



**Report**  
**on**  
**Digital Observance of**  
**World Environment Day, 2020**



**WORLD  
ENVIRONMENT  
DAY**

Organized by

**ENVIS Resource Partner**

on

**Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement  
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding  
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)  
Coimbatore**

# **Digital Observance of World Environment Day, 2020**

## **by ENVIS, IFGTB through Facebook Live**

The ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore marked the World Environment Day 2020 digitally through organizing an online Awareness Programme through Facebook Live. It found place in the Global World Environment Day Programmes of the United Nations and had endorsement from the Union Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change. The event saw the release of a digital version of an invocation on nature, Prakruthi Vandanam in Sanskrit based on Yajur Veda. It was composed and presented as a 'Raagamaalika' in diverse ragas of Carnatic Classical Music by Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and Coordinator ENVIS.

World Environment Day which takes place every year on June 5<sup>th</sup> is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. It is celebrated by millions of people in more than 100 countries since 1974 and is being observed engaging governments, businesses, celebrities and citizens to focus their efforts on a pressing environmental issue. The current year, 2020 is a critical year for nations' commitments to preserving and restoring biodiversity. Therefore, the theme chosen by the United Nations for World Environment Day 2020 is Biodiversity. During the introductory remarks, Dr Kannan CS Warriar also pointed out that biodiversity involves 8 million plant and animal species, their ecosystems and the genetic diversity among them. We are losing the invaluable treasure at an alarming rate that, it has been estimated that, within the next 10 years, one out of every four known species may have been wiped off the planet. It has also been estimated that to meet the innumerable demands that humans make on nature each year, we may require about more than an additional half of Earth. That is about 1.6 earths to satisfy our greeds, he added. Last year, in 2019, the world lost 3.8 million hectares of tropical primary forest. That is equivalent to a football ground area of forests every six seconds. Southeast Asia is among the hardest hit areas along with South America and Africa. Citing the recent assessment by the Forest Survey of India, Dr Kannan Warriar told that it is heartening to know about the increase in forest area in our country. India shows an increase of 5188 sq km of forest and tree cover at the national level, an increase of 0.65% over the previous assessment in 2017. The top five states in terms of

increase in forest cover are, Karnataka (1025 sq km), Andhra Pradesh (990 sq km), Kerala (823 sq km), Jammu and Kashmir (371 sq km) and Himachal Pradesh (334 sq km). The mangrove cover also has increased by 54 sq km. Though marginal decline was reported in Tamil Nadu (-4 sq km) in terms of mangroves, the State recorded an increase in the forest cover to the tune of 83 sq km, a marginal increase of 0.32% over 2017.

Shri. S Senthilkumar, Director, IFGTB in his special address explained that an environment consists of both biotic and abiotic factors that influence the community. Nature provides whatever human and other living organisms needed. Nature is always resilient, he added. He emphasised that environmental sustainability is one of the biggest issues faced by the mankind at present due to urbanization, industrialization and modern agricultural practices. India is one of the recognized mega-diverse countries of the world, harbouring nearly 8% of World's biodiversity. He insisted that everyone has to join hands to rebuild and protect natural resources and biodiversity in the ecosystems. Environmental protection is a paragliding concept that describes everything we do to protect our planet and conserve its natural resources so that the quality of life can be enhanced for every organism.

Results of the Mobile Photography Contest held on the theme "Impact of Lockdown on the Environment" was declared by the Chief Jury, Dr John Prasanth Jacob, Scientist G. Among the 386, participants who took part in the contest from different states of India, Shri Nanda Kishore, Shri Akash Kar and Keyur Panchal secured first second and third places respectively. The next 10 best photographs were awarded consolation prizes. An awareness poster highlighting the theme "Biodiversity – It's Time for Nature" was also released during the occasion. Soft copy of the poster and the digital version of the Prakruthi Vandanam were transmitted electronically to students and other stakeholders. Dr S Vigneswaran, Programme Officer, ENVIS proposed the vote of thanks.

Link to the Prakruthi Vandanam: <https://youtu.be/K7Ipv3QLM1k>.

The event can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/2Xxl0k8>.













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# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

05 June 2020 : Biodiversity - It's Time For Nature



**Biodiversity  
rich healthy  
ecosystems**

- ↑ Increase ecosystem productivity
- ↑ Support a larger number of plant species and, therefore, a greater variety of crops
- ↑ Provide more food resources
- ↑ Provide more medicinal resources
- ↑ Protect water resources
- ↑ Foster the formation and protection of soils
- ↑ Offer nutrient storage and recycling
- ↑ Aid in breaking pollutants
- ↑ Help in speedy recovery from natural disasters
- ↑ Contribute to climate stability
- ↑ Offer environments for recreation and tourism

Poster No.03/IFGTB ENVIS-June-2020



**COLOMBIA  
2020  
BIODIVERSITY**



**TIME  
FOR  
NATURE**



**WORLD  
ENVIRONMENT  
DAY**

**UN**   
environment  
programme