

VISVESVARAYA INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM

LAUNCH OF GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR CELEBRATIONS

28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014

Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, Bangalore (VITM), the 2<sup>nd</sup> organized science museum in the country will be entering its 50 years of glorious service to the nation on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Having achieved many milestones during this period, VITM has become a landmark destination for locals, tourists and science enthusiasts. This museum is the southern headquarters of the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. Today with 25 science museums and centres, NCSM is the largest science museum network in the world under one umbrella. NCSM has also set up 26 science centres in different parts of the country as turn key projects and handed them over to the respective state governments and union territories.

In order to honour Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya, the great visionary, celebrated engineer and statesman of our country, the All India Manufactures' Organization, Mysore State Board, decided to set up a Science & Technology Museum at Bangalore through Visvesvaraya Industrial Museum Society Trust which was formed in mid 1958. VITM was opened to the public with the first gallery on the theme 'Electricity' on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1965 by the then Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Smt. Indira Gandhi. Subsequently, galleries on 'Motive Power', "Popular Science" and "Timber, Paper & Metal" were opened in the year 1967, 1969 and 1970 respectively. These galleries on varied themes won much acclaim. With the changing times, the dimensions of the museum, the contents of the exhibition halls and the display technology at VITM have undergone continuous changes adding new themes & topics on S&T. The visitor footfall also grew sizably in the last 5 decades and today VITM stands with a glorious figure nearly 10 lakh visitors annually which is the highest in the country within the network of 25 science centres under NCSM.

While entering the 50<sup>th</sup> year three new facilities are being added:

1. **Science on a Sphere** - For the first time in India 'Science on a Sphere' (SOS) has been set up in Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum. It is a large visualization system that uses multimedia projections to display animated data onto the exterior of a sphere converting it into an immersive animated globe that shows dynamic, animated images of the atmosphere, oceans, and land of a planet. It adds as another education and outreach tool of this museum. Combined with narration and supporting material it is an innovative and powerful teaching tool to enhance informal education on earth, climate change etc. and transform the public perception to effectively implement conservation measures of the earth. The SOS will be a paid show. The entry fee is Rs.25/- each for

adults, Rs.20/- for organized school groups and Rs.10/- for Govt. and Municipal Schools. The duration of each show varies between 15 to 20 minutes depending on the theme. Presently 4 shows have been designed on Solar System, Atmospheric Pollution and climatology, Tsunami, Earth – A Blue Marble.

2. **How Things Work gallery** – This is an addition to the Engine Hall in VITM. Without machines our life will be reduced to a rigorous physical struggle. Machines help us to reduce effort, enhance the delivery time, and produce repeatedly the same product with no variation and many more advantages. We use them without realizing its presence around us. This gallery is an attempt to explain the fundamentals and working of some of these machines through interactive exhibits. Exhibits on Pulley system, Gears, different ways of transferring motion, reducing effort by levers, inclined plane, screw etc. introduces the visitors to the story of simple machines. Another section deals with the application of these simple machines in our daily life. Ever wondered! How a Ball Point pen works, the zipper that we use in almost all our clothes and covers has wonderful principles behind their operation ; this section unravels the science and technology behind such simple but essential gadgets. After the exposure to these exhibits, visitors can delve deep into the working of other machines that they see around.
  
3. **Dinosaur Enclave:** Dinosaurs were diverse group of animals that first appeared during the Triassic period, about 231.4 million years ago. They were the dominant terrestrial vertebrates for 135 million years. Spinosaurus was a huge animal from North America, measuring 12 metre long and weighing 4 to 5 tonnes. It had tall rod like bones on its back, which might have been covered with skin, like a ‘sail’ is a reminiscence of the giant reptiles that ruled the world during Jurassic period. Visitors can enjoy the movement and sound of a true size animated Spinosaurus in a recreated environment of Triassic period and even take pictures with it.

While celebrating its Golden Jubilee during the year 2014-15, VITM stands tall as a major landmark in the city of Bangalore attracting people from all walks of life. It is a matter of pride that the cumulative visitor footfall to the museum for the past 50 years has crossed 4 crore. The year long celebrations include various science propagation events like National Science Seminar, Golden Jubilee lectures, opening of new exhibition galleries and facilities, family quiz, National Safety Science Quiz and opening of new science centers in the southern region.

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