ISSN : 0975 - 9387

ECO-HERITAGE.COM

EIACP *Newsletter*

Thematic Area: Conservation of Ecological Heritage and Sacred Sites of India

April - June 2026, Vol. XXV, No. 1

In this issue

C.P.R. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE
CPREEC EIACP PC - RESOURCE PARTNER

Supported by

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

From the EIACP Desk...

The **Environmental Information, Awareness Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP)** at CPREEC of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India is the Programme Centre – Resource Partner (RP) for the thematic area of "*Conservation of Ecological Heritage and Sacred Sites of India*".

Heritage is the cultural, social and spiritual legacy that we inherit from our past and pass on to the future. Indian heritage is unique in its reverence for Mother Nature in all her manifestations. Ancient traditions, rituals and practices have embedded this reverence in religion and even in normal day-to-day living. The respect for nature and the belief that every organism on earth has a special role in life's cycle forms the core of our ecological heritage.

To maintain humankind's resilience in the face of change, it is necessary to draw on the best available knowledge, regardless of its origins. The process of updating knowledge systems provides opportunities to develop a deeper understanding of observed events and their consequences. It facilitates and leads to a joint assessment of information, resulting in new insights and innovations, and better informed actions.

The main purpose of this **Newsletter** is to bring forth and publish articles concerning all aspects related to the knowledge of ecological traditions in India as well as novel interpretations and theoretical issues related to the conservation of the same.

This issue covers an article, **"Know Your Millets – Pearl Millet, Foxtail Millet and Finger Millet".**

Pearl millet, foxtail millet and finger millet are ancient, climate-resilient cereals cultivated for over 4,000 years across Africa and Asia. To adopt a healthy food system of millets, these grains offer a sustainable solution — thriving in drought, salinity and poor soils while needing 70% less water than rice. Pearl millet provides protein, iron, zinc, vitamin B complex and a low glycemic index for diabetes and heart health. Foxtail millet delivers bioactive peptides, antioxidants, and insoluble fibre that regulate blood sugar, cholesterol and inflammation. Finger millet is calcium-rich with ten times the calcium of rice, aiding bone strength and anaemia recovery. All three are gluten-free with phenolics and flavonoids offering anti-diabetic, cardio-protective benefits for resilient nutrition.

CPREEC EIACP PC – RP has already published books on the *Ecological Traditions of the sixteen (16) states of India*, The Centre has, over the years, promoted and encouraged communities to adopt local traditions, practices and rituals that possess ecological significance.

The Centre also focuses on eco-restoration, conservation, creation of environmental assets and advocates the sustainable use of natural resources. The Centre has restored several degraded sacred groves in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

The Centre has also documented sacred groves/ forests (10,470), sacred gardens (64), sacred plants (94), sacred animals (57), sacred rivers (33), sacred water bodies (365), sacred mountains (203), sacred cities/sites (234), sacred seeds (10), sacred caves (209) and green pilgrimages (20), traditional ecological knowledge (44) and UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India (40) till date.

We would like to thank our readers for sharing their articles, photographs and also for their queries and feedback regarding our newsletters, publications and about information provided in our website https://eiacp.moef.gov.in/drc/eiacp/centre/CPREEC.

We cordially invite other scholars and interested persons to share their knowledge and information by contributing popular articles and good quality photographs on the subject areas present on our website.

Cover Story

Know Your Millets – Pearl Millet, Foxtail Millet and Finger Millet

Dr. A. Abirami
Programme Officer
C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, EIACP PC -RP, Chennai

Introduction

Millets are among the world's oldest cultivated grains, nourishing communities for over 5,000 years. Once overlooked, these hardy crops are now recognised as climate-smart super foods. Naturally gluten-free, millets are rich in protein, dietary fibre, iron, calcium and B-vitamins. Three champions lead the way: pearl millet, foxtail millet and finger millet. Pearl millet thrives in arid zones, offering high iron and drought tolerance. Foxtail millet matures in just 60 days and has a low glycemic index, supporting diabetic diets. Finger millet packs 10 times more calcium than rice, vital for bone health. Millets need 70% less water than rice and grow on poor, degraded soils without heavy inputs. Their deep roots improve soil structure, prevent erosion and boost carbon storage. Short growing seasons and minimal fertiliser use mean a far lower carbon footprint. For farmers, millets offer secure harvests despite heat waves and erratic rains. For consumers, they combat hidden hunger, obesity and lifestyle disorders. Choosing millets strengthens biodiversity, conserves water and builds food security. From farm to plate, these small grains support people and the planet. Reviving millets is not a trend — it is essential for a sustainable food system.

Pearl Millet

Botanical Name	:	*Pennisetum glaucum* (L.) R. Br.
Tamil Name	:	Kambu
Sanskrit Name	:	Bajra
English Name	:	Pearl Millet

Distribution and Habit

Pennisetum glaucum L. R. Br. is an annual cereal crop which belongs to the family Poaceae. It is native to the Sahel region of Africa from Sudan to Senegal. The species has been cultivated for over 4,000 years and it is extensively cultivated in the arid and semi-arid regions of Africa and the Indian subcontinent. Pearl millet is often grown as a component in mixed crops. Pearl millet is an erect annual grass, reaching up to 3 m high with a profuse root system. Stems, 0.5–1 inch diameter. It is a leafy plant with leaf blades that are 8–40 inches long and 0.5–3 inches wide. Fruits are grains whose shape differs according to cultivars. The seeds are 3–4 mms. long and 2.25 mms. wide, usually yellowish-grey in colour. It has a very high level of photosynthetic efficiency, a higher adaptation to drought, soil salinity, soil acidity and high temperatures. Once, it was the staple food of majority of the poor and small land holders, as well as a source of feed and fodder for livestock in the African and Indian countries.

Parts used

Grains (as staple food), leaves (as forage).

Phytochemical constituents

Flavonoids, phenolics, vitamin - A and B, folic acid, protein, carbohydrates, essential amino acids – arginine, threonine, valine, isoleucine, lysine, minerals – iron, zinc, calcium, magnesium, copper, manganese, potassium, phosphorous, fatty acids – palmitic, stearic, linolenic acids, oleic acids and crude fibre.

Uses

Pearl millet flour is traditionally used by Indian housewives to prepare a variety of delicacies like laddoo, chips, wadi, bread, cake, etc. Pearl millet is used in making alcoholic beverages and non-alcoholic drinks. The stalks of pearl millet are used in making mulches and as fuel. The glumes and pericarp obtained from milled pearl millet are used in preparing feeds for livestock, including poultry and other birds.

Medicinal uses

The consumption of pearl millet reduces type 2 diabetes, because it has a relatively low glycemic index that helps to digest gradually and produce glucose at a slower rate. Its nutritional and medicinal value helps in reducing other human ailments such as cancer, cardiovascular and neurodegenerative diseases. Pearl millet increases insulin sensitivity, lowers the level of triglycerides and it is efficiently used to regulate blood sugar levels. The grain is gluten-free and it is one of the alternatives for patients who have celiac diseases to consume a gluten free diet for a normal and healthy lifestyle (Jukanti et al. 2016). It is popular at the dry or hot climate demographics because it is considered to cool off the body and supply required supplements. A variety of bioactive compounds present in pearl millet possess numerous health benefits such as antimicrobial, antioxidant, antidiabetic and hypo-cholesterolemic effects, as well as hypoglycemic activity and guarding against diet-related diseases (Kumar et al. 2020).

Foxtail Millet

Botanical Name	:	*Setaria italica* (L.) P. Beauv.
Tamil Name	:	Thinai
Sanskrit Name	:	Kangu
English Name	:	Foxtail millet

Distribution and Habit

Setaria italica (Foxtail millet) belongs to the family *Poaceae*, with slim, vertical, leafy stems which can reach to a height of 1.2-2 m. This plant originated from China, where its cultivation dates back to 5000 BC. It probably

spread from the highlands of Central China towards India and Europe. In India, foxtail millet is still an important crop in arid and semi-arid regions. Leaf blades are linear-lance shaped, 15-45 x 0.6-2 cms. Flower panicles are dense, lobed, 6-40 x 0.5-5 cms, very variable, erect or pendent, when mature; seed-head dense, hairy panicle, 5-30 cms. long, 2 mms. in diameter, oval or elliptical and light yellow to brown, rusty or black. This crop can be harvested for green fodder or hay after 70 – 75 days of sowing. It has strong adaptability to abiotic stresses, especially drought, and poor soil. In South India, it has been a staple diet among people for a long time from the Sangam period. It is referred to often in old Tamil texts and is commonly associated with Lord Muruga and his consort Valli.

Parts used

Seed (as grain) and leaf (as fodder)

Phytochemical constituents

Dietary fibre, bioactive peptides, proteins, minerals, amino acids, phenolic compounds, sterols, tocols, phytic acids, carotenoids and unsaturated fatty acids,

Uses

In many Indian households, foxtail millet is used to make traditional dishes like payasam, laddu, porridge and other breakfast dishes. Its nutty flavour and high nutritional value makes it a popular choice for health-conscious individuals. It is also used in the preparation of vinegar, wine, beer and alcohol. Its straw is nutritious and easily digestible which is used as feed for cattle, poultry and pigs.

Medicinal uses

Foxtail millet has been an integral part of traditional Indian cuisine and medicine for centuries. In Ayurveda, it is valued for its cooling properties and is used to treat digestive issues and inflammation. The millet is also used in traditional Indian medicine to treat conditions like poor appetite and indigestion. Traditionally, foxtail millet has been used in medicinal practices as an emollient, astringent and stomachic, providing remedies for dyspepsia and food heaviness. It is rich in anti-oxidants, fibre and essential minerals like iron and magnesium. Its anti-inflammatory properties may help manage conditions like arthritis and digestive issues. Various bioactive chemicals found in foxtail millet's seed coat functions against life threatening disorders such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and high blood pressure (Chandrasekara and

Shahidi, 2011). Some studies suggest that it is potential in managing blood sugar levels and cholesterol. Insoluble dietary fibres derived from foxtail millet could delay the diffusion of glucose and promote its absorption in the gastrointestinal tract, could also inhibit α-amylase activity and delay the digestibility of carbohydrates and deter the release of glucose (Bangoura et al. 2012). In pharmaceuticals, extracts from foxtail millet are being explored for their antimicrobial and anti-diabetic properties, making it a valuable crop for nutraceutical research.

Finger Millet

Botanical Name	:	*Eleusine coracana* (L.) Gaertn.
Tamil Name	:	Kezhvaragu; Keppai; Aariyam
Sanskrit Name	:	Madhulika
English Name	:	Finger Millet

Distribution and Habit

Finger millet (*Eleusine coracana* (L.) Gaertn), is one of the millets characterised with highly variable small-seeded monocotyledon and belongs to *Poaceae* family. It is widely grown as a cereal in the arid areas of Africa and Asia. Finger millet is originally native to the Ethiopian Highlands and was introduced into India approximately 4000 years ago. It is very adaptable to higher elevations and is grown in the Himalaya up to 2,300 m altitude. It is an annual herbaceous cereal crop, growing to a height of 30-150 cms. and maturation starts in 75-160 days. Leaves dark green, linear, mainly smooth with some hair along the leaf edges narrow, grass-like, produce many tillers and nodal branches. The panicle consists of a group of digitally arranged spikes referred to as a finger. The inflorescence is a panicle with 4-19 finger-like spikes that resembles a clenched fist when developed, consequently the name finger millet.

https://www.afa.go.ke/updates/finger-millet-a-versatile-grain-worth-cultivating/

Parts used

Seeds as grains; Leaves as fodder

Phytochemical constituents

Carbohydrates, protein, essential amino acids, dietary fibre, minerals, tannins, steroids, alkaloids, terpenoids, cardiac glycosides, balsams, lignans, phytoestrogens and phycocyanins, phenolic acids, flavonoids, and hydroxycinnamic acid.

Uses

Finger millet grains can be cooked whole or ground and used as flour. It is used in cakes, puddings and porridge preparation. These grains are often used to provide malt for

making local beer and other alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages.

Medicinal uses

Finger millet is a main source of food for many, especially in dry areas of India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The grain is rich in protein, fat and minerals than rice, corn or sorghum. When consumed as food, it provides a sustaining diet, especially for people doing hard work. Finger millet is rich in iron and used in diets to get recovery from anaemic condition and malnutrition (Saleh et al. 2013). The juice of the plant leaf is given to women in childbirth and the plant is reported to be diaphoretic, diuretic and vermifuge. Finger millet is a remedy for leprosy and liver disease. It also works in curing measles, pneumonia and small pox. It is also known for several health benefits such as anti-diabetic, anti tumerogenic, atherosclerogenic effects, antioxidant and antimicrobial properties. Finger millet is gluten free and is highly recommended or advisable for celiac patients (Chandrasekara and Sahidi, 2010). The seed is astringent, tonic and cooling. It is used in the treatment of fever, biliousness and hepatitis. The phytochemicals present in finger millet slows down the digestion process, resulting in blood sugar level control as well as improving antioxidant levels in the body. The seed coat phenolic of finger millet acts as an inhibitor that helps to reduce the postprandial hyperglyceamia through restricting the role of enzymes, such as alpha-amylase, alpha-glucosidase etc., essential in hydrolysis of complex carbohydrates (Singh, 2016). Amino acids present in finger millet help to remove unnecessary fat from liver and decrease the cholesterol level and encumber the fat formation (Lee et al. 2010).

Conclusion

Pearl, foxtail, and finger millet call us to adopt a healthy food system of millets. *Kambu* grows 3 m tall in desert heat, securing iron, zinc and protein for drylands. *Thinai* matures in 70 days, its fibre and peptides managing blood sugar and cholesterol. *Kezhvaragu* reaches 2,300 m in the Himalayas, delivering unmatched calcium for bones. Together they survive drought, salinity and poor soils where rice and wheat fail. Gluten-free and low-glycemic, they fight diabetes, celiac disease and hidden hunger. Their phenolics and flavonoids reduce oxidative stress, inflammation and heart risk. From Sahel farms to Sangam Tamil texts, they sustain culture and resilience. Farmers gain grain for food, leaves for fodder and straw for fuel and feed. Their cultivation conserves water, rebuilds soil and cuts chemical dependence. Reviving these millets protects biodiversity, seed heritage and rural livelihoods. They unite climate adaptation with nutrition security on every plate and farm. For families and policymakers, millets turn health goals into sustainable action. Choosing these grains means choosing wellness for people and the planet. Small millets, strong systems, adopt them for a healthier tomorrow.

References

- Jukanti, A. K., Gowda, C. L. L., Rai, K. N., Manga, V. K., & Bhatt, R. K. (2016). 'Pearl Millet (*Pennisetum glaucum* L.): An important source of food security, nutrition and health in the arid and semi-arid tropics'. *Food Security*, 8(2), 307–329.
- Kumar, A., Tomer, V., Kaur, A., Kumar, V., & Gupta, K. (2020). 'Millets: a solution to

agrarian and nutritional challenges'. *Agriculture & Food Security*, 9, 31.

- Chandrasekara, A., & Shahidi, F. (2011). 'Bioactivities and antiradical properties of millet grains and hulls'. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 59(18), 9563–9571.
- Bangoura, M. L., Ming, Z. H., Nsor-Atindana, J., Xue, Z. K., Tolno, M. B., & Wei, P. (2012). 'Extraction and Fractionation of Insoluble Fibers from Foxtail Millet (*Setaria italica* (L.) P. Beauv)'. *American Journal of Food Technology*, 6(12), 1034–1044.
- Saleh, A. S. M., Zhang, Q., Chen, J., & Shen, Q. (2013). 'Millet grains: nutritional quality, processing, and potential health benefits'. *Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety*, 12(3), 281–295.
- Chandrasekara, A., & Shahidi, F. (2010). 'Content of insoluble bound phenolics in millets and their contribution to antioxidant capacity'. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 58(11), 6706–6714.
- Singh, P. (2016). 'Finger millet for food and nutritional security'. *African Journal of Food Science*, 10(11), 193–198.
- Lee, S. H., Chung, I. M., Cha, Y. S., & Park, Y. (2010). 'Millet consumption decreased serum concentration of triglyceride and C-reactive protein but not oxidative status in hyperlipidemic rats'. *Nutrition Research*, 30(4), 290–296.

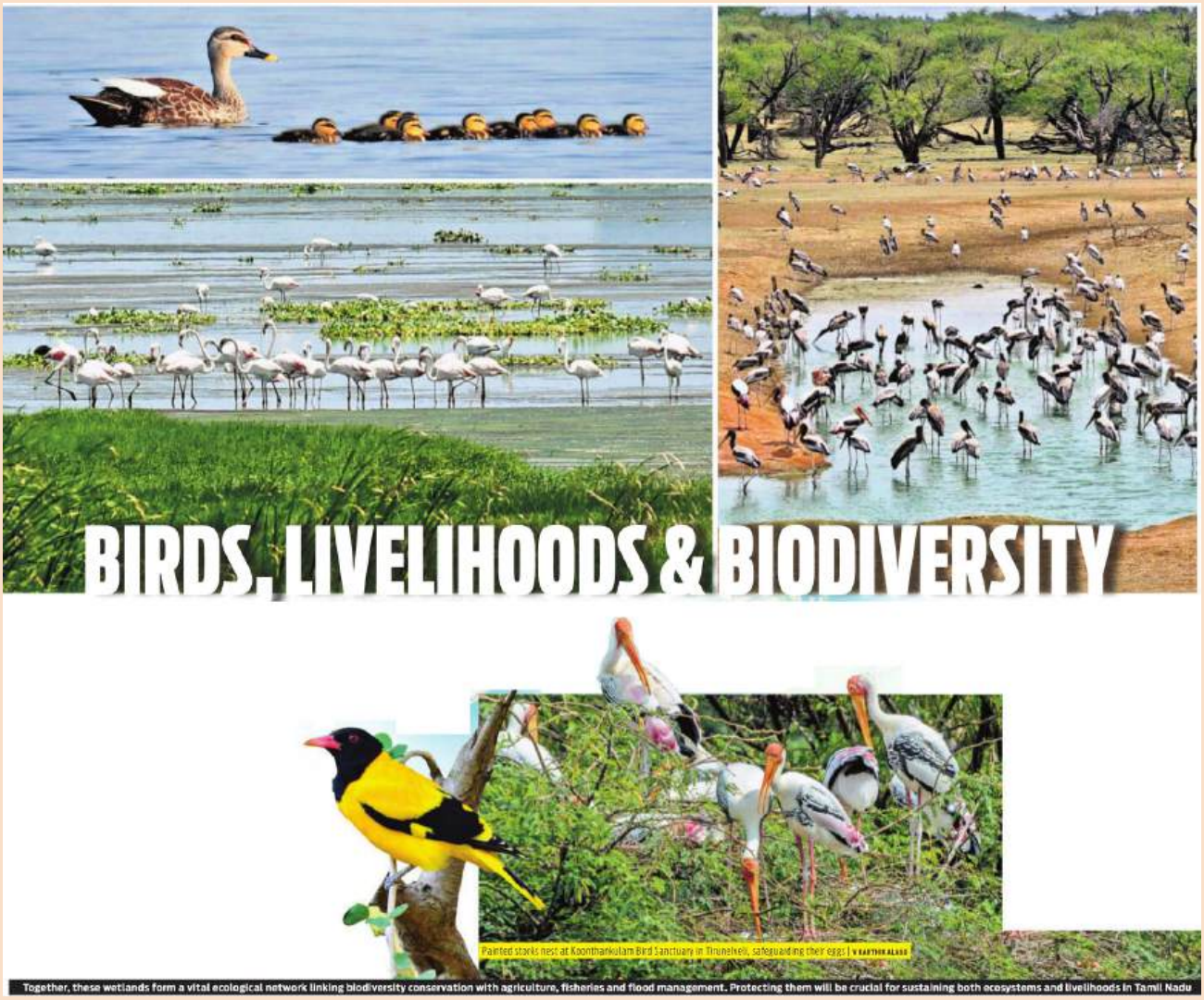
News

Overview of all 20 Ramsar Sites in Tamil Nadu

by S.V. Krishna Chaitanya

Tamil Nadu leads India with 20 Ramsar sites, the highest for any state in the country. Recognised under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, these wetlands range from coastal mangroves and marine ecosystems to ancient irrigation tanks, marshes and montane shola forests.

Collectively, they support migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway, sustain fisheries and agriculture, recharge groundwater, mitigate floods and provide livelihoods to thousands. However, many of these wetlands face increasing pressures from urbanisation, invasive species, pollution, hydrological disruptions and climate variability.



Together, these wetlands form a vital ecological network linking biodiversity conservation with agriculture, fisheries and flood management. Protecting them will be crucial for sustaining both ecosystems and livelihoods in Tamil Nadu

1. **Pichavaram Mangrove**
   District Cuddalore; Area: 1,478.6 ha;
   Ramsar status: April 8, 2022
   ❖ The Pichavaram Mangrove Forest is among India's largest mangrove ecosystems. It protects the coastline from storms and supports fishing communities dependent on estuarine resources.
2. **Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary**
   District: Nagapattinam; Area: 38,500 ha;
   Ramsar status: August 19, 2002
   ❖ This was Tamil Nadu's first Ramsar site. Mudflats, lagoons and mangroves here attract over 250 bird species, including flamingos and pelicans.
3. **Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary**
   District: Ramanathapuram; Area: 230.5 ha;
   Ramsar status: July 15, 2024
   ❖ A peri-urban wetland across three villages, Sakkarakottai supports more than 120 bird species. Babul trees provide nesting habitats for pelicans and other colonial waterbirds.
4. **Suchindram-Theroor Wetland Complex**
   District: Kanniyakumari; Area: 94.2 ha;
   Ramsar status: April 8, 2022
   ❖ Situated at the southern tip of the Central Asian Flyway, the Suchindram-Theroor Wetland Complex hosts around 250 bird species, including 53 migratory birds and several endemics.
5. **Therthangal Bird Sanctuary**
   District: Ramanathapuram; Area: 29.3 ha;
   Ramsar status: July 15, 2024
   ❖ Despite its small size, Therthangal supports 95 bird species, including the endangered Egyptian vulture and the vulnerable Indian spotted eagle.
6. **Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary**
   District: Tiruvarur; Area: 43.8 ha;
   Ramsar status: April 8, 2022
   ❖ This wetland consists of irrigation tanks connected by canals receiving water from the Mettur Dam system. It is a key breeding site for species such as the black-headed ibis.
7. **Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary**
   District: Tiruvarur; Area: 112.6 ha;
   Ramsar status: April 8, 2022
   ❖ Vaduvur supports nearly 118 bird species. Floating aquatic vegetation creates feeding grounds for pelicans, ibises and other migratory birds.
8. **Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary**
   District: Chengalpattu; Area: 40.3 ha;
   Ramsar status: April 8, 2022
   ❖ Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary is one of India's oldest bird sanctuaries and an historic community-protected wetlands that attracts thousands of nesting birds each year.
9. **Vellode Bird Sanctuary**
   District: Erode; Area: 77.2 ha;
   Ramsar status: April 8, 2022
   ❖ Vellode is a man-made irrigation tank that has evolved into a vital habitat for migratory birds such as the Indian river tern and painted stork.
10. **Vembannur Wetland Complex**
    District: Kanniyakumari; Area: 19.7 ha;
    Ramsar status: April 8, 2022
    ❖ Located near Indian's southern tip, Vembannur supports migratory birds such as the grey pelican and garganey, while irrigating thousands of hectares of farmland.

11. **Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest**

District: Chennai; Area: 1,247.5 ha;
Ramsar status: April 8, 2022

❖ Pallikaranai Marsh is Chennai's primary flood-buffering wetland. It supports 115 bird species along with the reptiles and fish, but faces threats from urban expansion and sewage inflow.

12. **Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary**

District: Tiruppur; Area: 125.9 ha;
Ramsar status: January 16, 2024

❖ A 400-year-old irrigation tank, Nanjarayan hosts 191 bird species. Trees around the lake provide nesting sites for darters and cormorants.

13. **Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary**

District: Villupuram; Area: 5,151.6 ha;
Ramsar status: January 16, 2024

❖ Kazhuveli is the second-largest brackish water lake in peninsular India. Its connection to the Bay of Bengal creates a salinity gradient supporting diverse habitats and over 229 bird species.

14. **Karikili Bird Sanctuary**

District: Chengalpattu and Kanchipuram;
Area: 58.4 ha;
Ramsar status: April 8, 2022

❖ Karikili consists of two rain-fed irrigation tanks that attract breeding oriental darter and spot billed pelican. Nutrient rich water from bird colonies improves soil fertility in surrounding farmlands.

15. **Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary**

District: Ariyalur; Area: 453.7 ha;
Ramsar status: May 24, 2023

❖ One of Tamil Nadu's largest inland lakes, Karaivetti is an important migratory stopover on the Central Asian Flyway. Nearly 10,000 colonial water birds have been recorded nesting here, while raptors such as the spotted eagle and tawny eagle are also sighted.

16. **Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary**

District: Ramanathapuram; Area: 96.9 ha;
Ramsar status: April 8, 2022

❖ Dominated by babul trees, Kanjirankulam provides ideal nesting sites for herons, storks and pelicans. Near-threatened species such as the oriental darter and spot billed pelican regularly breed here.

17. **Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve**

District: Thoothukudi & Ramanathapuram;
Area: 52,671.9 ha;
Ramsar status: April 8, 2022

❖ The Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve is one of India's richest marine ecosystems and the first marine biosphere reserve in South and Southeast Asia. It contains coral reefs, sea-grass meadows and mangroves supporting hundreds of fish species. Threatened species such as the dugong, whale shark and green sea turtle inhabit these waters.

18. **Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary**

District: Ramanathapuram; Area: 260.5 ha;
Ramsar status: November 8, 2021

❖ Chitrangudi, locally known as Chitrangudi Kanmoli, is a seasonal wetland that supports around 50 species of water birds. It serves as a winter breeding ground for near threatened species such as the spot billed pelican and painted stork. The rain-fed lake also functions as a flood buffer and nutrient sink during heavy rainfall.

19. **Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary**

District: Tirunelveli; Area: 72 ha;
Ramsar status: November 8, 2021

❖ Known as South India's largest breeding reserve for water birds, Koonthankulam attracts migratory ducks such as the Eurasian pigeon and Northern pintail. Its interconnected tanks also support agriculture and ground water recharge.

20. **Longwood Shola Reserve Forest**

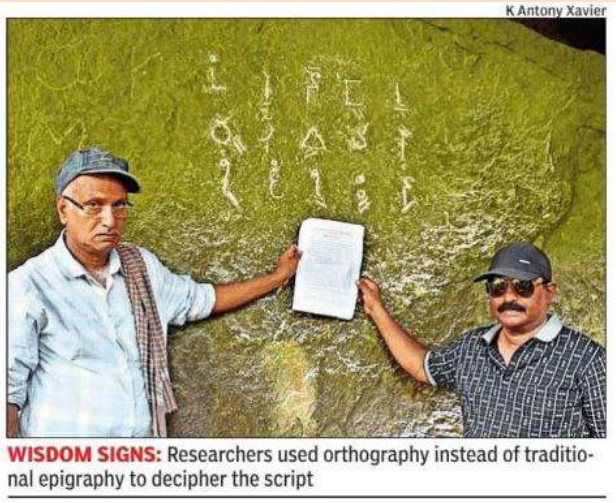
District: Nilgiris; Area: 116 ha;
Ramsar status: May 24, 2023

❖ This montane wetland ecosystem represents the unique Shola forest habitat of the Western Ghats. It shelters endemic species such as the Nilgiri laughing thrush and Nilgiri wood pigeon.

Source: The New Indian Express Chennai, dt.30/04/2026, pg.2.

News

Researchers decode inscription in Sanyasi Pudavu cave in Courtallam Hills



WISDOM SIGNS: Researchers used orthography instead of traditional epigraphy to decipher the script

Archaeology enthusiasts have deciphered the mysterious 'Sanyasi Pudavu' cave inscription in the Courtallam Hills, solving a mystery that had remained unsolved for more than a century.

The inscription is located inside a massive double-storey cave deep in a forested area frequented by elephants. The site can be reached only after a 5.5-km trek through the hills above the Courtallanathar temple and past the main, Shenbagadevi and Thenaruvi waterfalls.

The cave wall contains 15 characters arranged in three lines. Though references to the cave appeared in British government records in 1917, the script's meaning and origin had remained unclear.

Earlier, archaeologists had speculated that the markings could belong to a pre-Brahmi script or an early form of the Indus script. Even Japanese scholar Shu Hikosaka was unable to fully interpret it during his research.

After two-and-a-half years of field research, archaeology researcher Balakrishnan from Trichy and Mathur Pavendhan claimed to have decoded the inscription.

"Fourteen of the 15 characters contain the basic forms of Prakrit Brahmi. However, the scribes used an unconventional system instead of standard diacritic marks," Balakrishnan told.

"By applying logical methods along with mathematical permutations and combinations, we were able to decode the script. We used orthography instead of traditional epigraphy, which had failed to identify the characters earlier," he said.

According to the researchers, the inscription contains Tamil words written in a modified Brahmi script. The text reads: "Um Neri Gnana Vaapi Elore Gajam Ka Eeru."

It translates to: "Your path is a reservoir filled with wisdom; the essence found in the water bodies of all seven villages is one and the same."

Balakrishnan said the script appears to represent a distinct local variation rather than a standard ancient script.

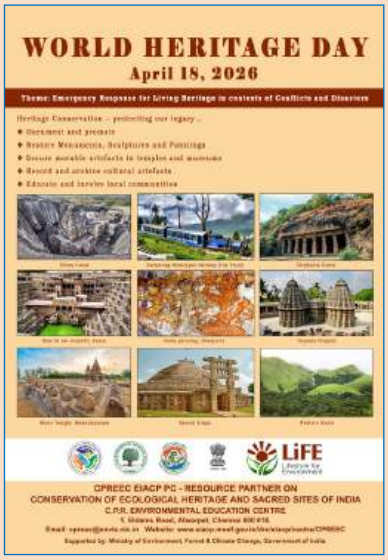
Source: The Times of India, Chennai Edn., dt. 18.5.2026, pg. 6.

In-focus

World Health Day – 7 April, 2026

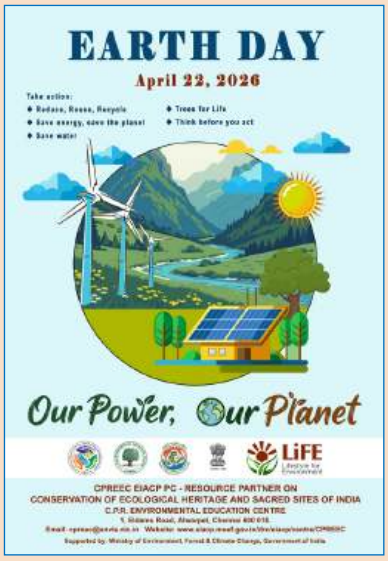
World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated annually on April 7th to mark the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948. It aims to draw worldwide attention to a specific, urgent health topic affecting humanity and promoting health as a basic human right. As part of observing World Health Day 2026, CPREEC EIACP PC – RP, Chennai developed an awareness poster highlighting this year's theme, **'Together for Health. Stand with Science'**.

World Heritage Day – 18 April, 2026



World Heritage Day, celebrated annually on April 18th, is a global observance to raise awareness about the importance of preserving cultural and natural heritage sites. It aims to highlight the need to protect and maintain these remarkable locations for future generations, ensuring their continued enjoyment and appreciation. The day also serves as a reminder to cherish and protect our shared cultural heritage. As part of World Heritage Day 2026, CPREEC EIACP PC – RP, Chennai designed an awareness poster on the theme **'Emergency Response for Living Heritage in contexts of Conflicts and Disasters'**, reminding us that from temples to traditions, our heritage is the blueprint of who we are — and must be protected today for tomorrow.

Earth Day – 22 April, 2026



Earth Day takes place every year on 22 April and is one of the biggest environmental protest movements on the planet. The theme of Earth Day this year is 'Our Power, Our Planet' – calling for people across the globe to unite behind renewable energy. As part of celebrating Earth Day – 2026, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Chennai developed and released an awareness poster on the theme **'Our Power, Our Planet'**.

CPREEC-Sri Vijaya Puram - Earth Day – 22.04.2026 – Awareness Programme

As part of observing Earth Day, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Sri Vijaya Puram Field Office organised an awareness programme in collaboration with Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council at Buniyadabad Ward No. 8 on 22.4.2026. Shri. A. Gopal, Project Officer, CPREEC, Sri Vijaya Puram addressed the Sanitary Workers on the importance of observing Earth Day. Shri. K. Ganeshan, Former Chairman, Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council and Shri. Lalit Kumar Ekka, Sanitary Inspector released the awareness poster. Posters were pasted on waste route collection vehicles and market places, shops, etc. where more than 500 general public viewed. More than 80 sanitary workers and general public participated. Posters were distributed.

विश्व पृथ्वी दिवस पर बुनियादाबाद में स्वच्छता एवं वृक्षारोपण जागरूकता कार्यक्रम आयोजित

श्री विजय पुरम, 22 अप्रैल : विश्व पृथ्वी दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में आज सुबह 6.30 बजे बुनियादाबाद जंक्शन पर एक जागरूकता बैठक का आयोजन किया गया। सीपीसीआर पर्यावरण शिक्षा केंद्र के परियोजना अधिकारी श्री ए. गोपाल और स्वच्छता निरीक्षक श्री ललित एक्का के सहयोग से आयोजित इस बैठक में नगर परिषद के सफाई कर्मचारियों और वार्ड संख्या–8 के स्थानीय निवासियों ने हिस्सा लिया। कार्यक्रम के दौरान पूरे क्षेत्र को साफ–सुथरा और स्वच्छ बनाए रखने के लिए जन–जागरूकता पैदा की गई।

नगर परिषद के पूर्व अध्यक्ष श्री के. गणेशन इस अवसर पर मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित रहे। उन्होंने सभा को संबोधित करते हुए अपने परिवेश को स्वच्छ और हरा–भरा रखकर पर्यावरण की रक्षा करने की अपील की। पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को संरक्षित करने के लिए उन्होंने क्षेत्र में वृक्षारोपण की आवश्यकता पर विशेष बल दिया।

श्री गणेशन ने कहा कि बड़ी संख्या में पेड़ लगाने से न केवल आसपास का वातावरण हरा–भरा रहेगा, बल्कि तपती धूप और चिलचिलाती गर्मी में सड़कों पर चलने वाले पैदल यात्रियों को भी ठंडी छाया मिलेगी। कार्यक्रम में उपस्थित सभी लोगों ने पर्यावरण सुरक्षा का संकल्प लिया।

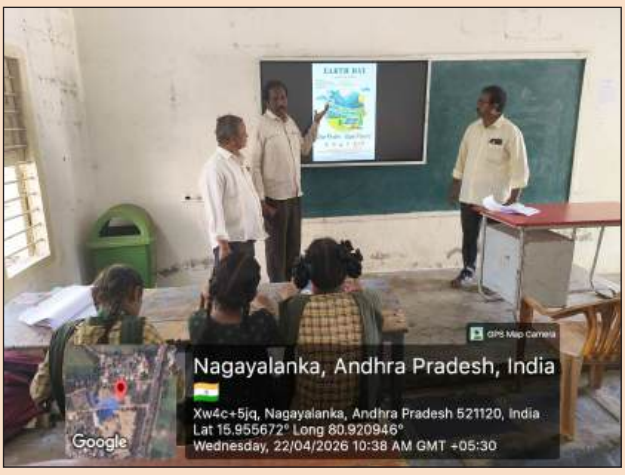
News clipping on The Daily Telegrams, Sri Vijaya Puram 23.4.26

CPREEC-Andhra Pradesh - Earth Day – 22.04.2026 – Awareness Programme

As part of observing Earth Day, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP Andhra Pradesh State Office organised an awareness programme at Aravinda High School, Kunchanapalli, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh on 22.4.2026. Shri. K. Venkataratnam, Project Officer, CPREEC, Andhra State, organised a Drawing competition, Students Rally and Road Show. More than 350 students and teachers participated in the programme and awareness posters were distributed.

As part of observing Earth Day, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP Andhra Pradesh State Office organised an awareness programme and painting competition at the Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS) Tarakaturu, Guduru Mandal, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh. A total of 92 students and teachers participated in the programme and awareness posters were distributed.

As part of observing Earth Day, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP Andhra Pradesh State Office organised an awareness programme at the Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS) PLUS, Nagayalanka, Andhra Pradesh. A total of 55 students and teachers participated in the programme and awareness posters were distributed.



As part of observing Earth Day, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP Andhra Pradesh State Office organised an awareness programme at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Public School, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana State. A total of 88 students and teachers participated in the programme and awareness posters were distributed.

CPREEC-Karnataka - Earth Day – 22.04.2026 – Awareness Programme

As part of observing Earth Day, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP Karnataka State Office organised an awareness programme at S.V.K High school, S.S Puram, Tumakuru, Karnataka. A total of 15 students and teachers participated in the programme and awareness posters were distributed.

CPREEC-Ooty - Earth Day – 25.04.2026 – Awareness Programme

As part of observing Earth Day, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP Ooty Field Office organised an awareness programme on 25.4.2026 at Pandalur Town, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu. Dr. Ashok Kumar, Head and Assistant Professor, Department of Waste Management, Savitha University, Chennai, Ms. Vijayakumari, R.K. Trust and Mr. M. Kumaravelu, Field Officer, CPREEC addressed the Self Help Group Women on the importance of observing Earth Day. A total of 35 SHG women participated in the programme and awareness posters were distributed.

இயற்கை பாதிப்பால் சூழல் ஆர்வலர்கள் வேதனை

பந்தலூர், ஏப்.27- பந்தலூரில் உலக புவி தினத்தை முன்னிட்டு, விழிப்புணர்வு நிகழ்ச்சி நடந்தது.

பந்தலூரில் சி.பி.ஆர். சுற்றுச்சூழல் கல்வி மையம் சார்பில், உலக புவி தினத்தை முன்னிட்டு சிறப்பு விழிப்புணர்வு நிகழ்ச்சி நடந்தது. நிகழ்ச்சியில் சுய வேலைவாய்ப்பு பயிற்சியாளர் ரமணி வரவேற்றார்.

கல்வி மைய ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் குமாரவேலு தலைமை வகித்து பேசுகையில், '' புவியின் இயற்கை தன்மை மாறி வருவதால், அனைத்து உயிர்களுக்கும் பல்வேறு பாதிப்புகள் ஏற்படுவது அதிகரித்துள்ளது. புவி தினத்தின் முக்கியத்துவத்தை உணர்ந்து அனைவரும் புவியை காப்பாற்ற முன் வர வேண்டும்.'' என்றார்.

தொடர்ந்து, விஞ்ஞானி முனைவர் அசோக்குமார் சிறப்பு அழைப்பாளராக பங்கேற்று பேசுகையில், அனைத்து உயிர்களும் வாழ்வதற்கு, தன்னை ஒப்படைக்கும் பூமியை பாதுகாப்பதற்கு மனிதர்கள் தவறி விடுகின்றோம்.

இயற்கை வளங்களை அழித்து, வனப்பகுதிகள் அனைத்தும் மொட்டை காடுகளாக மாறி, தோட்டங்கள் அனைத்தும் கட்டட காடுகளாக மாறி வருவதால், இயற்கை மாற்றம் பெற்று, பல்வேறு நோய்த் தொற்றுகள்மற்றும்தண்ணீர் பற்றாக்குறை, உணவு பற்றாக்குறை போன்றவை ஏற்படுகிறது.

முதலில் பிளாஸ்டிக் உள்ளிட்ட மண்ணின் இயற்கை தன்மையை பாதிக்கும் பொருட்களை மண்ணில் வீசி எறிவதை தவிர்த்து, அதனைக் கொண்டு சுய வேலை வாய்ப்புகள் வாயிலாக வருவாய் ஈட்டுவதற்கான முயற்சியை மேற்கொள்ள வேண்டும்.'' என்றார்

தொடர்ந்து, இயற்கையை பாதுகாப்பது அவசியம் குறித்த, விழிப்புணர்வு வாசகம் அடங்கிய விளம்பரம் வெளியிடப்பட்டது.

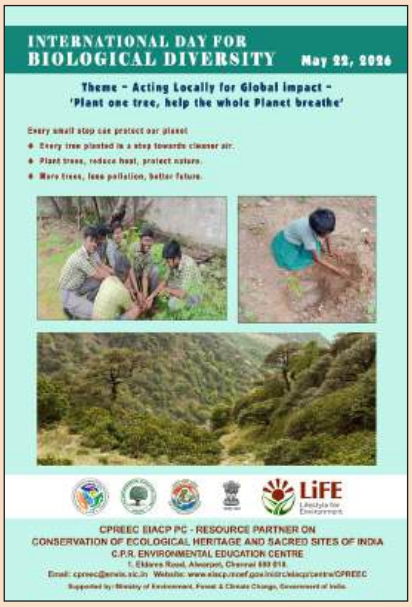
நிகழ்ச்சியில், சமூக ஆர்வலர் விஜயகுமாரி, பயிற்சியாளர் ஹரிதா உட்பட பலர் பங்கேற்றனர்

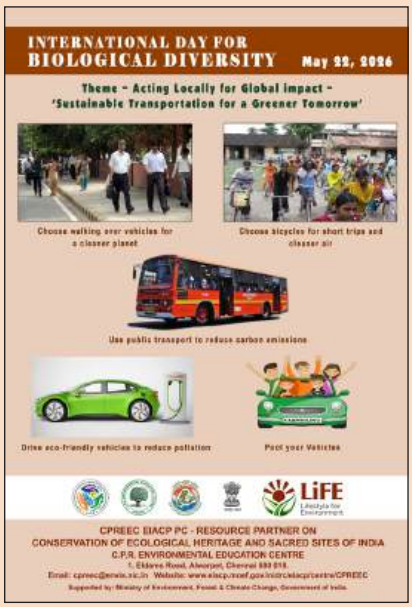
News Clipping (Daily newspaper - Dinamalar – 27.4.26, Coimbatore edition)

International Day for Biological Activity – 22 May, 2026

The International Day for Biological Diversity (often referred to as World Biodiversity Day) is an annual United Nations-sanctioned observance held on May 22. It is dedicated to promoting global awareness about biodiversity issues and the urgent need to protect the variety of life on Earth. As part of observing International Day for Biological Diversity 2026, CPREEC EIACP PC – RP, Chennai developed and designed a series of awareness posters under the theme **"Acting Locally for Global Impact."** The posters highlighted key environmental messages such as:

- Beat plastic pollution for a cleaner planet
- Plant one tree, help the whole planet breathe
- Save water today, secure tomorrow's future
- Save electricity, reduce global warming
- Sustainable transportation for a greener tomorrow





CPREEC - Sri Vijaya Puram – International Day for Biological Diversity – 22.05.2026 – Tree Plantation

As part of celebrating International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Sri Vijaya Puram Field Office organised a plantation drive at the Wipro Earthian Sustainability Skill Centre Campus, Sri Vijaya Puram, South Andaman. Saplings were planted by the dignitaries and participants to promote environmental conservation and enhance green cover. The plantation activity symbolised the commitment towards preserving biodiversity and protecting nature. More than 150 sanitary workers and general public participated.

International Day for Biological Diversity Observed with the Theme "Acting Locally for Global Impact"

इंफो इंडिया

जैव विविधता के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस मनाया गया

The Andaman EXPRESS

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OBSERVED AT BUNIYADABAD

Local communities can play vital role in environmental conservation and cleanliness in neighborhoods, says K. Ganeshan

ANDAMAN SHEEKHA

International Day for Biological Diversity Observed with the Theme "Acting Locally for Global Impact"

THE ECHO OF INDIA-SRI VIJAYA PURAM A & N News

Saturday-May 23, 2026

International Day for Biological Diversity observed

SRI VIJAYA PURAM, MAY 22/ --/ On the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity, a meaningful awareness programme was organized on 22 May 2026 under the global theme "Acting Locally for Global Impact" by organized by the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC), Chennai, CPREEC EIACP Programme Centre - Resource Partner on Conservation of Ecological Heritage and Sacred Sites of India, in collaboration with Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council at Buniyadabad Ward No. 8. The programme aimed to create awareness among community members regarding biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability, and the importance of collective action for protecting ecosystems.

The programme commenced with an awareness session highlighting the significance of preserving biodiversity and encouraging sustainable practices at the local level. During the programme, Shri A. Gopal, Project Officer, CPREEC, addressed the gathering and explained the importance of observing International Day for Biological Diversity. He emphasised that biodiversity plays a crucial role in maintaining ecological balances, supporting livelihoods, and ensuring a healthy environment for future generations. He also stressed the importance of community participation and local actions in achieving global environmental goals.

Shri K. Ganeshan, Former Chairman, Municipal Council, addressed the participants and highlighted the role of local communities in environmental conservation and maintaining cleanliness in neighborhoods. He encouraged people to actively participate in initiatives aimed at conserving natural resources and creating a healthier environment.

Further, Shri Vijaya Kumar, Senior Sanitary Inspector, addressed the participants and highlighted the importance of proper waste management practices, environmental hygiene, and active public participation in maintaining sustainable surroundings.

As part of the celebration, a plantation drive was organized at the Wipro Earthian Sustainability Skill Centre campus, where saplings were planted by the dignitaries and participants to promote environmental conservation and enhance green cover. The plantation activity symbolized the commitment towards preserving biodiversity and protecting nature. To further strengthen awareness among the general public, an awareness poster on biodiversity conservation was officially released during the programme. The posters were subsequently displayed on waste collection vehicles and passed at prominent market places and public locations to disseminate key environmental messages and encourage responsible environmental practices among citizens.

The programme witnessed active participation from sanitary workers, Swachhata Margdarshaks Team members, and community members, who enthusiastically took part in the activities and demonstrated their commitment toward environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.

The programme concluded with a collective pledge by the participants to promote biodiversity conservation, adopt environmentally responsible practices, and work together for a sustainable future through local action for global impact.

News Clipping (Daily newspaper - Andaman Chronicle, Andaman Express (Hindi and English), Andaman Sheekha and The Echo of India, Sri Vijaya Puram – 23.5.26, Sri Vijaya Puram edition)

CPREEC – Ooty – International Day for Biological Diversity – 22.05.2026 – Awareness Programme – Exposure Visit and Awareness Rally

As part of observing International day for Biological Diversity, the CPREEC EIACP PC-RP Ooty Field Office organised a field / exposure visit and awareness rally on 22.05.2026 to the rich evergreen forest of Long Wood Shola, Kotagiri, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu. The visit was led by Mr. Meyyapasamy, Forester and guided by Mr. Vadivelu, Secretary of the Samyukta Khel Foundation, The Nilgiris. Mr. M. Kumaravelu, Field Officer, CPREEC explained the importance of observing International Biodiversity Day. A group of 40 students and 6 teachers from Karumathampatti, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, participated in the programme, and awareness posters were distributed.

As part of observing International day for Biological Diversity, the CPREEC EIACP PC-RP Ooty Field Office organised an awareness rally on 22.05.2026 at Neduguda Village, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu. Mr. Arun Kumar, Physical Director, Aditya School, Kappatti Village, The Nilgiris, and Mr. M. Kumaravelu, Field Officer, CPREEC, released awareness posters and addressed the participants on the importance of observing International Biodiversity Day. A total of 35 students participated in the programme and awareness posters were distributed.

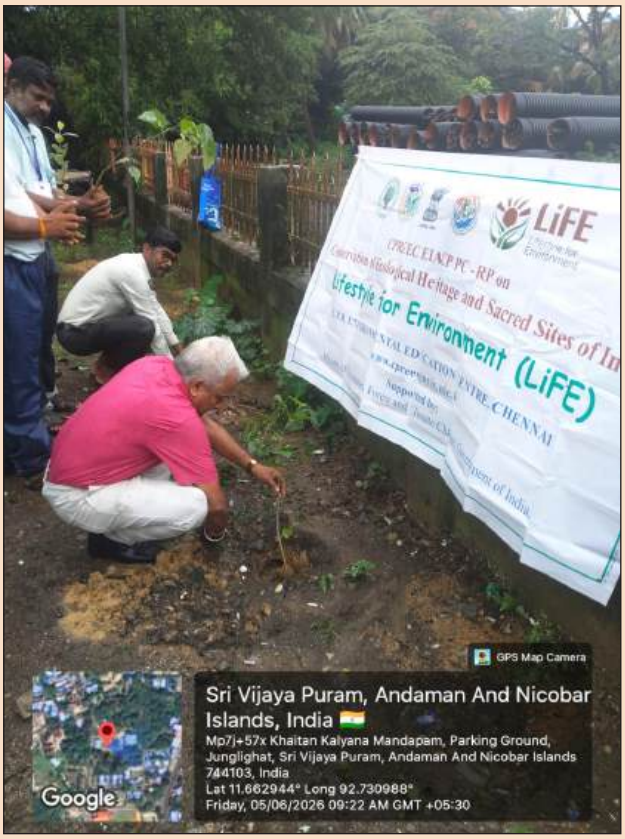
World Environment Day – June 05, 2026

World Environment Day (observed annually on June 5th) is the United Nations' largest global platform for environmental public outreach. Established in 1972, it drives worldwide awareness and positive action regarding pressing ecological challenges like climate change, plastic pollution, and biodiversity loss.

- CPREEC-EIACP PC-RP, Chennai developed and designed an awareness poster to mark World Environment Day (WED) 2026. The poster, themed **"Climate Action,"** urges everyone to save energy, conserve water, avoid single-use plastics, reduce waste and e-waste, adopt sustainable food systems and embrace healthy lifestyles.
- As part of World Environment Day (WED) 2026 celebrations, CPREEC-EIACP PC-RP, Chennai developed an awareness pamphlet on "E-Waste". Aligned with the WED 2026 theme "Climate Action", the pamphlet promotes e-waste reduction through responsible disposal, the 3R approach – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and safe e-waste management practices to cut carbon emissions and protect the environment.

CPREEC-Sri Vijaya Puram – World Environment Day (WED) – 05.06.2026 – Tree Plantation

As part of celebrating World Environment Day, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Sri Vijaya Puram Field Office organised a plantation drive in collaboration with Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council (SVPMC) at Junglighat, Sri Vijaya Puram, South Andaman. Shri. Vijay Kumar, Senior Sanitary Inspector, SVPMC and Shri A. Gopal, Project Officer, CPREEC, addressed the gathering and explained the importance of observing World Environment Day. Saplings were planted by dignitaries and participants to promote environmental conservation and enhance green cover. More than 45 participants participated.



CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Chennai – World Environment Day – Awareness Programme on E-Waste – 05.06.2026

CPREEC EIACP PC–RP, Chennai conducted World Environment Day 2026 awareness programme on the theme **Climate Action – Reduce E-Waste** at Lady Sivaswamy Ayyar Girls' Higher Secondary School, Mylapore, Chennai on 5.6.2026. A total of 478 students and 11 teachers participated and took a pledge on "Climate Action – Reduce E-Waste". Awareness pamphlets were distributed.

CPREEC EIACP PC–RP, Chennai conducted World Environment Day 2026 Awareness Programme on the theme **Climate Action – Reduce E -Waste** at Chennai High School, Vanniya Teynampet, Chennai on 5.6.2026. A total of 122 students and 6 teachers participated and took the pledge on "Climate Action – Reduce E-Waste". Awareness pamphlets were distributed.

CPREEC-Karnataka – World Environment Day – 05.06.2026 – Awareness and Tree Plantation Programme

As part of observing World Environment Day, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Karnataka State Office organised an awareness programme at Sheshadripuram School, ICSE – Kishora Bharathi Geddalahalli, Upparahalli Main Road, Tumakuru. Mr. S. Ravishankar, Project Officer, CPREEC, Karnataka State Office addressed the gathering and spoke about the importance of tree plantation, harmful effects of E-waste and importance of E - waste management. The programme was presided over by Mrs. Rashmi, Principal, Sheshadripuram School, ICSE – Kishora Bharathi Geddalahalli. More than 300 students from various grades actively participated, along with teaching and non-teaching staff. Awareness posters were distributed.

CPREEC-Andhra Pradesh - World Environment Day – 05.06.2026 – Awareness Programme

As part of observing World Environment Day, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Andhra Pradesh State Office organised an awareness programme at Tagore Convent High School, Patancheru, Hyderabad, Telangana. A total of 55 students and teachers participated in the programme and awareness posters were distributed.

As part of observing World Environment Day, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Andhra Pradesh State Office organised plantation drive at Chollangipeta Gurukula High School, Tallarevu, Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. A total of 30 teachers participated in the programme and awareness posters were distributed.

As part of observing World Environment Day, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Andhra Pradesh State Office organised Elocution Competition at 16th Division, Vijayawada Municipal Council (VMC) Local Office, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. A total of 25 residential kids participated in the programme and prizes were distributed by Smt. Ummadi Shetty Radhika, Corporator, Vijayawada Municipal Council. An awareness banner was displayed in front of the residential building.

CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Chennai – World Environment Day – Awareness Programme Saplings Distribution – 08.06.2026

As part of World Environment Day celebrations, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Chennai organised sapling distribution programme at Lady Sivaswamy Ayyar Girls' Higher Secondary School, Mylapore, Chennai on 08.06.2026. The initiative aimed to promote environmental conservation and enhance green cover. Students were sensitised on the importance of tree plantation and climate change mitigation. A total of 30 students and teachers participated in the event and Mission LiFE awareness pamphlets were distributed to encourage sustainable lifestyle choices.

CPREEC-Sri Vijaya Puram – World Environment Day (WED) – 08.06.2026 – Awareness Programme

As part of celebrating World Environment Day, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Sri Vijaya Puram Field Office organised awareness programme at Bathu Basti Parking Ground in collaboration with the Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council (SVPMC). The programme was conducted in the presence of Shri. Vetri Velu, Vice Chairperson, SVPMC. During the event, awareness was created on four-way waste segregation and the importance of proper E-Waste management. Around 65 participants, including members of the public, actively took part in the programme and took pledge to adopt environmentally responsible waste management practices for a cleaner and healthier environment.

CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Chennai – World Environment Day – Awareness Programme

CPREEC EIACP PC–RP, Chennai conducted World Environment Day 2026 awareness programme on the theme **Climate Action – Reduce E -Waste** at Government Hobart Higher Secondary School, Royapettah, Chennai on 8.6.2026. A total of 292 students and 4 teachers participated and took the pledge on "Climate Action – Reduce E-Waste". Awareness pamphlets were distributed.

CPREEC – Ooty – World Environment Day – Drawing Competition

As part of World Environment Day celebrations, CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Ooty Field Office organised a drawing competition at St. Antony's Middle School, Kotagiri, The Nilgiris on 08.06.2026. The Chief Guests Ms. Jayakumari, Chairperson, Kotagiri Municipality, Mr. Arun Bellie, President, Kotagiri Citizen Forum and Mr. M. Kumaravelu, Field Officer, CPREEC addressed the gathering and distributed prizes to the winners. A total of 106 students from 18 schools and 11 teachers participated in the programme. Awareness pamphlets were distributed.

பருவநிலை மாற்றம் தொடர்பாக மாணவர்களுக்கு ஓவிய போட்டி

கோத்தகிரி, ஜூன் 10-

உள்ட்டி சி.பி.ஆர்., சுற்றுச்சூழல் மையம், மத்திய வனம் மற்றும் காலநிலை மாற்றம் நிறுவனம் சார்பில், உலக சுற்றுச்சூழல் தினத்தை முன்னிட்டு, கோத்தகிரியில் நடந்த ஓவிய போட்டி நிகழ்ச்சிக்கு, கோத்தகிரி நகராட்சி மன்ற தலைவர் ஜெயக்குமாரி தலைமை வகித்து பேசினார்.

கோத்தகிரி சிட்டிசன் போரம் அமைப்பின் தலைவர் அருண்பெள்ளி ஓவிய போட்டியை துவக்கி வைத்தார். இயற்கை விவசாயி ராம்தாஸ், 'இன்றைய சூழலில் மண்ணின் வளத்தை பாதுகாக்க இயற்கை விவசாயம் மட்டுமே சாத்தியம்,' என, விழிப்புணர்வு ஏற்படுத்தினார்.

நிகழ்ச்சியில், எட்டு பள்ளிகளில் இருந்து, மாணவ, மாணவியர் பங்கேற்று ஓவியம் வரைந்தனர். சி.பி.ஆர்., சுற்றுசூழல் மைய களஅலுவலர் குமாரவேலு, வெற்றி பெற்ற மாணவர்களுக்கு பரிசு மற்றும் சான்றிதழ் வழங்கினார். ஆசிரியர் ராஜ்குமார் நன்றி கூறினார்.

News clipping – Daily newspaper – (Dinamalar – 10.6.26, Coimbatore edition)

CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Chennai – World Ocean Day – Awareness Programme

As part of observing **World Ocean Day 2026,** CPREEC EIACP PC–RP, Chennai organised an awareness programme on **"Marine Ecosystem"** at Sprouts Montessori High School, Bhaskarapuram, Mylapore, Chennai on 12.06.2026. The programme saw a participation of 40 students and 4 teachers, who took a pledge towards marine protection. CPREEC's pamphlet on ***Coastal and Marine Ecosystems*** was distributed. Video films on *Marine Pollution*, *Coral Reefs* and *Mangroves* were screened.

Abstracts of Recent Publications

❖ *Dinh T.H.L., and Agarwal, M.K. (2024).* **"Buddhist Tourism in India"**. *", In Book: Religion Tourism and Pilgrimage in India, Publisher: Bharti Publications, New Delhi, pp. 22-29.*

India has long been a major centre for Buddhist tourism, attracting pilgrims from all over the world to visit its many sacred sites, temples, and monasteries. Over the past decades, Buddhist tourism has grown significantly in India, with increasing numbers of tourists visiting places like Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, and Kushinagar, as well as many other Buddhist sites scattered across the country. Through a review of existing literature, this chapter provides a comprehensive overview of Buddhist tourism in India and its significance for the country's economy and society. The study examines the current state of Buddhist tourism in India, exploring the motivations, destinations, and experiences of Buddhist travellers. It begins by offering an overview of Buddhism as a religion and its history in India, then delves into the reasons why India has become a popular destination for Buddhist travellers, such as its numerous sacred sites, religious and cultural importance, and the presence of spiritual teachers and monasteries. The chapter also considers the various types of Buddhist pilgrimage sites in India and the activities that take place. Finally, the chapter concludes with some issues and challenges related to Buddhist tourism in India, such as the need for better infrastructure, environmental concerns, and the need for greater awareness of the traditions and customs of India's Buddhist communities.

Keywords: *Buddhist Tourism; Religion; India.*

❖ *Sharma, A., and Singh, R.M. (2024).* **"Historical Blue Pigments Used in India's Wall Paintings -A Review"**. *Cultural Arts Research and Development, Vol. 4(2), pp. 24–42.*

This review highlights the complexity of understanding historical blue pigments, focusing on their characterization, sources and application in wall paintings. It discusses the Ajanta wall painting, noting that past and current investigations have only scratched the surface. The dissemination of ideas along ancient trade routes influenced the sharing of painting materials and techniques, but each wall painting remains unique. A 13-year survey of Cappadocia's rock cut churches illustrates continuity and diversity in Byzantine painting techniques. The use of mineral blue pigments in the Indian context is reviewed based on both analysis and literary sources. The article emphasizes the need for further research on pigment identification and durability in various types of paintings across regions and periods.

Keywords: *Lapis Lazuli; Natural ultramarine; Egyptian blue; Chinese blue, Azurite.*

❖ *Mir, A.H., Tyub, S., and Kamili, A.N. (2020).* **"Ecology, distribution mapping and conservation implications of four critically endangered endemic plants of Kashmir Himalaya"**. *Saudi Journal of Biological Sciences, Vol. 27 (9), pp. 2380 – 2389.*

During the last few decades, human-driven activities have led to indiscriminate habitat destruction and exploitation of many plant species in Kashmir Himalayas. As a result, many species have become threatened and are struggling for survival. Of particular concern are the endemic and critically endangered species which have the highest risk of the extinction, hence warranting immediate conservation actions. Therefore the current study was carried out to understand the distribution, ecology and conservation implications of the four critically endangered endemic plants of Kashmir Himalaya. Habitat distribution modelling showed that the suitable potential are for the species occurred from subalpine to alpine meadowlands with an elevational range of 1500 – 4600 m asl. The output of the MaxEnt model and field surveys have revealed that their highest potential distribution is in Panchari, Khrew, Ramnagar,

Pahalgam, Gurez, Sonamarg, Gulmarg and Kishtwar forest ranges. Based on the field explorations and herbarium records, *Saussurea costus* (Falc.) Lipsch have 27 distribution areas, *Gentiana kurroo* Royle 18, *Lilium polyphyllum* D. Don 12 and *Aconitum chasmanthum* Stapf have 15. Precipitation of the driest month and annual mean temperature played an important role in the distribution of the studied species. The species started their lifecycle with the onset of the spring season, flowered in summer, fruit in autumn and senesce in the winter season. Under natural conditions, the number of days required for germination ranged from 180 to 210 where cold stratification played a pivotal role. Since last few decades, the populations of these species have been shrinking in their natural habitats due to over-exploitation for medicinal purposes and habitat destruction through amplified humanoid interferences like the expansion of agricultural land, road building, grazing and urbanization. Thus there is an urgent need to come up with positive strategies to save whatever is left and plan long term rescue measures not only to protect these species from extinction but also to reintroduce them along with framing the plans to supply sustained raw materials for medicine.

Keywords: *Alpine Meadowlands; Cold stratification; Priority conservation; Phenology; Threatened.*

❖ *Singh, S., Bhat, J.A., Malik, Z.A., Youssouf, M.,Bussmann, R.W., and Kunwar, R.M. (2019),* **"Sacred Groves in Western Himalaya, India: Community-Managed Nature Refuges for Conservation of Biodiversity and Culture".** *Ethnobotany Research and Applications, Vol. 18 (15), pp. 1 – 21.*

Background: Dedication of forests to a god or goddess is a potent example of an indigenous conservation practice, devised by native inhabitants to put an end to the unrestricted utilization of community forests. The present paper describes a case study of three little known Sacred Groves (SGs) from the western Himalayas. SGs are communally protected forest fragments with significant religious connotations.

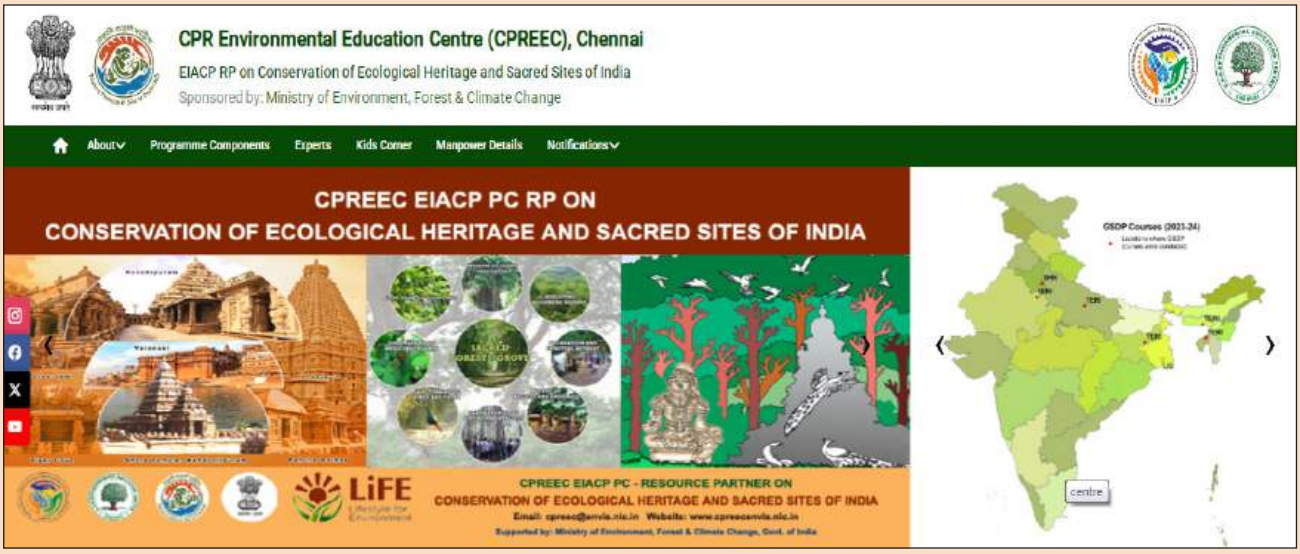
Methods: A preliminary survey was conducted in and around these SGs to evaluate the status of biodiversity, different myths and beliefs associated with them and their role in the biodiversity conservation. After establishing oral prior informed consent, data was gathered from the local participants especially from elderly people through semi-structured questionnaires. Approximately 30% of the total households in each SG were interviewed. Two different sampling methods (random sampling and snowball sampling) were used for selection of informants from two different communities. The information collected included the general information regarding the SGs and the associated deity, nearby human occupancy, floral and faunal diversity and the ethno-medicinal property of different plants.

Results: A total of 78 plant species (including 37 trees, 27 shrubs and 14 herbs) belonging to 58 genera and 41 families were reported from the three sacred groves. About 91% of these plant species had ethno-medicinal importance. A few rare and threatened animal species were also reported that included *Naemorhedus goral* (Himalayan goral, near threatened, NT) reported from SG2 and SG3; *Panthera pardus* (leopard, vulnerable, Vu) and *Ursus thibetanus* (Asian black bear, critically endangered, CR) both reported from all the three SGs.

Conclusion: SGs are not only the important repositories of ethno-medicinal plant species, but also act as corridors for animal migration in anthropogenic landscapes. However, in recent times, the SGs are threatened by uncontrolled and unplanned developmental activities, as well as invasive species, land use change, population growth and sociocultural change. Therefore, the specific guidelines to protect these sacred areas and promote traditional knowledge about conservation are pressing.

Keywords: *Sacred Grove*; *Ethno-botany*; *Traditional beliefs*; *Biodiversity conservation*; *Deity*; *Western Himalaya.*

Website: https://eiacp.moef.gov.in/drc/eiacp/centre/CPREEC



CPREEC EIACP PC - RP Team

Dr. P. Sudhakar
Director & EIACP Co-ordinator

Dr. A. Abirami
Programme Officer

R. Sathya Narayanan
Information Officer

M. Vaithiyanathan
IT Officer

M. Lakshmi Sree
Data Entry Operator

Social Media

Cpreec Eiacp

CPREEC - EIACP RP

cpreeceiacprp

https://enviscpreecrp.blogspot.com

YouTube cpreeceiacp

Contact Address :

CPREEC EIACP PC - Resource Partner on

CONSERVATION OF ECOLOGICAL HERITAGE AND SACRED SITES OF INDIA

C.P.R. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

1 Eldams Road, Alwarpet, Chennai - 600 018, Tamil Nadu, India.
Phone : 044 - 48529990 / 42081758
E-mail : cpreec@envis.nic.in / cpreec@gmail.com
Website : https://eiacp.moef.gov.in/drc/eiacp/centre/CPREEC