

## **Botanical Excursion to Kolkata and Puri From 03-01-2013 To 12-01-2013**

In 2013 Department of Botany of our college organized study tour for the UG students to **Kolkata and Puri** under guidance of departmental faculties Dr J. N. Sarmah, Dr. J. Barukial and Dr. R. Sarmah

### **Indian Botanic Garden and National Herbarium (BSI)**

A botanic garden can be called as an open museum of living collection of myriad of plants, where trees, shrubs, herbs, climbers, lianas etc. are scientifically arranged, properly labelled based on an internationally accepted classification, and more closely allied groups/plants are specially grown together for better understanding of species. In the Botanic Garden, trees are confined to a special section called Arboretum; gymnosperms including pine trees are arranged in Pinetum; Screw pines i.e. Pandanus are grown in Pandanetum; Orchids are assembled in Orchidarium; Bamboos are nurtured in Bambusetum and Palms are conserved in Palmetum.

According to Almond (1993), the Botanic Garden is an ever changing museum of living plants. Chakravarthy and Mukhopadhyay (1990) described Botanic Garden as a living repository or refugia of plants arranged and maintained on some scientific basis and where the collections are usually labelled or marked for identification. Heywood (1983), of the view that the Botanic Gardens and arboretum are at best represent the last resort for the preservation and maintenance of rare and endangered species. Botanic garden also acts as an open natural laboratory by providing ample opportunities to Botanists, Horticulturists, Plant Breeders, Geneticists, Evolutionary Biologists, Palynologists, Conservationists, Environmental Scientists and other researchers alike to perform their study on multiple aspects of plant biology.

**At the present scenario, the Botanic Gardens act as a best platform to address following things.**

- Botanic gardens are ideal places to teach people about the richness of the plant kingdom and the impact of climate change on the richness of species.
- It envisages the intricate relationships that plants have developed from time to time with their environment.
- To let people know that how human beings dependent on plants for daily needs - economically, culturally and aesthetically.
- To make people aware of the major threats to plants and the consequences of plant extinction and to evolve possible solution thereof.
- To teach people that how we can act to prevent the destruction of natural wealth and ecosystem.

### Important roles of Botanic Gardens are:

- Traditionally, comparative study of living and preserved herbarium (dried flattened specimens mounted on a cardboard or thick paper with proper label and identity) specimens is being made through botanic gardens for clear understanding of specific species.
- To introduce, grow and multiply important economic plants from around the globe and to carry out acclimatization study in different trial plots so as to release for cultivation in newer areas.
- To act as a living data base of plants and a repository of native and exotic species.
- To introduce and conserve Endemic, Endangered & Threatened (EET) species and to carry out research on the biology and propagation of said species for reintroducing in the wild as well as for effective conservation of germplasm.
- To develop improved varieties of economically important plants of the region for commercial exploitation by conducting various horticultural researches such as hybridization, selection, cross pollination, trial etc.

At present there are about 2000 gardens and arboreta around the world in the last 30 years botanic gardens have seen as a revival as scientific institutions due to the emergence of conservation movement.





Photograph: Activities during the educational tour