



**22 May 2012**  
**INTERNATIONAL DAY**  
**FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**  
**Marine Biodiversity**

**CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (IBD)**  
**22nd May 2012**

**Focal Theme: Marine Biodiversity**

Jointly organized by:

**Gujarat Biodiversity Board and Gujarat Science City**

**One Day Workshop on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity of Gujarat**

The United Nations proclaimed May 22 as the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. Gujarat Science City (GSC) in association with Gujarat Biodiversity Board (GBB) is organizing several educational and outreach activities on bioresources and biodiversity to mark the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity on 22nd May 2012. The theme of this celebration is "Marine Biodiversity".

Biological diversity - or biodiversity - often understood in terms of the wide variety of plants, animals and microorganisms. The biodiversity of the present time is the fruit of billions of years of evolution, shaped by natural processes and, increasingly, by the influence of humans. It forms the web of life of which both animal and plants are an integral part and upon which all are fully depended.

United Nations has recognized Gujarat Science City as a partner agency for the outreach programmes for International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and also for the Decade of Biodiversity being celebrated during 2011-2020. On this occasion, GSC has organized a one-day workshop, exhibition, student competitions and hands-on activities, screening of scientific films, popular science lectures, nature and culture programmes, highlighting the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity to humankind. The theme "One Ocean - many worlds of life", celebrating of the central role of people in the management, conservation, and sustainable development of our marine biodiversity.

Our Earth is the only planet in the known universe with liquid water on its surface and the only planet with life. Life originated in the primordial ocean where it has evolved for millions and millions of years. The ocean covers 71 percent of the surface area of the globe and constitutes over 90 percent of the habitable space on the planet. It contains the largest animals ever to have lived on Earth and billions upon billions of the tiniest: there are more living things in the sea than there are stars in the universe.

Life in the sea is roughly 1000 times older than the genus Homo. There is broad recognition that the seas face unprecedented human-induced threats from industries such as fishing and transportation, the effects of waste disposal, excess nutrients from agricultural runoff, and the introduction of exotic species. If we fail to understand both the vulnerability and resilience of the living sea, the relatively brief history of the human species will face a tragic destiny

Marine fish and invertebrates are among the last sources of wild food on the planet, providing over 2.6 billion people with at least 20% of their average per capita protein intake. Moreover, the world's oceans host 32 of the 34 known phyla on Earth and contain somewhere between 500,000 and 10 million marine species. Species diversity is known to be as high as 1000 per square metre in the Indo-Pacific Ocean, and new oceanic species are continuously being discovered, particularly in the deep sea. It is therefore not surprising that the genetic resources in the oceans and coasts are of actual and potential interest for commercial uses.

The State of Gujarat, having rich biodiversity, has exclusive strengths in marine resources. The longest coastline confers enviable richness in terms of species diversity with about 462 marine

species of flora and 782 species of marine fauna, offer a vast potential base for research and development.

In order to sensitize the school and college teachers and Community Science Center coordinators for a sustainable base of nature education activities, a one day workshop on 'Marine and Coastal Biodiversity' has been organized for this day. About 200 delegates comprising of scientists and researchers on the subject, science educators, students, DNA Club coordinators, media members from all over the state are being registered to attend the workshop at Science City.

Shri Mangubhai C. Patel, Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Development, Forests and Environment Department of Government of Gujarat has given consent to be the Chief Guest of the programme and to inaugurate the IBD 2012 celebration and workshop at Gujarat Science City on 22nd May 2012 at 10.00 hrs.

Shri B. N. Srivastava, IFS, Chairman, Gujarat Biodiversity Board, Gandhinagar will deliver the keynote address during the inaugural session of the celebration and workshop.

Shri Ravi S. Saxena, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Government of Gujarat, Shri P. Panneervel, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Forests and Environment, Government of Gujarat, Shri Pradeep Khanna, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Gujarat State and Shri S. K. Goel, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Gujarat State will be the Guests of Honour of this function.

Many eminent resource persons from university and forest departments are being invited to the IBD 2012 celebration and to conduct various interactive sessions with the participants during the workshop.

The Gujarat Science City offers fun and informative exhibits presented in interactive worlds. One can learn and have fun with science and innovation through hands-on experiences in the Hall of Science, Space, Electrodrome, Energy Park, IMAX 3D movies, Motion Simulators and educational activities in Children Activity Centre. GSC is also showcasing the environmental film AVATAR in IMAX 3D format which has a strong message with amazing visual effects that showcase an inspirational ecosystem on a far away planet.

The science of biodiversity is the science of our future. It's time to take a stand and protect the grand diversity of life. The IBD 2012 celebration is all about to inspire curiosity and provide a lifelong learning and experiences.

Let's work together for its conservation and to ensure a new and sustainable relationship between humanity and the natural world for the generations to come.

We request one and all to be a part of this world wide celebration to conserve and protect our rich marine resources.

GUJARAT SCIENCE CITY  
Capturing New Heights in Science Literacy!

GUJARAT BIODIVERSITY BOARD  
Conserving Biodiversity for Future!