

SSES Amt's Science College, Congress Nagar, Nagpur

Raj Bhavan Biodiversity Park Visit

Session 2019-20





October 4, 2019: Under the auspicious of Physics Society, students (UG & PG) along with the faculty members visited Nagpur – Raj Bhavan - Biodiversity Park. In all about 145 students undergoing B Sc and M Sc programme along with teachers and supporting staff of the Department of Physics visited the Raj Bhawan, from M.Sc. and B.Sc. of the department visited along with faculty members and support staff.

Rajbhavan is an official residence of Governor of Maharashtra located in the heart of Nagpur city built in a way back in 1891. In the course of time this property was under the auspicious of (i) Chief Commissioner of Central Province, (ii) Chief Commissioner of Central Province and Berar (iii) The Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar (iv) House of the Governor of Madhya Pradesh (v) Government House of the Governor of Bombay State in 1956 and finally (vi) Government House of the Governor of Maharashtra since 1960. Sprawled over 49 Ha, thematic Biodiversity Park of the area 30 Ha is developed in the premises of this house. The Governor house generously extends an excellent opportunity of nature education for school and college students. This thematic park has been developed by Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd. The Biodiversity Park along with thematic sections such as Butterfly garden, Herbal garden, Medicinal plant garden, Cactus garden etc. will provide an ideal opportunity for students to enrich their knowledge. The nature trail in the Biodiversity Park provides an excellent opportunity to see and understand local biodiversity.

Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) is one of the oldest, renowned NGOs in India. BNHS through its Tiger Cell office in Nagpur runs the environmental education programme for students in the Biodiversity Park under the surveillance of Shri. Sanjay Karkare Asstt. Director, BNHS, Nagpur. Mr Amye Paranjape, a trained staff of BNHS made our visit very meaningful, informative.

The main aim of the visit was to make students understand the correlation between physics and nature. Students were excited to see the life cycle of various species of butterflies at Butterfly Garden and how it uses its wings as solar panels to convert energy for heat. Students learnt how butterflies navigate using a time compensated sun compass and as it can see polarized light, it can orient even in cloudy conditions. Students were told about different characteristics of spiders and how it catches its prey. The idea of how strong the spider webs can be and with some inventions it can even be used as bulletproof jackets soon were learnt by students. Along with these the other spots visited at the Biodiversity park were Herbal Garden, Nakshatra Van, Bamboo Setum, Rose Garden, Nature trail, Bird attracting Species and Air-purifying species Garden. Where students got a chance to connect with nature and understand it closely.

In all, the visit was fruitful and enhanced the understanding of the physics students regarding nature, ecology, the role of the human in conservation and biodiversity etc.