

Planting of Mangroves by Honourable Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at Kundrukkadu in Muttukadu backwaters, Kovalam, Chengalpet District, Tamil Nadu.

Date: 14th July, 2023

Time: 7:00 AM

Introduction

The state of Tamil Nadu is endowed with the second longest coastline of 1076 km in the country. At the same time, the coastline is vulnerable to recurrent natural disasters like cyclones and storms. Mangrove forests have served as bioshield along the coastal areas and have helped to save lives and livelihoods of people particularly of fishers and local community. The beneficial impact of mangroves has been observed on several occasions including the cyclones in Tamil Nadu. The damage caused by Tsunami was also considerably less in mangrove rich areas. The temple tree of Chidambaram Natarajar temple is Thillai (*Excoecaria agallocha*) which demonstrates that conservation of mangroves has been embedded in the culture of coastal communities since ancient times.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has launched Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Wetlands Mission and Climate Mission which focus on restoring Mangrove covers in the coastal areas of the state.

Planting Site

The site is located in Kondrukkadu village, Kovalam Panchayat along East Coast Road. The area of the site is 1 ha and having waterlogged condition, situated between Muttukadu backwaters and Bay of Bengal. The area is endowed with halophytes and other Mangrove associates species, with few mangroves trees of *Avicennia marina*. The area is having potential for new mangrove plantation with suitable soil, water and climatic conditions.

Ongoing Works and Works Planned for Future

Around 1000 ha of mangrove area planting and restoration was completed in 2022-23 under NABARD (Restoration of degraded forest and Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR)).

For the coming years, mangrove planting and restoration is being planned under coastal rehabilitation mission and TN-SHORE. The Eco restoration of Ennore creek near Chennai over an extent of 188 ha with funding from Chennai River Restoration Trust has also begun where 15980 mangrove seedlings are to be planted along with 208680 associate species.

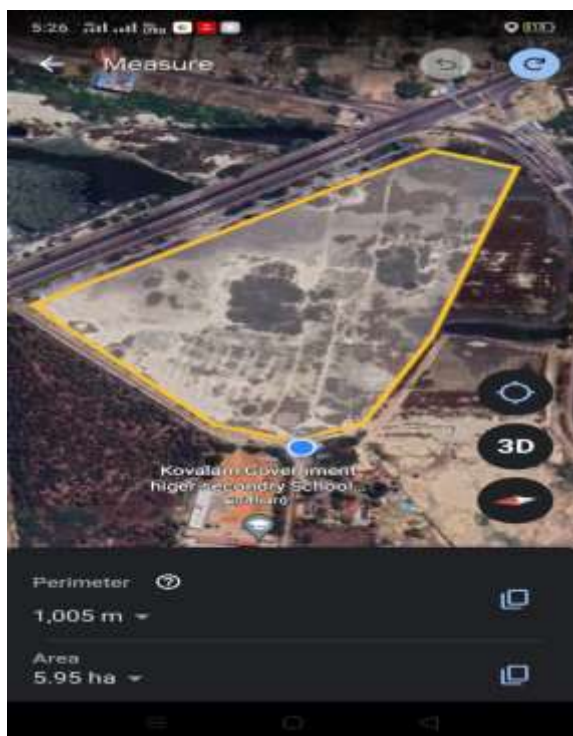
List of dignitaries and officers from the State who will be participating in the event

1	Thiru. M. Mathiventhan, Honourable Minister for Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu
2	Tmt. Supriya Sahu, IAS., Additional Chief Secretary to Government , Environment, Climate Change & Forests
3	Thiru. Subrat Mohapatra, IFS., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force
4	Thiru. Srinivas R. Reddy, IFS., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden
5	Tmt. K. Geethanjali, IFS., Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle, Chennai
6	Thiru. Ravi Meena, IFS., District Forest Officer, Chengalpattu Division, Kancheepuram.

List of Participants

1. Staff of Forest Department
2. Self Help Group members, Kovalam village
3. School students
4. People of Kovalam village

Photographs from the site







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