

Siruthuli
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Nayyal Times

July 2022



Nuture Nature Camp - 2022

PALMYRAH PALM - KALPAVRIKSHAM

The Palmyrah palm (*Borassus flabellifer*) is known as Panai in Tamil and Pana in Malayalam. This palm is endemic to the whole of Tamil Nadu and parts of Kerala. Every part of this tree is useful and plays a vital role in the ecosystem and economic progress of the region. Panai which is considered sacred and worshipped as KarpagaTharu is also the State tree of Tamil Nadu.

The sweet sap obtained from the cut ends of the peduncle is the main product. The sap makes for a refreshing drink called Neera and is also used to make palm sugar. When the sap is fermented, it becomes toddy, a local alcoholic drink.

Palmyrah trees have been an integral part of coastal India. Palm fruits, called Nongu in vernacular, are sold on roadside carts all over Tamilnadu quenching thirsty throats of one and all.

In spite of its multifarious uses, this palm is decreasing in numbers at a fast rate. The palm tree takes a relatively long time to germinate, maybe even up to two to three years and starts yielding fruits after 20 to 25 years. It is a hardy tree that has deep roots which can withstand rough and strong winds. It grows in drought conditions too and is resistant to many diseases.

The roots of this tree help in soil binding. While it is not proven scientifically, it is believed that the roots help in recharging the ground water. This was perhaps the reason why the Panai was planted all along the bunds of rivers and water bodies. Ancient Tamil literature was written in preserved palm leaves also known as palm leaf manuscript called Yaedu or Olai Chuvadu.

This tree is home to many reptiles and birds. Snakes, monitor lizards, kingfishers, parakeets, weaver birds and many more nest on this tree.

When cyclone Gaja hit the coast of Tamilnadu in November 2018, coconut trees and others trees fell like packs of cards while the Palmyrah tree stood strong and withstood the heavy winds. The elasticity of the stem makes it bend to the winds but it does not snap.

The tree began to decline in large numbers when the Government of Tamilnadu banned tapping of toddy in 1987. Modern building materials further ensured that the leaves and fronds of the Panai were rendered irrelevant in their uses. Due to the height of the tree (upto 30 metres high) there are very few climbers who can go up to tap the Neera and cut the Nongu fruits. There are very few palm tree plantations unlike the abundance of coconut plantations found across the country.

In recent years there is growing awareness about the importance of preserving and boosting this tree count all over the state. Environmentalists have started creating awareness of the benefits of propagating this tree in a slow and steady manner.

Having understood the potential of Panai as a great aquifer recharger and water harvester, we in Slruthuli have embarked in a big way to revive Panai in the Coimbatore region in a big way. While plans to set up a Panai Vanam are on the cards, construction of a Panai Resource Centre - Panaiyagam - are underway to propagate the virtues of Panai plantations for posterity. We seek the support of the citizens of the Kongu region to lend us your hands to accomplish our mission.

-Vanitha Mohan

CHETTIYAN KANMAI



Chettiyan Kanmai which is situated in Kanadukaatan Village, Kaaraikudi Taluk, Sivagangai district was inaugurated in February 2022. The event was inaugurated by the Collector in August 2021. However due to constant showers the work was kept on halt for a couple of months. In February 2022 when the water levels in the pond were the lowest, it was decided that we could commence work.

The first task was to dewater the pond before we could start desilting work. Dewatering process at Chettiyan Kanmai was started on 25th February 2022 and went on for 2 days to reduce the water level of the tank. The desilting work of Chettiyan Kanmai started on 13th March 2022. Initially the shrubs and bushes that covered around 30% of the 9.35 acre pond were cleared. A drone shoot and a digital survey were conducted. As proposed the pond was desilted to a depth of 1m. The excavated earth was utilized to strengthen and standardize the bund on the Southern side and also to create a new bund on the Northern side. To accommodate the excess desilted soil, an island has been created. Three fishing ponds which were already present within the water body have been deepened and their bunds strengthened. The pond bed was further deepened in the region where the aquifer fault line passes through the water body. This will serve the purpose of better ground water percolation thus recharging the aquifers. The outlet sluices and the surplus weir were repaired as required and whitewashed.

The water holding capacity of the pond has been increased from 40729 cu.m. to 66200 cu.m. Post completion of work, the digital survey was conducted and contour mapping was also done. The locals have expressed their happiness as they are confident that their groundwater levels will improve. This will help the local community for crop irrigation as they are highly dependent on waterbodies for irrigation purposes.



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1. மேல்கூரை மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு தொட்டி கட்டுமானம் செயல்படுத்துவதற்கு முன் நீரின் இருப்பு என்ன?

மேல்கூரை மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு தொட்டி கட்டுமானம் செயல்படுத்துவதற்கு முன் அஞ்சகம் நகர் ஊராட்சி ஒன்றிய தொடக்கப் பள்ளியில் குடிநீர் இணைப்பு இல்லை.

2. அசல் நீர் ஆதாரம் என்ன?

மாநகராட்சியின் ஆழ்துளைக் கிணறு மூலம் மட்டுமே தண்ணீர் தேவை தீர்க்கப்பட்டு வந்தது.

3. தேவை எப்போதும் விநியோகத்தை விட அதிகமாக இருந்ததா - அல்லது திடீர் காரணங்களால் தண்ணீர் பற்றாக்குறையா?

ஆழ்துளைக் கிணறு மூலம் பெறப்படும் நீர்வரத்துக் குறைந்து வந்ததால் தண்ணீர் பற்றாக்குறை ஏற்பட்டது.

4. நடைமுறைப்படுத்தப்பட்ட அமைப்பு தண்ணீர் பிரச்சினைகளை தீர்க்கும் என்று நீங்கள் நினைத்தீர்களா?

இந்த மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு தொட்டி எங்கள் பள்ளிக்கு பெரும் உதவியாக உள்ளது. மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு தொட்டி பயன்பாடு நல்ல முறையில் எளிய முறையில் செயல்படுகிறது.

5. ஆரம்பத்தில் தண்ணீரை பயன்படுத்த உங்களுக்கு ஏதேனும் தடைகள் இருந்ததா?

இல்லை, மாணவர்களுக்கு பேருதவியாக இருந்தது

6. மேல்கூரை மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு தொட்டி கட்டுமானம் எவ்வாறு உதவியது?

மழை பெய்து தொட்டியில் நீர் இருந்தால் மட்டும் பயன்படுத்தப்பட்டு வந்தது. இந்த மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு தொட்டி பயன்பாடு கை கழுவ , சமைமல் மற்றும் தோட்ட பராமரிப்பு பயன்பாட்டிற்கு உதவுகிறது. வேறு எந்தவித தண்ணீர் வசதியும் இல்லாததால் இந்த மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு தொட்டி பெரும் உதவியாக இருந்து வருகிறது.

7. உங்கள் மாணவர்களின் வீடுகளில் மேல்கூரை மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு தொட்டி கட்டுமானம் நடைமுறைப்படுத்தக் கேட்டீர்களா?

ஆம் , இது போன்ற மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு முறையை முதன்முறையாக காண்கிறேன் என்று வெகுவாக பாராட்டினர்.



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36th WATER TALK of NATIONAL WATER MISSION

Friday, 22nd April 2022 | TOPIC: WATER WATCH AT SIRUTHULI

Siruthuli was invited by the National Water Mission (NWM) to deliver the monthly "Water Talk" online. This was the 36th edition in a series of talks. R S Krishnaswamy, Convenor, Water Watch delivered the talk on behalf of Siruthuli. A detailed account of the journey of Siruthuli was presented, emphasizing the significance of the Noyyal River System. Our efforts in reviving defunct waterbodies, creating new ones and installing Rainwater Harvesting Structures were detailed. The outcomes of these efforts were visually presented, including the milestones reached. The enormity of the sewage problem was discussed and help sought in solving it and converting sewage to suit for aquaculture and agriculture.

Our activities in Afforestation and Awareness were also included in the presentation. The audience comprised stakeholders in the water sector and the presentation was well received.

Ms. Debashree Mukerjee, Additional Secretary and Mission Director at the NWM welcomed the gathering and Mr. Shiv Mohan Dixit, Advisor (Tech) proposed a vote of thanks, assuring us that a team from the NWM will definitely visit Coimbatore to explore the possibilities in treating the sewage water currently plaguing the entire Noyyal River System. This was in response to our request to help in solving the sewage problem. We have assured them that Siruthuli is ready to implement the interventions under their guidance and funding.

The panelists and participants applauded the efforts of Siruthuli and suggested that such community participation will have to be extended throughout the country in accomplishing the mission of the NWM.

OOR KUTTAI, KUPPANUR



A handing over ceremony was conducted on 3rd June 2022 in the presence of executives from Bosch, Mr. Muthuraj, Panchayat President, Madhampatty, Smt. Kavitha, Union Councillor, Madhampatty, Mr. RS Krishnaswamy, Convenor, Water Bodies Restoration Committee of Siruthuli, representatives from the local community and staff of Siruthuli. The Chief Guest for the event was Mr. A Shafi, Department Head - Bosch Global Software Technologies Private Limited, Coimbatore. The Chief Guest emphasized the responsibility of the locals to maintain the pond henceforth and also highlighted that utmost care must be taken to prevent sewage inflow into the pond.

A tree planting activity was conducted at the Kuttai on 17th June 2022. 500 saplings were planted on the bunds of the pond in the presence of Smt. Chandra, BDO, Thondamuthur Block and Smt. Kavitha, Union Councillor, Madhampatty. The event saw participation from 30 volunteers from Bosch, the locals, Apex members and staff of Siruthuli. Mr. Chandrasekar, Convenor, Forests First Forum addressed the volunteers and spoke to them about the five verticals of Siruthuli and the activities that we carry out.

The water stored in this pond will help in recharging the groundwater levels in the region thereby enhancing the agricultural operations and also improving the living conditions of the people.



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Nurture Nature Camp 2022

'Experience is the teacher of all things. The only source of knowledge is experience. You need experience to gain wisdom'. Only when one experiences Nature will they truly appreciate it. One such lifetime opportunity for the school students of Coimbatore to experience Mother Nature and learn from her comes through the Nurture Nature Camp.

The Nurture Nature Camp which is a flagship event of Siruthuli is conducted every year for school children of the age group 12-14 years. As the camp is conducted on a pro bono basis, the schools are selected on a first come first serve basis. Each school nominates their students who will be attending the camp. Every year around 120 students attend the camp and are oriented on the 5 pillars of Siruthuli - Water Resource Management, Afforestation, Waste Management, Awareness and Grow the Farmer. During the 5 day long camp which is conducted from 8 am to 4 pm the students are provided with breakfast, lunch and snacks along with the stationery materials, transportation and other materials needed for training purposes. So far Siruthuli has conducted 13 editions of the camp, touching the lives of almost 1400 children. Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.

The 14th Nurture Nature Camp started off with the inaugural ceremony on 19th April 2022 at VOC Park, near Pachai Nayagi tree which was planted by our past President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. This year because of the scare of the pandemic, 70 students from 13 schools were invited for the event. After invocation of the Divine, Smt. Sujani Balu, Convenor - Awareness welcomed the chief guest Dr G S Sameeran, IAS and the students to the camp. It was followed by an introduction about the camp schedule by Mrs. Uma K Rao (Project Chairman). PHF T Goodwin Saravana Raja, President - Rotary Club of Coimbatore West, addressed the children and reminisced on the beginnings of Siruthuli and its impact on ground water in Coimbatore. This was followed by the address by our District Collector Dr G S Sameeran IAS. He encouraged the students to observe their surroundings and try to learn the interconnection between each of the elements. He also asked the children keep their eyes and ears open during the camp to learn as much as possible.

After the inaugural the students proceeded to Noyyal Life Center. A ice breaking session was conducted by our Apex member Smt. Kumudha Palaniswamy and the children were divided into various groups. In the first session the children were oriented about the 5 pillars of Siruthuli by Mrs. Geetha Sridhar. An interactive session was conducted by Mr. Pradeep Yuvaraj and a session on River Noyyal and its course was conducted by Mrs. Anu Valentina. Ms. Shanthni Balu spoke to the children about gardening, pollination, soil types and making compost at home. She also showcased multiple varieties of plants and spoke to them about the preparation of the mother bed and raising seedlings.



Compressed Air and Gas Treatment Solutions



On the second day, Mr. Balaji of Coimbatore Nature Society briefed the students on bird watching and the rules that are to be followed for a good experience. The students were then taken to Valankulam to observe the birds and their activity. The students were divided into small groups and the details about the birds were explained by the President of CNS – Mr P R Selvaraj, Ms. Sahitya and Mr Prakash along with Mr Balaji.

This session was followed by screening of 2 short conservation films about the native tribal people of the Anamalai Hills. The film 'Kadar' which is based on the Kadar tribes who live within the forest showed how they coexist with nature while the film 'Malasar' showcased the beauty of the Mahouts who live as an extension of the elephant itself. It beautifully spoke of the call of the Mahouts and how the elephants respond to it almost immediately as if they were conversing with each other.

Mr Mani Sundar spoke to the children about how farming is nothing but harvesting the sun. He also spoke to the children about agrochemical based farming practice in our country. The role of microorganisms and microbes in the plant life cycle was explained. He emphasized the role of earthworms, termites, millipedes, ladybugs, beetles, pollinators, spiders, snakes, reptiles, bats, dragonflies etc. in the farm and why they should not be eradicated.

Mr Balaji of Coimbatore Nature Society spoke on the topic - Wetland birds of the Noyyal River. He spoke on the waterbirds like Little Comorants, Indian Spot Billed Ducks etc. and the migratory birds of our region. The other areas he touched upon are the role of the birds in the wetlands, the adaptations made by the birds for feeding, the threat faced by the wetland birds and mitigations that can be made to save them.

Mr Saravanan Chandrasekar started his session by talking about the Sholas and Grasslands. He explained to them about the 'sponge effect' of the grasslands. He also explained to them the terms used in measuring the volume of water like cusec, cubic feet, cubic meter, TMC etc. which the children listened to with great attention. He also taught them to calculate the amount of water that they can save through roof top rain water harvesting using the roof top area.

Post lunch Ms. Sangeetha Subash conducted a hands-on activity on how to prepare bio enzymes using citric fruit peels, jaggery and water. When the students were told about the amount of chemicals that we use in our day-to-day life and the impact it has on our health they were very curious to know how they could transition into chemical free living.

On the third day, the first session was handled by Mr A P Suresh who spoke to the children on the topic - Environment and You. He covered areas like noise pollution, water wastage





at home, throwing waste mindlessly etc. He also taught the children how we can change our lifestyle so that we don't waste any natural resources.



Post this session the children travelled to SPB Vanam and were welcomed by our Managing Trustee Smt. Vanitha Mohan. Smt. Vijaya, President of Officers Colony, Pachapalayam who joined the children at the site spoke enthusiastically about the project and also helped the children in identifying the trees in the Vanam. The children also planted 50 saplings at SPB Vanam and took an oath to plant trees in their homes and schools.



After recharging themselves by having buttermilk the children were taken to Purna Vidya Foundation, an ashram in Molapalayam. Swamiji Sureshji welcomed all of them and gave a brief introduction about the foundation and the activities they carry out. He also showed a short video on how they desilted a pond in their campus.



This was followed by a session on Panai and its importance which was conducted by Ms. Gowri. She beautifully explained how important it is for each one to be connected to nature and the consequences if we try to disconnect from it. Through her presentation she helped the children identify every product of the Panai tree. Her description of each product compelled everyone to promise her that they would taste and see each one of them. The children also took an oath to increase the number of Panai trees by increasing the consumption of Panai products.



Mr. Krishnaswamy a Master Craftsman from the Crafts Council of India taught the children the art of creating parrots using Panai leaves. The session was fun filled as the children competed with each other to make the Parrots. The day came to an end as everyone relished chilled Nongu (Ice Apple), a by-product of the Panai tree.

On the 4th day, the children quickly assembled to enjoy their rural experience in the city. The buses were quickly occupied by the eager children who were taken to VM Farm at Perianaickenpalayam. Once they reached the farm they were welcomed by all the staff of the farm. They were taken for rides on bullock carts and tractors, all through which they were screaming in glee.

After this, our Managing Trustee Smt Vanitha Mohan addressed the children and spoke about the importance of Mother Earth. Followed by this, the children were taken around the farm where they were shown the process of preparation of Pancha Kaviyam, Vermicomposting and Organic farming by Mr.Soundarajan. They were also shown the freshly harvested small onions and the natural well.

Ms Anu Valentina then conducted a session on Virtual Water and how the products we buy



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and consume on a daily basis actually utilise unimaginable amount of water before it reaches our hands. As a mark of attending the camp the teachers planted 10 saplings at VM farm.

Post lunch an interesting session on Wealth out of Waste was conducted by Smt Sujani Balu. During the session the children were taught to make bottle holders using jute ropes and also shopping bags out of waste cloth. The children were all grinning ear to ear when they completed making both of them.

The final day started off by visiting a few water bodies that were rejuvenated by Siruthuli - Periyakulam, Selvachinthamani, Selvampathy, Krishnampathy, Narasampathy, Kolarampathy, Sottaiyandi Kuttai & Ganganarayana Samudiram, Nandangarai Check Dam and finally Ukkulam.

After this we reached the farm of Mr Bharathan Srinivasan, our Apex member where we remained for the next half of the day. We were all delighted to see our Chairman - Dr S V Balasubramaniam at the farm. His mere presence cheered and motivated all the children.

The kids quickly assembled for the quiz session which was conducted by Ms. Unnamalai. During the preliminary round each school was given a sheet with 25 questions. 5 schools that scored the highest were selected for the next round. A total of 12 rounds and a bonus round were conducted. The excitement in the air was visible as the quiz came to a nail biting finish. With sudden twists, the top scorers for every round kept changing. Prakriya International School stood at the top of the score table followed by SSVM International School bagging the second place and GRD CPF taking the third place.

This was followed by a Silambam performance by the young trainees of Mohan's Academy. The skills of the children left us in awe of them. With their deft arms they performed various tricks. The children then assembled as per the groups they were divided into (based on river names). A member of the team gave us a short description about the river. Team Koushika was adjudged the winners followed by team Noyyal and team Amaravathi. The winners planted saplings at the farm.

The teachers were presented with certificates, momentos and a group photo by Smt Vanitha Mohan. The winners of the Quiz competition were also awarded. Post this all the students were given the participation certificate along with a group photograph. The camp ended with showers of blessings sent from above by Mother Nature.

We express thanks whole heartedly to all our sponsors, donors and well wishers who supported us and without whom the camp would not have been possible.



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PLANTING AT THUDIYALUR RAILWAY STATION

The employees from Bosch engaged in a tree planting activity at Thudiyalur Railway Station from 25th April to 30th April 2022. The employees were accompanied by their families who were all very excited to be a part of the plantation. Every day a new set of employees and their families were a part of this event. A total of 153 families took part in this project. Mr Chandrasekar – Convenor – Forests First Forum visited the different teams every day morning and spoke to them about the activities taken up by Siruthuli emphasizing on Afforestation. This was followed by an explanation of how the saplings are to be planted, by the staff members of Siruthuli. After the plantation, the visitors were provided with snacks.

M/s. Bosch who has sponsored to plant 5000 saplings at Thudiyalur railway Station, has through their employees planted around 2080 saplings during the weeklong event. Exposure to such activities will only increase the awareness among the people and accentuate the importance of building a green cover in our region.

Mr. Rajan, the owner and driver of a pickup truck, regularly works with us to transport saplings from NLC to the various plantation sites. During the plantation at Thudiyalur Railway station, Mr Rajan as usual delivered the saplings at the site. After unloading them from his vehicle, he insisted on staying back and taking part in planting the saplings. Almost 4 hours after he completed his job of delivering the saplings, when we asked him how he could afford to use his business hours for planting saplings, as he could incur loss because of partaking in such activities. He responded saying that he could do business any day or at any time, but the opportunity to plant the saplings was rare and he wanted to make the most of it. It is because of selfless and passionate people like Mr Rajan and other green warriors like him, who dedicate their time for Mother Earth and support us in our journey, help us reach where we are today.



“Happy to be a part of Miyawaki forest development near Thudiyalur Railway station! Before plantation, Siruthuli coordinator had shared his experience in afforestation drives in various areas. From Bosch, Nagoor Kani did wonderful arrangement with fun filled warm up. Thank you!”

-Mr. Rangasamy Karthikeyan

“Felt great post planting and hearing statistics on how much CO2 shall be absorbed by plants in near future. Special thanks to Nagoor & team of siruthuli for making all the arrangement. It was a great experience!”

-Mr. Rajarathinam Arun

“It was a good experience to contribute to the society for a good cause. Arrangements made for this event were excellent. Thanks to Bosch and Siruthuli. Keep going :)”

-Mr. Selvaraj Amal Simon



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BEE HAPPY VANAM



On the occasion of the 19th anniversary of Siruthuli, an inaugural pooja was held at Bee Happy Vanam, Officers Colony, Kalampalayam on 11th June 2022. The project is being implemented to commemorate the life of Padmashri Dr Vivekh, who had been involved with Siruthuli for many years in our afforestation activities. Dr Vivekh's last interaction with Siruthuli was when he had come to inaugurate SPB Vanam at Pachapalayam. The memories from the event are still afresh on our minds.

The inspiration behind choosing the name 'Bee Happy Vanam' for the plantation was based on a very common dialogue often used by the late actor – Don't worry, be happy! This 1 acre plantation will be a home to various types of flowering plants and trees so that the birds, bees and butterflies can all chime together. Various varieties of Vilvam saplings will also be planted at the site, as he treasured the plant. The project will carry on his legacy of planting saplings. Pitting work will commence at the earliest.

The event was attended by Mrs. Shanthi, President - Perur Chettipalayam Panchayath, the locals, the Apex members and staff of Siruthuli.

PEEDAMPALLY PLANTATION



An inaugural pooja for the plantation coming up at Peedampally was conducted on 25th May 2022. The project is being executed with multiple sponsors – Home of Hope has sponsored for 6000 saplings and the Vedanta Grove – 1250 saplings.

Currently the area is being cleared of the shrubs and bushes. Once this has been completed, the pitting works for saplings and laying of supply lines will commence.

METROPOLIS MAZHAI VANAM



This project has been sponsored by the Rotary Club of Coimbatore, Metropolis. An inaugural pooja to start work was conducted on 11th June 2022 in the presence of the locals. A total of 1100 saplings will be planted at the site. The site has been cleared of bushes and shrubs. The proposed date for the inaugural of the plantation site is 1st July 2022.



*"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature.
It will never fail you"*

RESERVE SITE, BALASUBRAMANIAM NAGAR

A plantation event at the reserve site in Balasubramaniam Nagar, near Balavinayakar Temple, Peelamedu was held on 13th May 2022. The plantation was held to commemorate the life of our Trustee Shri C R Swaminathan. The event was presided by Smt. Ilakkumi Izhamselvi D, President - East Division, Coimbatore Corporation and was attended by Smt. Vanitha Mohan - Managing Trustee of Siruthuli, the local community, Apex members and staff of Siruthuli. A stone plaque was unveiled during the event by the Chief Guest. Smt. Ilakkumi spoke of how important it is to have such Green lung spaces within the city where we only find concretized structures everywhere. She thanked Siruthuli for the efforts made to restore greenery into the daily lives of the people. She also mentioned that others living in the surrounding areas should take this as an example and implement mini forests such as the one at Balasubramaniam Nagar so that they remain hale and healthy.

We had received permissions from the Corporation authorities to use the reserve site for plantation purposes. After receiving the necessary permissions, Ms. Thenmozhi of Shivam Thulir Organics Pvt Ltd. came forward to supply the saplings for the plantation along with maintaining the plantation site. A total of 350 saplings have been planted at the site of approximately 200 varieties. A walker's path around the saplings has been laid for the locals to use while visiting the plantation site. Numerous flowering plants that have been planted are sure to welcome many birds and bees who will soon make it their home.



ROTARY UTSAV 2022

Rotary Club of Coimbatore conducted 'Rotary Utsav - 2022' on 6th, 7th and 8th of May 2022. The event was held to celebrate The Rotary Club and its activities. Our Managing Trustee - Smt Vanitha Mohan spoke at the District Conference - RI Dist 3201 during the plenary on the topic - 'Environment - New area of focus for Rotary'. At the event, she also spoke on Virtual Water and how we should wisely choose products based on the water used to manufacture the product. Mr. R S Krishnaswamy, Convenor - Water Bodies Restoration Committee who is also the Founder of CSR Spark also spoke at the event on various CSR activities.



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TREE TRIBUTE TO PADMA VIBHUSHAN SHRI S P BALASUBRAHMANYAM AT SPB VANAM

A tree tribute to Padma Vibhushan Shri S P Balasubrahmanyam was held by Siruthuli on 22nd May 2022 at SPB Vanam, Pachapalayam in the presence of Shri S P B Charan and Smt S P Sailaja. The singers who were in town for a concert visited SPB Vanam to pay their homage to Shri S P Balasubrahmanyam.

The event held on Sunday started off with the rendition of the Noyyal Vazhthu by the Apex members of Siruthuli. This was followed by the inauguration of the plaque with inscription from one of his hit songs which reads - 'Deygam maraindaal, isaiaal malarven' along with the names of the saplings planted at the site. The plaque was inaugurated by Shri S P B Charan followed by lighting of the lamp by both the guests. One minute silence was observed for the departed soul. Mr. Chandrasekar, Convenor - Forests First Forum welcomed the gathering.

The guests then planted saplings at the site and also walked through the plantation enjoying the sight. Our Managing Trustee Smt. Vanitha Mohan addressed the gathering about how SPB Vanam came into being. Smt. Shanthi Prasad, Panchayat President - Pachapalayam expressed her happiness about the guests being able to visit the Vanam despite their hectic schedules. Smt Vijaya, President - Officer's Colony, Pachapalayam requested the guests to keep visiting SPB Vanam frequently. Mementos were presented to the guests and the Panchayat President - Pachapalayam along with the President - Officer's Colony were facilitated for the efforts taken to maintain the plantation site. The event was well attended by the locals, the Apex members and staff of Siruthuli.

The Vanam houses more than 1700 saplings today with 50 varieties.



மேற்குத் தொடர்ச்சி மலையில் உயிர்ச்சூழல் வளமை... பகுதி - 1 - ஓசை காளிதாசன்

மேற்கு தொடர்ச்சி மலை தென்னிந்தியாவின் வாழ்வாதாரம். நமது ஆறுகளை பெற்றெடுக்கும் தாய்மடி. நமக்கான தண்ணீர்மலை. இந்திய நிலப்பரப்பில் 40 % பகுதிகளுக்கு தேவையான தண்ணீரை இந்த மலையில் உருவாகும் ஆறுகள்தான் வழங்கி வருகின்றன. இந்த மலை இல்லை எனில் தார் பாலைவனத்தின் நீட்சியாகவே தென்னிந்தியா இருந்திருக்கும்.

இந்த மலையில் உள்ள வன உயிரின உய்விடங்கள், தேசிய பூங்காக்கள், காப்புக் காடுகள் உள்ளிட்ட 39 பகுதிகள் உலகின் பாரம்பரிய இடங்களாக (world heritage sights) புனெஸ்கோவால் அங்கீகரிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

இந்த மலை தனித்துவமான, அரிதான, சிறப்புவாய்ந்த உயிர்ச்சூழல் வளமையை கொண்டுள்ளது. உலகிலுள்ள எட்டு அரிதிலும் அரிதான பல்லுயிரிய செழுமையிக்க இடங்களில் (global biodiversity hottest hotspot) ஒன்றாக மேற்கு தொடர்ச்சி மலை அறிஞர்களால் அடையாளம் காணப்பட்டுள்ளது. இங்குள்ள சுமார் 4500 வகை தாவரங்களில் 1700 வகை உலகில் வேறெங்கும் காணப்படுவதில்லை. இந்த மலையில் வளரும் சுமார் 640 வகை மர வகைகளில் 360 வகை இங்கு மட்டுமே உள்ளன. அதேபோல் இங்கு காணப்படும் 330 வகை வண்ணத்துப் பூச்சிகளில் 36 வகையும் 174 வகை தும்பிகளில் 70 வகையும் 288 வகை மீன்களில் 118 வகையும் 220 வகை ஈரிட வாழ்விகளில் 171 வகையும் 225 ஊர்வன இனங்களில் 140 வகையும் 508 வகை

பறவைகளில் 16 வகையும் 120 வகை பாலூட்டிகளில் 14 வகையும் இந்த மலைபைத் தவிர உலகில் வேறெங்கும் காணப்படுவதில்லை.

இப்படி இந்த மலையில் காணப்படும் ஓரிடத்தில் மட்டுமே வாழும் உயிர்களின் (Endemic species) பட்டியல் நீளமானது. உலகில் அதிக எண்ணிக்கையில் புலிகளும் ஆசிய யானைகளும் இங்குதான் வாழ்கின்றன. உலகிலுள்ள 17% புலிகளும் 30% யானைகளும் இங்குள்ள காடுகளை வாழ்விடமாகக் கொண்டுள்ளன.

கோயம்புத்தூர், திருப்பூர், நீலகிரி, ஈரோடு மாவட்டங்களில் உள்ள மேற்குத் தொடர்ச்சி மலைப்பகுதிகள் சிறப்பான உயிர்ச்சூழல் வளமை கொண்டவை. புனெஸ்கோவால் அங்கீகரிக்கப்பட்ட இந்தியாவின் முதல் உயிர்கோள காப்பகமான நீலகிரி உயிர்கோள காப்பகத்தின் (Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve) முக்கிய பகுதிகளாக கோவை, நீலகிரி, முதுமலை, சத்தியமங்கலம் வனப்பகுதிகள் அமைந்துள்ளன. கேரளத்தின் மன்னார்காடு, அமைதிப்பள்ளத்தாக்கு பகுதிகளில் தொடங்கி கிழக்கு தொடர்ச்சி மலையில் காவிரிவரை நீளும் தமிழ்நாடு, கேரளம், கர்நாடகம் ஆகிய மூன்று மாநிலங்களைச் சார்ந்த தொடர்ச்சியான வனப்பகுதிகள் உலக அளவில் ஒரே காட்டில் அதிக எண்ணிக்கையில் ஆசிய யானைகள் வாழும் இடமாக உள்ளது. நமது கோவையை சுற்றியுள்ள காடுகள் யானைகளில் மிக முக்கிய



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வாழ்விடமாக திகழ்கின்றன. கோவை, நீலகிரி, ஆனைமலை ஆகிய யானைகள் காப்பகங்கள் யானைகள் திட்டத்தால் [project elephant] அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. இங்குள்ள கல்லார், சிரியூர் ஆகிய வலசை பாதைகள் [elephant corridors] யானைகளின் வாழ்விடத்தை இணைப்பதில் முக்கியப் பங்காற்றுகின்றன.

தமிழகத்தில் உள்ள ஐந்து புலிகள் காப்பகங்களில் முதுமலை, சத்தியமங்கலம், ஆனைமலை ஆகிய மூன்று காப்பகங்கள் நமது பகுதியில் அமைந்துள்ளது. பெருமிதத்திற்குரியது. புலிகள் காப்பகங்களாக இல்லாவிட்டாலும் கோவை, நீலகிரி ஆகிய வனக் கோட்டங்களிலும் கணிசமான அளவில் புலிகள் காணப்படுகின்றன.

மேற்குத் தொடர்ச்சி மலையில் மட்டுமே காணப்படும் தமிழகத்தின் மாநில விலங்கான வரையாடுகளின் முக்கிய வாழ்விடமாக முக்குருத்தி, ஆனைமலை பகுதிகள் உள்ளன.

முதுமலை, தெங்குமரஹ்டா வனப்பகுதிகளில் பாயும் மோயாயாற்றை ஒட்டியுள்ள பகுதிகள் அரிய உயிர்ச்சூழல் வளமை மிக்கவை. ஒரே வாழ்விடத்தில் யானைகள், புலிகள், வெளிமான்கள், கழுதைப் புலிகள் காணப்படும் உலகின் அரிய வனப்பகுதி இது.

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