

1. New Birds Sanctuary at Nanjarayan Tank at Tiruppur.

A new Birds Sanctuary at Nanjarayan Tank located at Tiruppur District will be notified as the 17th Birds Sanctuary of Tamil Nadu. The lake extends to an area of 125.86 hectares. This is an important place for wintering grounds and breeding grounds for migratory birds. It hosts nearly 130 bird species apart from several species of reptiles, fishes, amphibians and plant species. A Conservation Centre shall also be set up at the site to create awareness among the locals and visitors. The Centre shall be responsible for promoting research and training activities in the field of conservation of flora and fauna. This new Birds Sanctuary will be another important effort towards conservation of birds in the State of Tamil Nadu. An amount of Rs. 7.50 crore shall be allocated for this by Government of Tamil Nadu.

2. Village Green Parks in 100 Villages called Maragada Pooncholai

In a pioneering effort, the Forest Department, will create Green Parks in 100 villages during this year with an aim to benefit the local village. Each of these village forests would cover an area of around one hectare. These **Maragada Pooncholai** will cater needs of local timber and fuelwood. This will also help in increasing water table, providing green shelter and several other recreational benefits. The local community will have monetization rights on these wood lots for the benefit of the community. These village green parks, wood lots called **Maragada Pooncholai** will be created to the extent of 100 hectares at a cost of Rs.25.00 crore.

3. Notification of Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary in Krishnagiri District

A new wildlife sanctuary called Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary shall be notified covering an area of about 478 sq.km. This Sanctuary will encompass Reserve Forests of Anchetty, Urigam and Jawalagiri Ranges of Hosur division.

This area is contiguous with the Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary. This will enable to form a large and contiguous network of Protected Areas in the region. This area is an important habitat for elephants and is home to at least 35 species of mammals and 238 species of birds. This will go a long way in conserving Leith's soft-shelled turtles, grizzled giant squirrel, smooth coated otters, marsh crocodiles, four horned antilopes and lesser Fish-Eagles etc.

Setting up of this Sanctuary will give a boost for recovery efforts of tiger population in this landscape. An amount of Rs. 5.00 crore shall be allocated by the

Government for preparation of Detailed Project Reports and other preliminary works.

4. Declaration of Slender Loris Sanctuary in Dindigul and Karur Districts.

India's first ever Wildlife Sanctuary for Slender Loris shall be set up in Dindigul and Karur Districts in Tamil Nadu.

Slender Loris is listed as 'endangered' by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Declaration of the Sanctuary for Slender Loris will help for protection and scientific management of the species.

An amount of Rs.5.00 crore shall be allocated by Government of Tamil Nadu this year for undertaking survey, assessment and preparation of Detailed Project Reports activities.

5. Green Mobility through Electric Bikes.

In a pioneering initiative, the Government of Tamil Nadu shall procure and supply 256 e-bikes to frontline field staff of Forest Department at a cost of Rs.2.32 crore.

This move will strengthen the resolve of the Forest Department to reduce the dependence on carbon rich fossil fuels and promote clean and green energy in forest conservation.

This initiative shall be taken up under the JICA-Govt of Tamil Nadu funded “Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR) Project”.

6. Blue Carbon Initiatives -Conservation of Mangroves and Coral Reefs.

In a major boost to the Blue Carbon sequestration, Government of Tamil Nadu shall undertake massive restoration and plantation of mangroves at a cost of Rs.4.14 crore. The project shall be implemented covering an area of 1,050 Hectares.

Corals play an extremely significant role in marine eco-system. Due to commercial exploitation of marine resources, corals are under huge threat. The Government will take up survey, assessment, monitoring and restoration of coral reefs in the Gulf of Mannar at a cost of Rs.3.6 crore with an aim to restore 3.6 hectares of coral reefs.

These initiatives shall be taken up under the JICA-Govt of Tamil Nadu funded “Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR) Project”.

7. Turtle Conservation and Rehabilitation Centre to be set up at Chennai.

Tamil Nadu hosts a large number of Olive Ridley Turtles among other turtle species nesting on beaches of coastal districts in Tamil Nadu.

To boost the turtle conservation efforts, a Turtle Conservation and Rehabilitation Centre shall be set up at Chennai at a cost of Rs.6.30 crore.

This Centre shall be set up with State-of-the-Art facility for promoting conservation efforts alongside promoting research, data collection and creating awareness among other activities. This initiative shall be taken up under the JICA-Govt of Tamil Nadu funded “Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR) Project”.

8. Promoting urban and peri urban forestry on the banks of Rivers Adyar, Cooum and Buckingham canal – Riparian belt plantation.

Towards promoting urban and peri urban forestry, a total of 3.42 crore seedlings shall be raised and planted at a cost of Rs. 231 crore on the banks of rivers Adyar, Cooum and Buckingham canal with the aim to increase carbon sequestration, reduce heat island effect and create the much-needed green belt.

Local native species only shall be planted along the banks as a part of the riparian belt plantation initiative.

This initiative shall be taken up under the JICA-Govt of Tamil Nadu funded “Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR) Project”.

9. Eco-Tourism Circuits

Forest Department shall implement community based eco-tourism in a big way all along the Eastern Ghats in the following 5 circuits

- a) Nilgiris District - Catherine Falls.
- b) Kurumbapatti – Yercaud
- c) Aiyur-Thenkanikottai-Hogenakkal Ganga Waterfalls
- d) Kolli malai – Akash Ganga Waterfalls – Yelagiri Hills
- e) Yelagiri – Amirthi – Jamunamarathur Bheeman Waterfalls – Kular Cave.

The eco-tourism activities shall focus on the capacity building and training of local community to take tourism activities in a sustainable manner. Under the project, the department shall work closely with the district administration and local community to develop

eco-tourism management plan after which necessary infrastructure shall be put in place.

This activity shall be implemented at a cost of Rs.14.00 crore under the JICA-Govt of Tamil Nadu funded “Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGP CCR) Project”.

10. Bio-diversity Lab cum Tourism Centre shall be set up at Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve.

A Bio-diversity lab cum Tourism Centre shall be set up at Kalakad -Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve. The biodiversity lab will have a State-of-the-Art Biodiversity Museum, herbarium, medicinal garden and biotech lab etc. The lab shall be a useful Centre for people to understand the importance of the biodiversity conservation.

This lab cum Tourism Centre shall be set up at an outlay of Rs.3.60 crore.

11. Removal of Invasive and Alien Species.

Government of Tamil Nadu has taken up the activity of removal of invasive and alien species in forest areas in a comprehensive manner alongside eco-restoration of the areas after the removal process. Invasive and alien species pose a major threat to the biodiversity of the State as they dominate local ecosystem and harm the native vegetation.

Species like *Lantana camara*, *Prosopis juliflora*, Bluegum, Wattle and *Senna spectabilis* etc., shall be removed under this initiative and native species shall be planted as part of the eco-restoration initiative.

The Government have allocated Rs.5.00 crore towards this activity for the year 2022-2023. Apart from this, Rs.17.42 crore shall also be utilized from the JICA-Govt of Tamil Nadu funded “Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGP CCR) Project”.

12. Harnessing the digital revolution in Forestry sector and common services.

Government has decided to allocate an amount of Rs. 37.00 crore for implementing State of the Art Digital Initiatives in the Department of Forests. MIS Applications shall be developed for Government to Government (G2G) along with other Government to Citizen (G2C) and Government to Business (G2B). Funds shall be allocated under JICA-Govt of Tamil Nadu funded “Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGP CCR) Project”.

These applications will help to provide a public citizen interface helping to improve dissemination of information to all stakeholders. Funds shall also be utilized for capacity building of forest staff on GIS and MIS applications.

13. Setting up of Longwood Shola Conservation Centre.

Government shall set up an International Conservation Centre at Longwood Shola located at Kotagiri, Nilgiris District. It is one of the last remaining dense shola forests located in an urban town. Longwood Shola is an integral part of the very fragile Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve. Covering an area of around 116 ha, Longwood Shola is a treasure trove of native shola trees providing a unique ecosystem which not only is home to several endemic species, but also helps to provide drinking water to several local villages downstream.

In view of its importance, the Government has decided to set-up a Longwood Shola Conservation Centre at a cost of Rs.5.20 crore, involving local community in its Conservation efforts. The Longwood Shola Conservation Centre shall include an information Centre, library and herbarium. Efforts

shall also be taken for inclusion of Longwood Shola in the “Queen’s Commonwealth Canopy Programme (QCC)” which is a unique network of forest conservation projects to facilitate knowledge exchange, share best practices and create new collaborative initiatives for forest conservation.

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