

**PRESS RELEASE****TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT TO SET UP BIODEIVERSITY MUSEUM,  
CONSERVATION CENTRE WITH ECO-PARK AT AMBASAMUDRAM**

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Government of Tamil Nadu, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department issued Orders today to set up a Bio-diversity Museum and Conservation Centre with Eco-Park in recently notified Agasthiyamalai Elephant Reserve. This reserve shares the same landscape with Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve.

The Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) is the first Tiger Reserve set up in Tamil Nadu in the year 1976. After this four more Tiger Reserves viz., Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve and Srivilliputhur-Meghamalai Tiger Reserve have been notified.

Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) is home to more than 2000 species of plants including 150 endemic ones. The Tiger Reserve is also referred to as the “River Sanctuary” as 14 rivers originate from this landscape. Agasthiyamalai Elephant Reserve is notified with an intention to protect the most important habitats and corridors of Asian elephants in Southern Western Ghats to maintain a viable elephant population. This proposed Conservation Centre shall be a land mark in the conservation journey of Agasthiyamalai Elephant Reserve, Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR).

This Government order comes after an announcement made by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at a function in Tirunelveli in September last year. The Museum and Conservation Centre shall be set up at a cost of Rs.7 crores with the objective to promote better appreciation of the rich biodiversity of the region. The project shall promote sustainable eco-tourism and create livelihood opportunities for the local people.

**ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT****Issued By: - DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai – 9**

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