



Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding Coimbatore



Celebration of the "Samvidhan Divas" on 26th November 2020

India adopted her constitution on 26th November 1949, and it came into force on 26th January 1950. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 19th November 2015, notified the decision of Government of India to celebrate the 26th day of November every year as 'Constitution Day' to promote Constitution values among citizens. To commemorate the occasion of the 71st year of the adoption of the Constitution, the Preamble of the Indian Constitution was read by Sh. S. Senthilkumar, IFS, the Director-In-Charge and Group Coordinator (Research), IFGTB, along with all IFGTB staff on 26th November, 2020.

Reading of the "Preamble of the Indian Constitution" by Sh. S. Senthilkumar, IFS, the Director-In-Charge, IFGTB, along with all IFGTB staff on 26th November, 2020.



IFGTB had also conducted year long celebrations from 26th November, 2019 as a part of the 70th year of the adoption of the Constitution of India. The valedictory meeting to conclude the celebrations was also held on 26th November, 2020. The Organizing Secretary, Dr. Mathish Nambiar- Veetil, Scientist F, presented the report of the various programs conducted as a part of the year long celebrations at IFGTB. Various programmes conducted include the guest talk on *"The State and I"* by Smt. N. V. Sreejaya, Advocate (India), Solicitor (England and Wales) held on 03rd January, 2020 to create awareness on the fundamental duties as enshrined in the constitution. The Guest speaker, Smt. N. V. Sreejaya, had cited several examples in homes, work environment and public places to sensitize the audience of one's fundamental duties in these situations. The duties of the employer in providing a safe working environment for the employees, and more particularly women employees were also highlighted. A *biographical movie, "Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar"* had been screened for all the employees of the Institute on 27th February 2020. During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, programmes were conducted online. An *Online quiz* on the constitution of India conducted on the 28th October, 2020 had participation from 16 staff of IFGTB. An *Online Elocution* competition was also conducted on the topic *"How IFGTBians can strive to foster scientific temper and the spirit of enquiry to protect and improve natural environment for all living creatures"*. The title was based on two of the fundamental duties of every Indian citizen as enshrined in the India's constitution.

To create awareness of the constitution, the valedictory meeting had an invited talk on *"Brief perspicacity into the Indian constitution"* by *Dr. D. Rajasugunasekar*, Scientist F, IFGTB. The insightful speech encompassed the genesis of the constitution and several other aspects of India's unique, comprehensive and evolving Constitution. The various historical facts and facets of the constitution- making from 1928 to 1945, the memorandum titled *States and Minorities* written by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in 1947, and the

noted personalities involved in the India's constitution- making were elaborated. The enormous effort that went into the formation of India involving several princely states and areas occupied by non-British rulers (Union Territories/ Acquired Union Territories), and the interesting debates that went into the naming of the country, and choice of the secular nature of the constitution were discussed. The components of the constitution comprising the various *Articles* and *Schedules* were briefed. The various aspects of the constitution like Quasi-federalism, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, and many other key components that were adapted from different countries to suite the Indian context were also discussed. Fundamental rights and duties of the citizens were highlighted. Dr. Rajasugunasekar emphasized the choice of "*Article 32A on Constitutional remedies*" as the soul of the Constitution by the Chairman of the drafting committee of the Constitution. He emphasized that at no cost the liberty guaranteed by our constitution should be traded. Finally, he concluded that we should strive to build on this foundation for progressive development of the country by achieving social and economic equality.



This was followed by the *Valedictory address by Sh. S. Senthilkumar, IFS*, the Director-In-Charge and Group Coordinator (Research), IFGTB, who highlighted the importance of the exemplary constitution that India has been bestowed with, and concluded that we have to be committed and guided by our Constitution. He appreciated the mammoth talk delivered by Dr. Rajasugunasekar, and also appreciated the efforts that went in to the conduct of the celebrations. Thereafter, the Director-In-Charge distributed the prizes for the various programmes to the winners of the Quiz and Elocution competition. Following the Vote of thanks by Sh. L. Manimuthu, CTO, the valedictory meeting ended with the playing of the National Anthem.



