

World Environment Day (WED), 2018

Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore

5th June is celebrated every year as World Environment Day. This year, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has taken lead role in hosting the World Environment Day, 2018 at Global level in collaboration with United Nation. The theme for the occasion is "***Beat - Plastic Pollution***".

On the observance of World Environment Day celebrations on 5th June 2018, IFGTB organised "***Beat Plastic pollution in Forest Campus***" campaign to remove plastic waste and also to sensitize the inmates in the need for segregating the plastic waste at source in the Campus. This program served as a flagship campaign for raising awareness for this year WED, 2018 theme – "Beat Plastic Pollution" in the campus.

Forest Campus sprawls over 162 acres of land in heart of Coimbatore. It houses three major institutions viz. IFGTB, CASFOS & Tamil Nadu Forest Academy and government offices of various wings of Tamil Nadu Forest Department. Besides government offices staff quarters and other facilities are also situated within campus. IFGTB has been bestowed with the responsibility of the Estate management of the Forest Campus.

In similar line to the current theme on "Beat Plastic Pollution"; "***Swachhata hi Seva***" campaign under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan a massive voluntary action was initiated by IFGTB on 10.04.18 for Campus cleanliness drive. This mission was aimed for removal of plastics and garbage's near residential areas, office surroundings and more importantly to bring in behavioral changes in the mind of inmates of the campus. Nearly 100 bags of garbage and plastics were removed in the earlier drive from the campus and with support of Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation, they were disposed off.

As IFGTB, CASFOS and TNFA share this prestigious campus, an appeal was made to all organisation and inmates to take up this campaign to bring solidarity in awareness raising. Prioritized areas for cleaning in the campus was divided into 5 zones and Officers, Scientists, Technical Staff, SRFs/JRFs and FAs and other staff of all the divisions and office were made into 5 teams for the second cleaning drive on the 5th June, World Environment Day. All the staffs and research scholars of the institute voluntarily and actively

participated the campaign which was led by Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS Director, IFGTB. In his opening remarks Director, IFGTB emphasized the importance of sustained self-initiated action of each individual for keeping the office and campus clean and plastic free. He also appealed to the IFGTBians for reducing the use of one time use plastics.

IFGTB organized an innovative exercise of ploggers group which was led by Dr. Mohit Gera and young research scholars for the “*Beat Plastic Pollution in Forest Campus*” campaign. *Plogging* involved jogging and collection of wastes from the shoulders of the road. This was popularized in Sweden by the conservationists. This activity was organized in IFGTB for the first time, it served as excellent tool and great inspiration for youngsters to spread the awareness on cleaner and safer surroundings. The sustained cleaning programmes in Forest Campus have made a tremendous effect on the mindset of the inmates on the need for cleaner surroundings. Only 60 smaller bags (50 Kg capacity) of garbage and plastics were collected on this campaign. In comparison to the first cleaning activity (where in 100 bags were collected) this has shown remarkable decrease with growing awareness of the inmates. IFGTBians have pledged to sustain their efforts to make Forest Campus and its environment cleaner and greener place.

Besides Plogging, a graffiti wall was installed in the institute to garner support and suggestion of walkers and public for plastic free forest campus. The graffiti wall was open for 3 days for eliciting new thoughts and ideas. This initiative saw an overwhelming support of the public with more than 100 entries.

A week long activity on “Use and misuse of plastics” has been arranged for the school and college students visiting Gass Forest Museum at IFGTB, Coimbatore. A monsoon planting drive in the Forest Campus was also initiated on 5th June by planting tall saplings along the avenue of the roads. Director, Group Coordinator Research, Head of Divisions, Officers, Scientists, technical staff, SRF/JRF/FA/PA and other staff participated in the programme. Shri. Rajesh Gopalan, Head of Division, Extension, IFGTB organized the events for the WED 2018, with co-operation from Silviculture & Forest Management division and with active support of Co-ordinator (Facilities).

DIRECTOR
IFGTB

CELEBRATIONS OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, 2018



Opening Remarks by Director, IFGTB



Aerial view of the WED gathering



IFGTBians in the WED 2018 Celebration



GCR, IFGTB flagging off Ploggers Team



Plogging Team in action



Public Response to the Graffiti Wall at IFGTB



Avenue Tree Planting in Forest Campus

**BEAT
PLASTIC
POLLUTION**

**WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY**

**INDIA
2018**

**UN
environment**

World Environment Day 2018



BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION

APPEAL

We, the inmates of this campus share this beautiful green vegetation in the heart of the Coimbatore city. It's our collective responsibility to protect and preserve this green lung for the benefits of inmates as well as for the urban population.

IFGTB took an initiative in April 2018 to "Clean Forest Campus" and to beat the plastic pollution and littering in the campus. With the support of Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation we were able to place 6 more garbage bins in important locations of the campus for collection of waste and effective disposal.

IFGTB appeals to all the inmates of the campus to support the endeavor whole heartedly to ensure Forest Campus plastic free and zero littering zone.

ON THIS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2018

LET'S PLEDGE

To adopt Green Good Deeds and help create a cleaner and safer Forest Campus & beautiful environment



**Let's Beat Plastic
Pollution in Forest Campus.**

If we can't reuse plastic let's refuse it.



Director, IFGTB

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding

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Forest institute to rid campus of plastic



More activities

A week-long activity on the uses and misuse of plastics has been arranged for school and college students visiting Gass Forest Museum on the campus. Gera also inaugurated the monsoon planting drive by planting tall saplings along the roads on the premises

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Coimbatore

WORLD A campaign, 'Beat plastic pollution in forest campus', was held at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) as part of World Environment Day on Tuesday.

The drive was undertaken jointly by the IFGTB, the Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS) and Tamil Nadu Forest Academy (TNFA), all sharing the campus near RS Puram in the city, to stress the need to remove and segregate plastic waste at source.

The state forest office and staff quarters among others are situated on the campus spread over

162 acres. An appeal was made to the campus residents to take up the campaign and its prioritised areas were divided into five zones. Officers, scientists, technical staff, senior and junior research fellows and other staff were formed into 5 teams to take up the cleaning drive.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohit Gera, IFGTB Director emphasised the importance of sustained self-initiated action of each individual for keeping the office and campus clean and plastic free.

IFGTB also organised an innovative exercise of plogging (a combination of jogging and picking up litter) which was led by Gera. A graffiti wall was put up

to invite suggestions from walkers and public for a plastic-free forest campus. It will remain for three days to elicit new thoughts and ideas.

A week-long activity on the uses and misuse of plastics has been arranged for school and college students visiting Gass Forest Museum on the campus. Gera also inaugurated the monsoon planting drive by planting tall saplings along the roads on the premises.

Coimbatore SIDCO Industrial Estate Manufacturers' Welfare Association and Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board jointly organised a tree planting programme in the 'SIDCO' industrial estate.



Wed, 06 June 2018
epaper.newindianexpress.com/c/29283282



Times of India on 06.06.18

06/06/2018: THE TIMES OF INDIA : COIMBATORE

Efforts on for green, plastic-free city

On World Environment Day, NGOs & Residents Come Up With New Initiatives

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Coimbatore: Activities aimed at reducing plastic usage/waste and increasing green cover dominated World Environment Day celebrations in the city on Tuesday.

Various institutes and volunteer groups came up with innovative ways to reduce plastic usage. They tried to upcycle plastic, planned to use it as construction material and gave free cloth bags to shops.

Among them, city-based NGO Siruthuli set up PET bottle collection centres at popular restaurants, hospitals and halls. "Instead of dumping used plastic bottles in landfills, we decided to experiment by upcycling plastic. So we are requesting people to give used bottles to us.



ALL EARS: School students get lessons in conservation of nature as part of the World Environment Day celebrations organised near Singanallur Lake on Tuesday

The drive will go on till June 10," said NGO's spokesperson Shruthi Suresh.

Siruthuli also plans to try constructing a toilet using plastic bottles, which will be

used instead of bricks for erecting walls. "We got the idea from a few eco-engineers and some videos. We will require around 2,200 to 2,500 bottles for this initiative and

we plan to complete the toilet by month-end," said Shruthi. "If successful, we plan to build a few more such toilets in the city," she added.

Ramalinga Nagar residents, who were already in the news for their initiatives to keep their area clean and plastic free, planted saplings in a reserve site at Nachimuthu layout. "We had cleared the site off overgrowth using a JCB and then planted around 30 trees," said M S Vijayaraghavan, secretary of the Ramalinga Nagar Residents Welfare Association. "We also decided to deweed a children park in the area later this week," he added.

The residents also plan to donate cloth bags to shopkeepers in the area and reiterate the importance of not using plastic bags.

The Tree Trust along with a few companies has selected 297 schools in Coimbatore as well as Pollachi and planted between five to 50 saplings in each schools. The planting ceremony at Devanga Higher Secondary School in R S Puram was attended by district chief education officer P Avyannan.

On the forest college campus, five teams of joggers called themselves ploggers (sic) and collected plastic debris strewn on their path. They formed each team with 20 people, who jogged through residential areas on the campus. A few members also planted saplings along Avenue Road and educated children visiting the Gass Forest Museum on the campus about the dangers of plastic to environment.

THE HINDU, on 06.06.18

Cleaning drives mark environment day

NGOs, officials join hands in Coimbatore to clean city

STAFF REPORTER
COIMBATORE

Awareness programmes, planting of saplings, and cleaning drives marked World Environment Day in Coimbatore.

Siruthuli, an NGO, and other organisations will keep boxes to collect used polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles at hotels, restaurants, office of Indian Medical Association, hospitals and shopping malls in the city for three days from Tuesday.

These bottles will be used for the construction of a model toilet at Siruthuli's Noyal Life Centre.

WWF india organised a clean up drive in association with Y's Men's Club of Mettupalayam and Wildlife Wranglers Society, from Kallar check post to Kallar horticulture farm.

The volunteers, supported by Forest Department staff from Mettupalayam range, collected plastic and handed over to municipal corporation for recycling.

Students of Kongunadu Arts and Science College, WWF India, Coimbatore Environmental Club, Youth Club, and villagers cleaned Vellakinar lake and planted saplings on lake bund.

WWF India also organised several awareness programme for students in schools in Coimbatore and Mettupalayam.

Isha Foundation organised an awareness pro-



A box kept in front of a restaurant in Coimbatore to collect bottles. ■ M. PERIASAMY

gramme on plastic pollution and cleaned Coimbatore Railway Station.

Volunteers of Isha Foundation and students of Isha Vidhya School organised an awareness campaign against single use plastic materials. Isha Foundation organised plastic clean up drive at 100 locations across the State on Tuesday.

Institute of Forest Genet-

ics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore, organised a campaign to clear plastic waste, and to sensitise staff to the need for segregating plastic waste at source in the 162-acre Forest Campus.

Nearly 100 bags of garbage and plastics were removed from the campus.

Its director Mohit Gera took part in 'plogging' with

young researchers which involved jogging and collection of wastes from along side road.

A graffiti wall was installed in the institute to garner support and suggestion of walkers and public for a plastic-free forest campus.

Department of Botany and NSS volunteers of Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women held a series of events on the campus. S. Ramasubramaniam, Conservator of Forest (Working Plan), Coimbatore circle, spoke.

The Let's Thank Foundation in association with the department of school education planted 10,000 saplings in all the 297 government and government aided schools in Coimbatore.

P. Ayyanan, Chief Educational Officer, Coimbatore, launched the drive at Devanga Higher Secondary School, R.S. Puram.

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Coimbatore SIDCO Industrial Estate Manufacturers Welfare Association planted 50 saplings in and around SIDCO.

At Park Global School, students and staff planted saplings throughout the campus. Joyalukas distributed saplings to customers who visited the showroom.

The Giant Welfare Foundation 4 Giants Group of Coimbatore planted 100 saplings at Valiampalayam in Thondamuthur.

