

Introducing kids to nature Encouraging study of species

"Spot the Species" programme for school students at Noamundi

With the aim to promote biodiversity awareness, Tata Steel organised 'Spot the Species' programme at Noamundi on October 27, 2016.

The day-long event was attended by about 100 school children and teachers from in and around Noamundi. School children from Tata DAV School, Noamundi; St. Mary School, Noamundi; Saraswati Shishu Mandir, Noamundi; Kasturba Gandhi High School, Noamundi; TISCO ME School, Noamundi; Government High School, Noamundi; Sial Joda High School and Sial Joda-BPH participated in the event.

Students were facilitated to different locations inside the Noamundi township where they captured photographs of different species and submitted the same to the jury with caption. The jury selected the best photographs with caption and prizes were distributed to students.



Starters Empowering farmers with know-how Making their lives better

Guidance on farming techniques through the agriculture meet "Vaarta"

A two-day agriculture meet "Vaarta" was organized at Noamundi on December 21-22, 2016.

Following were the objectives of "Vaarta":

- To guide the local farmers to improve their agricultural and related practices
- To promote upland farming which uses less water as the area goes dry in summers
- To promote NTFP (Non-Timber Forest Products) such as lac farming as the alternative source of income looking at the potential of lac farming in the area
- To promote 2nd & 3rd crop farming. This is lacking in the area resulting in loss of income to the farmers. Similarly, to promote vegetable and cash crop farming to supplement the income

Over 350 farmers from Noamundi and Katamati area participated in "Vaarta". The progressive farmers from Noamundi and Katamati were also honoured during the event.

Nine case studies from Indian industries including the case study on biodiversity from Noamundi was selected in the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Cancun, Mexico, 2016 recently.



TATA STEEL



Fostering biodiversity Enhancing sustainability

Tata Steel is committed to the conservation, enhancement and restoration of biodiversity in its areas of operations. To formalise this commitment, Tata Steel has adopted the company-wide **Biodiversity Policy** in April 2016 which aims to achieve **No Net Loss** on biodiversity.

For all its mines and collieries in the state of Jharkhand and Odisha, Tata Steel has developed Biodiversity Management Plans (BMPs). Moreover, in the interest of conservation, Tata Steel is instead of has committed to avoid acquisition of properties whose development may result in loss of critical habitat for species with special conservation status.

BMP is the result of a comprehensive assessment of biodiversity by IUCN. The overall focus of BMP is biodiversity conservation and enhancement in and around mining sites. The steps such as Butterfly Park, Niche Nesting for biodiversity enhancement of the areas have helped Tata Steel in several ways.



BIODIVERSITY
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A festival of tribal cuisine Keeping a tasty tradition alive

Agro forest food diversity festival '**Prajatiya Khadyotsav**' was organised at Noamundi on November 4, 2016. The one-day event was set up as a replica of a village showcasing an array of agro food diversities among different ethnic groups of Jharkhand.

The Balijharan Park at Noamundi was beautifully decorated with all the elements of a village, cooking setups, miniatures along with the tribal hand painting at various places. M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Koraput, Odisha; Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi and ICAR-Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums, Namkum, Ranchi led by its senior scientists displayed various rare and near extinct indigenous collections of paddy like khuji, butuki, jhupuramundi, chitipiti, etc.

Another exciting part of the festival was cooking of ethnic and age-old traditional food where more than 98 varieties of dishes were displayed. Moreover, live cooking demonstration by tribal ladies on how to prepare unique mouth-watering tribal food was the main attraction of the day.



Supporting Tribal Medicines Discovering Nature's *Healing Touch*

'**Green Therapy**', a seminar on Biodiversity and Ethnobotanical Traditions was organised at Noamundi on July 25, 2016. The day-long event was attended by more than 200 local people including mankis, mundas and baidyas (ayurvedic practitioners). Speakers were from the eastern states of Odisha (Puri and Bhubaneswar) and Jharkhand (Ranchi, Jamshedpur and Chaibasa).

The objective of the seminar was to preserve tribal culture and traditions by bringing all the stakeholders of the community on a common platform to discuss about subjects related to biodiversity and ethnobotany.

The key discussions of the seminar were on medicinal plants, human health and biodiversity. The indigenous uses of medicinal plants were also talked about in the seminar. In addition to this, there was also an exhibition cum sale of medicinal plants grown in the region.



Nurturing nesting zones Helping survival of species

At Noamundi Iron Mine, the company has started a project called "**Niche Nesting at Hill No. 1 & 2**". Niche, is a space selected by any animal or plant species for its feeding, resting, sleeping, nesting, breeding, and growing (plants). If the niche of the specie is secured then it will have less competition and it can grow freely.

Enhancing niche nesting is basically providing nesting space for the hole or cavity nesting birds. Biodiversity assessment revealed that in Noamundi there are 18 species of hole nesting birds. With guidance from IUCN scientists, Noamundi has developed the nest boxes and placed it at the various locations in reclaimed areas of its site.

