

42nd Jawaharlal Nehru National Science, Mathematics and Environment Exhibition (JNNSMEE) for Children

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Organised by the Department of Education in Science and Mathematics. National Council of Educational Research and Training, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi 110016; in collaboration with the Government of Kerala. Venue: Nirmala College Campus, Muvattupuzha, Ernakulam, Kerala from 16 – 22 December 2015.

The 42nd Jawaharlal Nehru National Science, Mathematics and Environment Exhibition (JNNSMEE) for Children – 2015 was inaugurated on 16 December, 2015 by Padma Bhushan Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, a renowned Indian space scientist and former Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), and presently the Chairman of the Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology at the Nirmala College Campus, Muvattupuzha, Ernakulam, Kerala. The inaugural function was also graced by Sri Joseph Vazhakkam, MLA; Professor Hrushikesh Senapaty, Director, NCERT; Smt. Usha Sasidharan, Municipal Chairperson, Muvattupuzha, Mar George Madathikandathil, the Bishop of Kothamangalam Diocese; and other dignitaries of Kerala Government, NCERT and Nirmala College Campus.

Main theme of the 42nd Jawaharlal Nehru National Science, Mathematics and Environment Exhibition for

Children – 2015 was 'Science and Mathematics for a Sustainable World.' The organisation of this main theme has been supported by six sub-themes, viz., Community Health and Environment; Landmarks in Science and Mathematics; Information and Communication Technology; Energy-Resources and Conservation; Transport; and Waste Management. A total of 211 exhibits were selected at the NCERT level and invited to participate in this national exhibition. These were drawn from twenty-seven States, seven Union Territories, and ten other organisations (Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, CBSE affiliated independent Public Schools, Department of Atomic Energy Central Schools, Demonstration Multipurpose Schools of NCERT, etc.) These 211 exhibits belonged to 195 schools out of which 101 were rural and remaining 94 came from urban background. These were contributed by 354 children (232 boys and 122 girls) and by 310 teachers (182 male and 128 females). Out of these 211 exhibits, 160 participated in this event.

The venue of the exhibition, the Nirmala College Campus, a place of scenic beauty, was a sprawling green garden with a variety of plants. It was provided with a large exhibition area where the stalls for displaying the

exhibits and other activities of NCERT. Many of the exhibits by the children were set in their allotted stalls by 15th December evening in a big well-equipped closed pandal. The medical and fire-brigade facilities were also made available at the venue. The different departments of NCERT also showcased their work during the exhibition. The Publication department displayed various print materials developed by NCERT while the CIET displayed various non-print materials of NCERT. The Department of Educational Kits displayed different types of educational kits developed by the department. Similarly, the Department of Elementary Education displayed models and kits in mathematics. A separate pavilion of the Department of Education in Science and Mathematics was also installed to provide necessary information and publicity material to all the participants and visitors. The Environment Education Group of the department also conducted activities to bring about environmental awareness amongst the students, teachers and visitors to the exhibition. A painting competition was arranged on the topic "Climate Change as I Know" wherein children depicted their understanding on the topic, their creativity and aesthetic sense. For teachers, a poster making competition was also arranged on sustainable Development. These posters and paintings were displayed in the exhibition pandal. All the participants and visitors were also given an opportunity to scribble their thoughts on the need to protect the environment by completing the sentence "We must protect our environment because"

Besides the children exhibiting their scientific and technological units, activities during the JNNSMEE 2015 also introduced 'Idea Exchange Sessions – Among Young Minds'

for the first time everyday evening. These sessions were arranged in a separate audio-video multimedia auditorium of the Nirmala College and open to all participants and visitors. During these sessions, four or five select exhibits were presented daily by the students and their mentors explaining the key idea behind, structure, working and application. Each presentation was followed by active peer discussion amongst the audience. In total there were 18 presentations. The idea of including this activity in JNNSMEE was appreciated and suggested to continue in future exhibitions by all.

Everyday activities during the JNNSMEE 2015 also included lectures by prominent activists and scientists arranged in the NESTT Auditorium for about one and half hours everyday evening. These included lectures on environment and human health, from Aryabhata to Mangalyan, excitement in mathematics, physics around us, etc. To commemorate International Year of Light 2015, stage shows and demonstrations with light and particles were also conducted. Another highlighting activity in this exhibition has been the cultural programmes arranged every day in the NESTT Auditorium that has the seating capacity of 600 persons. During these cultural programmes, the cultural heritage of Kerala state was shown. Participants from different parts of the country also took part in this activity for showcasing the different cultures of their respective places. One day excursion trip for the participating children and teachers to the areas in or around Ernakulam was also organised on the last day of the exhibition, 22 December, 2015.

A large number of school students and their teachers from local schools, colleges

and all districts of Kerala state, parents and members of general public visited the exhibition on all days during the exhibition. Everyday nearly six thousand visitors visited the exhibition. The publicity material was also distributed among the visitors. The exhibition was also visited by several dignitaries from the Kerala state including the ministers of General Education, Tourism, etc. Many foreigners visiting Kerala also visited the exhibition.

The valedictory function was held on 21 December 2015. This function was presided over by the local MLA Sri Joseph Vazhakkan.

He expressed his happiness on the successful organisation of the event. On behalf of the people of Muvattupuzha, he thanked NCERT and Government of Kerala for giving them opportunity to witness this national event. Honorable Member of Parliament Adv. Joice George also graced the occasion and delivered the keynote address. The valedictory function was also attended by the officers of Kerala Government and NCERT. Sri Shinmon M.K., Deputy Director of Education, Ernakulam delivered the vote of thanks. Certificates of Participation were also given to all the participants during the valedictory function.

