

## Gass forest, insect museums now adorn spl postal covers

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Coimbatore: Two museums in the city, built almost a century apart, are now featured in postal covers. The department of posts has released special postal covers on the century-old Gass Forest Museum at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) and the recently-inaugurated Insect Museum at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU). The covers were unveiled during the Indian Postal Circle Cultural Meet held at TNAU over the past two days. The special cover on Gass Forest Museum was released by D Ambesh Upmanyu, postmaster general, western zone, in the presence of IFGTB director Mohit Gera on Wednesday. The museum was formally inaugurated in its present location in 1915. The preserved and stuffed animals in the museum are from the personal collection of H A Gass, who was a conservator of forests in the region. The museum also exhibits specimen of flora and minerals. The special cover on insect museum was released by Upmanyu in the presence of TNAU vice-chancellor N Kumar on Tuesday. The insect museum at TNAU was inaugurated by chief minister Edappadi Palaniswami on March 26 this year. Built on an area of 6,691sqft, it has displays on themes such as insect diversity, insect biology and beneficial insects. A special cover on the first non-stop Air India flight from the city to New Delhi was also released in the presence of the Coimbatore airport director R Mahalingam. At the postal circle cultural meet, postal department employees and their children participated in several cultural competitions. A set of picture post cards, featuring photographs by TOI photographer J Jackson, was also released by the department of posts on Wednesday. The cards depict the cultural heritage of the city. They carry pictures of heritage sites such as Perur Patteeswarar Temple, St Michael's Cathedral, Athar Jamath Masjid and Town Hall Clock Tower in the city. Pictures of events in and around the city, such as Koniamman Temple car festival and rekla race also adorn the cards.



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