

REPORT ON
SPECIAL POSTAL COVER RELEASE ON GASS FOREST MUSEUM

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore

Department of Posts released a special postal cover on Gass Forest Museum on the occasion of the Postal Circle Cultural Meet in Coimbatore. The special postal cover was released by Shri. D. Ambesh Prakash Upmanyu, Post Master General, Western Zone in the presence of Dr. Mohit Gera, Director Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding, Coimbatore. The Gass Forest Museum (GFM) is one of the largest and oldest of its kind in our country situated in the Forest Campus of Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding. Gass Forest Museum has been engaging the public mostly students directly on crucial scientific insights and thoughts to steer them to help conserve forests and restore biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Mohit Gera said that Gass Forest Museum was established by Mr. *Horace Archibald Gass*, the then Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore South Division in his office premises. The museum was formally opened by Lord *Amphill*, the then Governor of Madras Presidency in **1902**. In recognition of the tireless efforts of *H.A.Gass* in establishing this museum, the Govt. named it as "Gass Forest Museum" in **1905**. The present museum building was opened by *Lord Pentland*, the then Governor of Madras in **1915**. The museum houses more than 4000 exhibits under various categories. He thanked Department of Posts in recognizing the role of the century old Gass Forest Museum in conservation of Natural History by adorning it with special cover.

Salient features of Exhibits:

The GFM has a rich collection on wildlife specimens. The terrestrial fauna displayed includes a magnificent stuffed Bison presented in 1956 by the *Raj Pramukh* of Mysore. The skeleton section has full skeleton of Elephant and Bull. The gallery of avifauna section displays specimens of Kingfishers, Cormorants, Egrets and Buzzards, variety of fishes; while the reptile gallery includes species of Snakes and Chameleon. The timber section includes collections of all important timber species found in India. Notable among the exhibits is a 456 yrs old cross section of Teak (girth of 5.7 mtrs) and cross section of 410 years old rosewood from Parambikulam, Kerala. More than 600 timber exhibits including timber panels, specimens of wood samples, sections and cylindrical logs of important timber species are displayed.

The NON TIMBER forest products gallery comprises a range of economically important products arranged in distinct categories viz., Gums and Resins, Oils, Tars, Drugs, Tans, Dyes, Rubber and Lac. The FOREST ENGINEERING gallery displays different models of timber stacking, timber seasoning, forest bridges and timber houses. The most notable of the displays are the iconic miniature models of popular Forest Guest Houses.

The FOREST ENTOMOLOGY section has one of the finest collections and display of butterflies and moths. Rich collections of the insect world displaying the important classes of both useful and harmful insects associated with the forests are also exhibited. The gallery on GEOLOGY has more than 300 collections from various parts of the country including the rock, mineral wealth and soil formations from forests are exhibited here. Most notable in this section are wood fossils from Tiruvakkai, which dates back to the Miocene period (25 million years old).

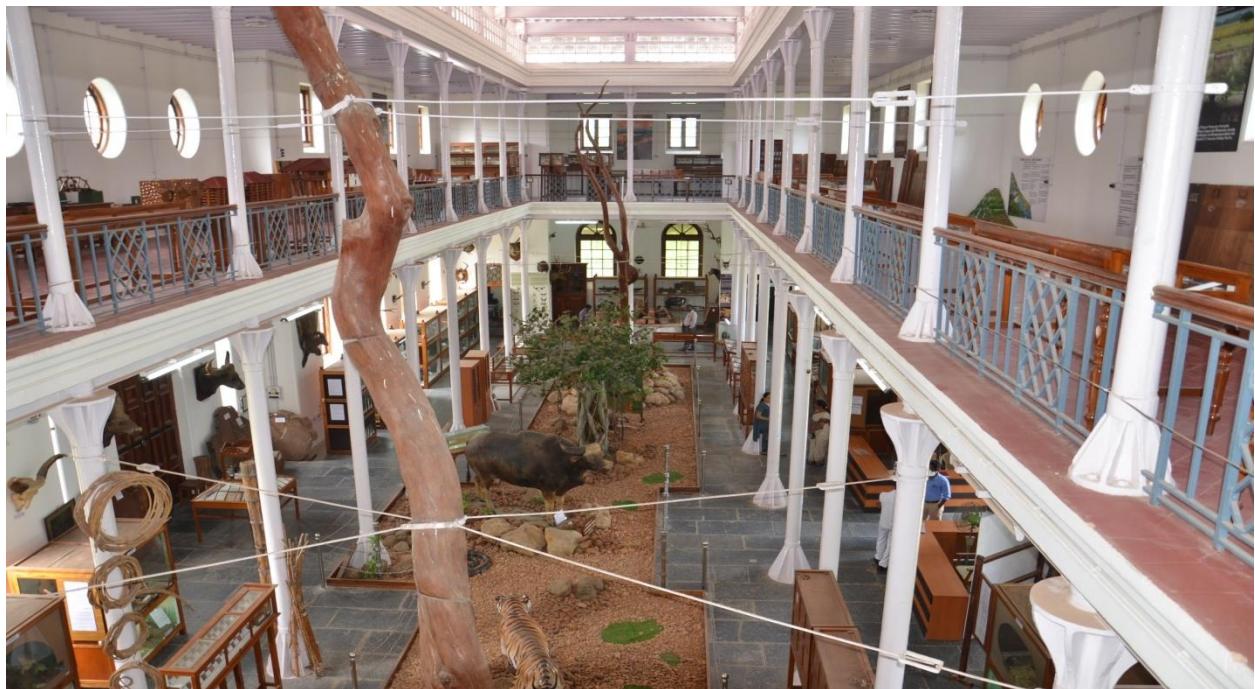
ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION:

The Edu Centre in GFM provides a platform for environmental education to the visitors especially the students. Various documentaries on the current themes on Environment and Nature Education are screened to the visitors and students.

- ❖ In 2017-18: GFM had a footfall of 26,200 visitors of which nearly 20,200 were students of schools and colleges.
- ❖ Similarly, in 2018-19 (till October, 2018) nearly 15,733 visitors have visited the museum of which 10,900 were from schools and colleges.



Gass Forest Museum



Gass Forest Museum



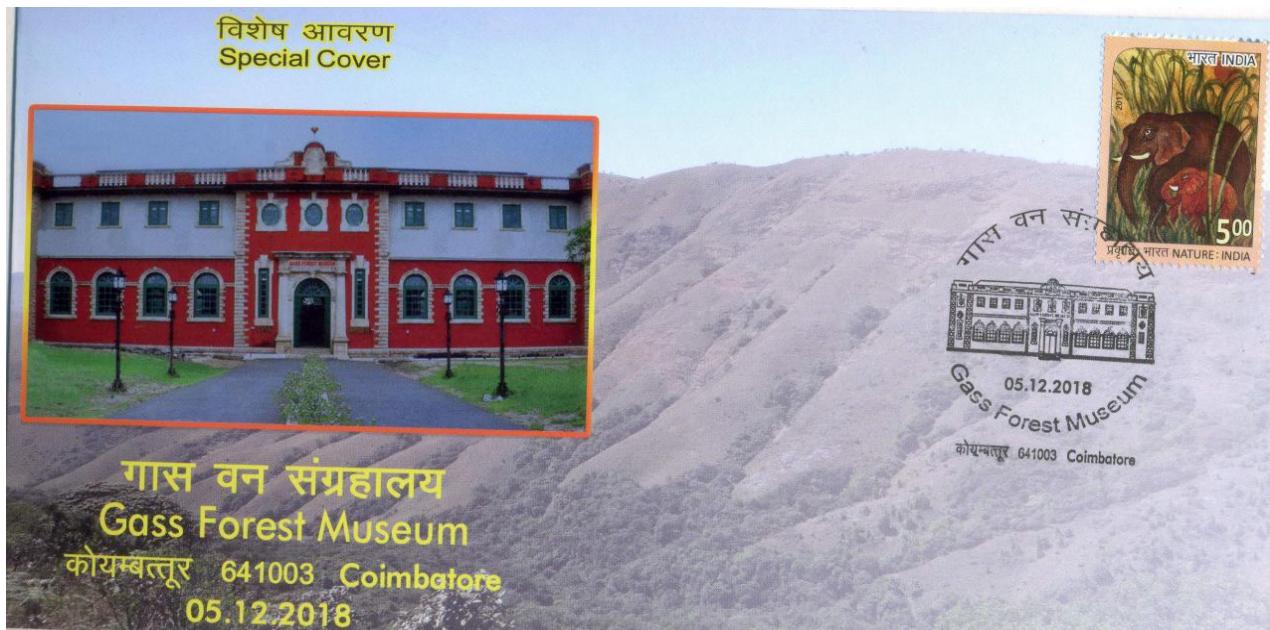
Release of Special cover on “Gass Forest Museum”



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Special Address by Director, IFGTB



The Gass Forest Museum was established by Horace Archibald Gass, a British Forest Officer in 1902. This is the oldest forest museum in our Country located in forest campus of Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding (IFGTB) Coimbatore. The museum houses a rich collection of specimens on wildlife and all important timber species found in India. The museum also has collections of seeds, barks, roots, wide range of useful and harmful insects, rock samples and minerals of forests.



Circle Cultural Meet - 2018
04-05 December 2018, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu.

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Special Cover design approved by Chief Postmaster General, Tamilnadu Circle, Chennai 600002