



## ABSTRACT

Forests – Announcements 2022-2023 - Establishment of Biodiversity Museum and Conservation Centre with Eco-park at Kakachi, Ambasamudram Range, Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve – Orders – Issued.

### ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOREST (FR.5) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms).No.34

Dated 20.02.2023

சுபகிருது, மாசி - 8

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு - 2054

Read:

From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden Letter No. WL6/12122/2022, dated 10.11.2022.

### ORDER: -

Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve is the first Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu, with one of the most unique ecosystems in the Western Ghats inhabited by rare and endemic flora and fauna. This biodiversity rich landscape has nine major types of forests spread in over 400 sq.km of contiguous wet evergreen forests which harbour a variety of altitudinal climax forest communities. Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve is home to more than 2000 plant species including 150 localised endemic plant species and it is recognized as one of the micro centres of plant endemism and species richness in India (Nayar 1996). As many as 14 rivers originate from this landscape, hence it is also called as the "River Sanctuary" (Johnsingh, 2001). As a part of Western Ghats, it has also been designated as "World Natural Heritage site" by UNESCO. It is also the core area of Agasthiyamalai Biosphere Reserve (Tamil Nadu Part) which has been included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2016.

2. Hon'ble Minister (Forest) had made an announcement that a Biological laboratory and tourism Centre will be set up at Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve. Subsequently, Hon'ble CM during his visit to Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli District on 09.09.2022, among others made the following announcement: -

**"A Biodiversity Eco Park will be set up at a cost of Rs.7.00 Crores near Manimuthur Dam to promote tourism activities in order to make awareness among public".**

3. In accordance with the above announcements, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden has sent a proposal for establishment of Biodiversity Museum and Conservation Centre with Eco-Park at Kakachi in Ambasamudram Range, Singampatti Reserve Forest. The Biodiversity Museum and the Eco-Park shall be set up with the following objectives: -

1. Biodiversity conservation through education and training

- II. Promotion of ecotourism for better appreciation of the rich biodiversity of the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve.
- III. Creating awareness among the stakeholders about the need for conservation of the unique bio-diversity of the region.
- IV. Creation of livelihood opportunities for local people, by involving them in ecotourism initiatives.
- V. Introduction of best practices linking sustainable ecotourism with biodiversity conservation.

4. Government after careful examination accord administrative sanction to establish a Bio-diversity Museum and a Conservation Centre with an Eco-park at Kakachi, Ambasamudram Range, Singampatti Reserve Forest, Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve at a cost of Rs.7 crore with Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board Funds.

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden shall submit a Detailed Project Report to Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board shall release necessary funds accordingly. A utilization certificate shall be submitted by Chief Wildlife Warden in this regard.

6. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide its U.O. No.4487/FS/P/2022, dated 07.12.2022.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

**SUPRIYA SAHU**  
**ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden,  
Chennai-32.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Chennai-32.

The Chairman, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai – 32.

The Field Director, Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Tirunelveli.

**Copy to:-**

The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai – 32.

The Special P.A to Hon'ble Chief Minister,  
Chief Minister's Office, Chennai-9.

The P.S to Secretary IV to Hon'ble Chief Minister,

The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Forests), Chennai-9.

The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (ECC&F), Chennai-9.

The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister(Finance & HRM),  
Chennai-9.

The P.S. to Chief Secretary, Chennai-9.

The Finance(E,CC&F) Department, Chennai – 9.

The Private Secretary to Additional Chief Secretary,

Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, Chennai-9.

SF/SC.

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

*P. Selvi*  
*20/2/23*  
**SECTION OFFICER**  
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