

REPORT ON THE OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS 2018, IFGTB COIMBATORE

International Day of Forests - 2018 was celebrated in Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore on the theme “**Forests and Sustainable Cities**”. Coimbatore being one among the cities selected for the ambitious programme of Smart City Mission by Government of India, Dr. Vijay Karthikeyan, Commissioner, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation & Managing Director, Coimbatore Smart City graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

IFGTB has been celebrating every year various days of international and national importance on nature conservation. On similar lines, International Day of Forests was observed today at IFGTB Campus to spread awareness on the theme – “Let’s Make Our Cities Greener, Healthier and Happier places to live”. On the occasion, IFGTB immortalised the services and contributions of Shri. Venkatasubramanian, Research Officer (Retd.) and Shri. S. Manikandan, IFS officer of Karnataka cadre for their selfless services to the cause of forestry & forest conservation by planting saplings in remembrance of their supreme sacrifices. Dr. Vijay Karthikeyan IAS and Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director IFGTB, planted the saplings in their remembrance during the occasion. A poster on International Day of Forests by ENVIS, IFGTB was released by the Chief Guest and Director, IFGTB on the occasion.

A theme presentation on “**Smart City Challenges & Solutions – on Forest Research perspective**” was showcased on the occasion by Shri. S. Senthil Kumar, IFS, Head of Division, Forest Land Use & Climate Change division. IFGTB’s research expertise which can be utilized for Urban Greening, flower waste management and wetland conservation was highlighted in the presentation. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vijay Karthikeyan stressed on the need for scaling up area based development for special category lands viz., wetlands as one of the priority in the Smart City vision. Similarly, he also emphasised on the use of bio-bags and effective ways of popularising the use of such alternatives. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Mohit Gera, Director IFGTB showcased the role of forestry research institutions like IFGTB in Smart City development planning. He stressed on the key areas like meticulous tree selection for urban forestry, utilisation of organic waste for compost making and other products, technology for translocation of small trees in which research organisations could effectively partner in the Smart City vision. Shri Rajesh Gopalan IFS, Conservator of Forests & Head, Forest Economics and Extension, IFGTB welcomed the gathering, while Smt. K. Yasodha, IFS, proposed the vote of thanks.

Nearly 200 school students of Dr. Dasarathan International School and Sanskara Academy participated in the International Day of Forests – 2018 in Gass Forest

Museum of IFGTB. Screening of short films on the theme of urban greening and sustainable cities were organised for the school students by IFGTB.



Tree planting and release of poster on International Day of Forests by Chief Guest Dr. VijayaKarthikeyan, IAS, Commissioner, Coimbatore Municipal Corporation



Remembering sacrifice of Late Shri. S. Manikandan, IFS, CF & Field Director, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Karnataka



Left: Theme presentation by Shri. S. Senthil kumar, IFS, HoD, FLUCC Division
Right : Chief Guest Dr. VijayaKarthikeyan, IAS, Commissioner, Coimbatore Municipal Corporation and MD Smart City Mission, Coimbatore addressing the gathering



Left : Poster release on the theme IDF – 2018 by ENVIS, IFGTB
 Right : Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director, IFGTB addressing the gathering

The press release on the programmed published in *The Hindu*, 22.03.19 is placed below

COIMBATORE THE HINDU
 THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018

IFGTB's expertise for Smart City Mission

WILSON THOMAS
 COIMBATORE

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore, will render its technical assistance and scientific expertise to Coimbatore Corporation for various green initiatives under the Smart City Mission. IFGTB's expertise is expected to increase urban green cover and help the civic body in effective management of biodegradable waste.

Mohit Gera, director of IFGTB, told *The Hindu* on Wednesday that the research institution has expressed its willingness to work with the Corporation and assist it in areas such as selection of trees for urban greening, management of flower and vegetable waste and to make biodegradable bags to cut down usage of polythene.



Corporation Commissioner K. VijayaKarthikeyan planting a sapling on IFGTB campus in the city on Wednesday.

Under urban greening of the Smart City Mission, IFGTB will primarily share its expertise in choosing trees and plants suitable for the city. "Trees must be selected

based on long life, drought tolerance, resistance of diseases, low water consumption and care and presence of broad leaves to absorb various pollutants. We are also looking at inclusion of native trees for the selection," said Mr. Gera. On waste management front, IFGTB will share its technical knowledge in processing flower, wood and vegetable waste. IFGTB has already developed technology and machinery for aerobic composting, which can be used to process vegetable and flower wastes from markets.

"The compost named 'bio-booster' can be made available to public at cheaper rates to boost terrace garden and home garden concept as potted plants have a major contribution in urban greenery. We are also work-

ing on innovation front to develop an alternative for polythene bag using available biodegradable materials," said Mr. Gera.

IFGTB's development plans for the Smart City Mission on the theme 'Forests and Sustainable Cities' was presented before Coimbatore Corporation Commissioner K. Vijayakarthekeyan at International Day of Forests celebration held at the campus on Wednesday. Speaking at the event, Mr. Vijayakarthekeyan stressed the need for scaling up area-based development for special category lands like wetlands and emphasised the use of bio-bags.

Services and contributions of Venkatasubramanian, Research Officer of IFGTB (retired), and S. Manikandan, Director of Nagara-

hole Tiger Reserve who was killed in elephant attack, were remembered at the function. Mr. Vijayakarthekeyan and Mr. Gera planted saplings in their remembrance.

Nearly 200 students from Dr. Dasarathan International School and Sanskara Academy took part in the event held at Gass Forest Museum of IFGTB where short films on urban greening and sustainable cities were screened. Senior officials of IFGTB namely Rajesh Gopalan, Senthil Kumar and K. Yasodha were present.