron etc.

Anti Leprosy Day was observed on January 30 with a poster exhibition on the disease. Lectures on the various aspects of the disease were delivered by the medical experts in the field.

A lecture cum video programme on 'Recent Advances in Gynaecological Endoscopy' was held at the Centre's auditorium on February 19.

The final round of Inter School Science Quiz was conducted on February 15. It consisted of oral, demonstration and visual round. Four Schools participated and Shri Jayendra Swamigal Silver Jubilee School came first.

In a teachers' training programme between February 4-15, fifty four teachers developed 165 teaching aids. Training on Carpentry, fitting and electrical work were given to the participants.

Between February 10-18 a creative activity programme on 'Logic Gates' was conducted. Theoretical as well as practical classes were held for the fifty nine participants.

A community training programme on Antenna making was conducted for the rural youth on March 3-4, in which 16 participants were given ideas about the transmission and concept in Television and trained in antenna making.

SCIENCE FESTIVAL Lucknow

An Eight-day Science Festival organised by Regional Science Centre Lucknow, was inaugurated in the campus of the Centre by Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy, Governor, Uttar Pradesh on February 21, 1992.

In the fair, different scientific organisations and educational institutions put up pavilions. Among these were Central Drug Research Institute, Geological Survey of India, CSIR, Polytechnology Transfer Centre, Appropriate Technology Development Association, National Research Laboratory for Conservation, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, All India Institute of Yoga and Nature Cure Sciences, Academy of Young Scientists, and nearly 25 schools and colleges.

Various educational programmes were also or-

ganised. About 140 students participated in the science model competition, while 130 students took part in the science poster competition on 'Population Explosion'. 12 schools contested in the



science quiz competition and 8 schools staged a drama on the theme "Science Around Us". A Science magic show, a debate competition, a week-long naturopathy camp and a seminar on 'Youth for Environmental Enrichment and Pollution Control' were also organised.



Science and Technology Exhibition at the 19th Indian Science Congress

The 79th Science Congress was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao at the University pavilion grounds of MS University, Baroda, on January 3, 1992. Present on the occasion were Dr. V.N. Gowarikar, President of the session and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Science and Technology, Shri Chimanbhai Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat and Dr. S. Singh, Governor of Gujarat.

An exhibition was inaugurated by the Chief Minister on the same day.

Spread over 6 lakh sq.ft., a total of 76 stalls housed government, public and private organisations. The National Council of Science Museums' stall covered an area of 4600 sq.ft, with exhibits on Heritage of Science and Technology in India, Popular Science and the Taramandal.

The National Council of Science Museums' stall was declared the 'Best stall' at the closing ceremony of the exhibition.



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