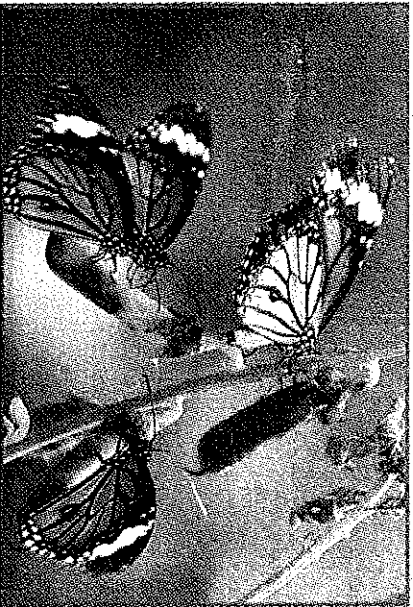


Butterfly Park to be a reality today



A group of common Tiger butterfly seen at the Butterfly Park on the premises of Bannerghatta Biological Park.
—Express Photo by K Ravi

Express News Service

Nov 24

LARVAE of more than a dozen species of butterflies will fly to freedom on Saturday morning, when Union Minister for Science, Technology and Earth Science Kapil Sibal will open the lid of the jar, in which they have been attaining the adult stage from Friday night. The scientists of entomology department from Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra are working overnight to execute the most unique inauguration of the park, which is expected to double the number of visitors to the Bannerghatta Biological Park, situated 22 kms from here.

V Geethanjali, Executive Director and Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bannerghatta Biological Park, said that the Butterfly Park was set up as a joint effort of department of biotechnology, the state forest department, Ashoka Trust for Research, Ecology and Environment (ATREE) and University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore.

She said that the Butterfly Park, coming up on seven acres of land, is nestled between rivulets, wetlands and a hillock, an ideal place for many species of butterflies. It comprised a butterfly conservatory, museum, an audio-visual room, butterfly rearing house, plant rearing house and host plant garden which enabled captive breeding of butterflies throughout the seasons.

By undertaking 'Butterfly Trail', visitors would get an opportunity to watch a minimum of 45 species of butterflies, including endangered ones, all through the year.

The Park has been built in a dome shaped structure 113 feet wide and 55 feet tall. The Park already has more than 1,500 butterflies of 30 different species.

"The special feature of this Park is that it will not import any pupae from the tropical countries. Rearing the species will be done in our own laboratory situated in the park and the species will left in the dome," said Dr Chandrashekar of Entomology Department, GKVK. "Butterflies are the flagship species of insect community and it is interesting to know about their life cycle. As the visitors enter the park, colourful plaques containing interesting facts about butterfly will nourish the visitor's knowledge. She said that the Butterfly Park would also serve as an active centre for environmental education, research, conservation and enhance rural livelihood.

Information you can use

- The park will be open six days a week except Tuesday
- Entry fee for adults is Rs 12 and Rs 10 for children
- The park can accommodate 100 visitors at a time
- Contact BBP on 080-7828540