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Environmental Awareness











State Level Science fair

The State level Science fair was conducted on 12th November 2009 by the Crescent Matriculation Higher Secondary School for Girls in order to discover the young scientist in various school campuses. The 'Omeiat Science Fair' was held in 3 levels (classes IV - V, VI-VIII and IX-XII) in 3 categories – environmental science, physical science and biological science. During the fair around 300 teams put up their exhibits.

More than 2000 students from all over Chennai participated and visited the stalls. The ENVIS Centre of the Department of Environment set up a stall on climate change and its impacts and displayed around 20 posters. ENVIS staff also gave lecture on the topic of "Impacts of Climate Change".







Chennai Science Festival 2010 - "Science in Everyday Life"

The Chennai Science Festival - 2010 "Science in Everyday Life" was organized from 3rd- 7th February 2010 on three broad themes namely, Food and Health, Energy and Climate Change and Biodiversity. The mega science exhibition consisted of a total of 120 stalls exhibiting various items on the above mentioned themes. Several Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations, Schools, Colleges and various Universities from Tamil Nadu participated and exhibited posters and working models related to their scope of work. Approximately 35,000 people, including 20,000 students and about 15,000 of the general public from Chennai and urban areas visited the Science Exhibition. Competitions like quiz, elocution, essay writing, drawing competitions were conducted for the school students from Chennai City. A panel discussion with experts was also conducted on the last day.

ENVIS Centre, Department of Environment exhibited a model showing how temperature rise affects the coral reef ecosystem. Posters related to "Climate change" were exhibited and explained in detail to school students, college students and the public.





Go green- Walkathon

Tech Mahindra is a global systems integrator and business transformation consulting firm focused on the communications industry. Further to keeping a check over the environmental impacts arising out of its business, Tech Mahindra is conscious of its GHG emissions and works towards mitigating the same. Tech Mahindra encourages its employees to use public transport, company buses and car pool with an aim of reducing carbon emissions. The company is adopting various green initiatives including Green PC's in its new and existing projects to practicable extent. On March 27th 2010, the company organized a Walkathon Rally - Bhoomi Marina Beach to create awareness about global warming and propagate the message to Go Green. The Walkathon started from the labour statue at 8.00 A.M and ended at the light house at 9.00 A.M. Mr. T.S. Srinivasamurthy, I.F.S., Director, Department of Environment addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of reducing one's carbon foot print in the mitigation of Climate Change and its impacts. He later flagged off the rally. ENVIS Centre of the Department of Environment took part in this rally and spread awareness through placards and distribution of pamphlets. Around 400 people participated in the rally.

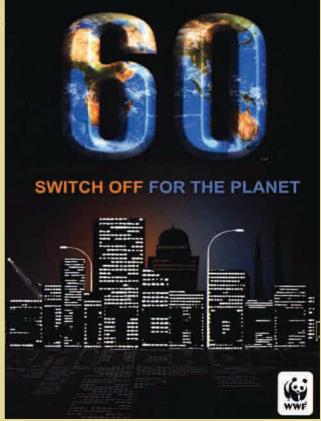




Earth hour

Earth Hour started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia when 2.2 million homes and businesses turned their lights off for one hour to make their stand against climate change. Only a year later and Earth Hour had become a global sustainability movement with more than 50 million people across 35 countries participating. Earth Hour 2010 took place on Saturday 27 March at 8.30pm- 9:30pm and was a global call to every individual, every business and every community throughout the world. It was a call to stand up, to take responsibility, to get involved and lead the way towards a sustainable future. People across the world from all walks of life turned off their lights and joined together in celebration and contemplation of the one thing we all have in common – our planet.

Earth Hour was organized by WWF with almost 5 million supporters and a global network in over 100 countries. In Chennai WWF TNSO collaborated with the ENVIS Centre, Department of Environment in reaching out to the Government and Government aided schools to switch off all non-essential light for one hour on the 27th March 2010 from 8.30 -9.30 PM IST.





A booklet titled "Environment- An overview" in tamil was prepared by the ENVIS Centre, Dept. of Environment covering various aspects of the Environment.

This booklet was distributed to more than 3,000 NGC school students and 300 teacher co-ordinators during the training programmes conducted by the Dept of Environment.



Bird census in Pallikaranai Marsh

The Tamil Nadu Forest Department, along with Care Earth conducted a systematic bird census in Pallikaranai marsh on 24th January 2010 as a part of the 'synchronised bird

population estimate' carried out across the State in all bird sanctuaries and wetlands. Staff from the ENVIS Centre, Department of Environment and students from the Madras Christian College also participated in the census. A total of 8,187 birds belonging to 47 species were counted.

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Disclaimer: The information in this newsletter has been compiled from various sources and does not necessarily depict views of the ENVIS Centre, Department of Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu.