

# SATHYAMANGALAM TIGER RESERVE (STR), ERODE

## ABOUT STR

The forest areas in Erode District are under the control of the Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Erode. The Forest Division wise areas are as follows:

| Sl. No. | Name of Division                   | No. of Range     | No. of Sections | No. of Beats | Extent (Ha.)       |
|---------|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1       | Hassanur                           | 3                | 6               | 19           | 57,399.36          |
| 2       | Sathyamangalam                     | 4                | 10              | 29           | 88,131.56          |
| 3       | Erode                              | 4                | 9               | 34           | 82,144.32          |
| 4       | Bamboo Division, Gobichettipalayam | Special Division |                 |              |                    |
|         | <b>Total</b>                       | <b>11</b>        | <b>25</b>       | <b>82</b>    | <b>2,27,675.24</b> |

The percentage (%) of Forest area in Erode District is 39.80.

## Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary

In order to protect the Wildlife, an extent of 1411.609 sq.km. forest areas covering all RFs in Sathyamangalam Forest except Velamundi RF have been declared as **“Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary”** under section 26 A (1) (b) of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 vide Government Orders noted below:

G.O. (Ms) No. 122 E&F (FR-5) Dept. dated 03.11.2008 : 524.349 sq.km.

G.O.(Ms) No. 93 E&F (FR-V) Dept. dated 11.08.2011 : 887.260 sq.km.

**Total : 1411.609 sq.km.**

**The Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary is the largest Sanctuary in the State.**

## Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve

From the scat analysis and camera trapping study, the population of Tiger in the Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary was estimated as 18 nos. in 2011. In order to protect the endangered species of Tiger, the Government of Tamil Nadu has declared an extent of 1408.405 sq.km. Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary area as **“Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve”** under section 38 V (1) of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 vide G.O (Ms) No. 41 E&F (FR V) Dept. dated 15.03.2013 based on the approval accorded by

the Government of India on 12.03.2013. The notified extent of Core zone and Buffer Zone areas are as follows:

Total extent of core zone : 79349.331 Ha. (or) 793.493 sq.km.

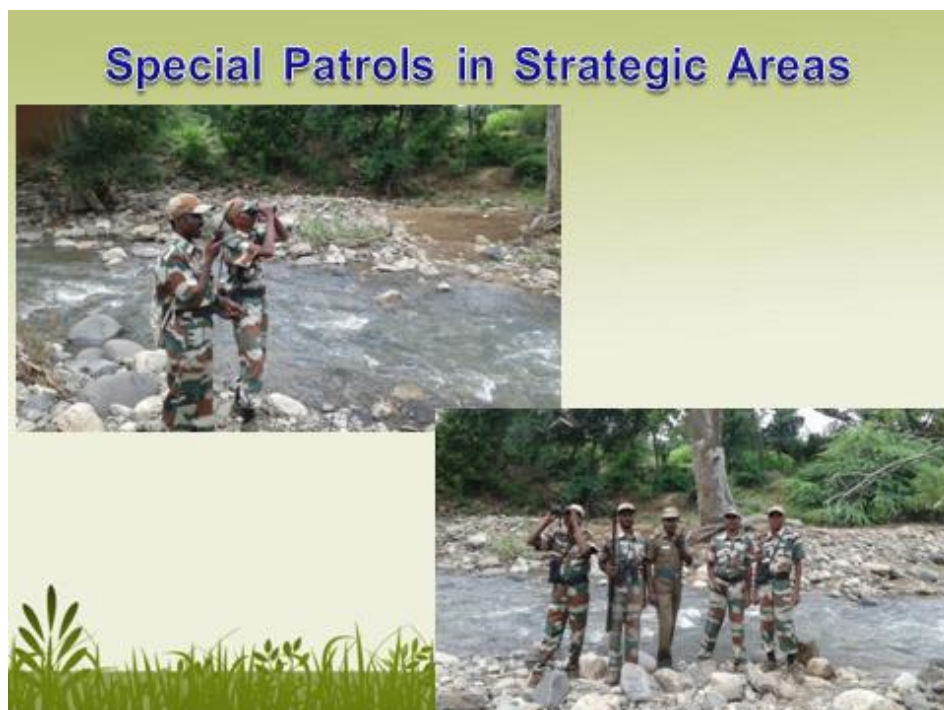
Total extent of Buffer zone : 61491.21 Ha. (or) 614.912 sq.km.

**Total extent : 140840.541 Ha. (or) 1408.405 sq.km.**

The 9 Forest Tribal Settlements and 19 Revenue Tribal Settlements in Sathyamangalam Forest Division are not included in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve.

## PROTECTION

- Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve falls in the revenue districts of Erode. Effective protection measures are under taken to protect the Tiger and its co predators and other wild animals. The major problem faced in the Tiger Reserve is the operation of interstate Sandalwood smugglers, Ganja cultivators, Poachers, etc., These Problems are being effectively tackled through functioning of 25 Anti-Poaching Camps located in the interior and vulnerable areas. Floating camps have been formed to monitor the movement of Anti social elements, poachers, smugglers, etc., To tackle problems like Human Wildlife Conflicts, Forest Fires, etc., Two land line numbers one at Sathyamangalam (04295-220312) and another at Hasanur (04295-244226) have been installed to receive information from the public regarding man animal conflicts, fire and about movement of smugglers. Wireless communication network has been strengthened by installing new sets and posting personnel at each wireless stations.



## Forest Protection through smart patrolling

- In Sathyamangalam Division, 83 No. of Anti-poaching watchers are engaged in four Ranges and the performance of the Anti-poaching watchers are frequently monitored. Patrolling details of the Anti-poaching watcher's are being recorded digitally by plotting their patrolling tracks on top sheets weekly basis. It will ensure that all the RF areas are frequently patrolled by APWs. Periodical review is done with field staff on this activity. Under Project Tiger Scheme, ration to the APWs & LPG stove to the Anti-poaching camps in all ranges have been distributed.



**APWs provided by Ration & LPG stove to AP sheds.**

## WORKS CARRIED OUT:

### Prey Density Assessment

| Sl. No. | Species          | Density Per sq.km |
|---------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1       | Spotted deer     | 12.307            |
| 2       | Sambar deer      | 1.6903            |
| 3       | Gaur             | 1.1182            |
| 4       | Barking deer     | 0.45493           |
| 5       | Wild pig         | 1.4084            |
| 6       | Bonnet macaque   | 2.2649            |
| 7       | Common langur    | 5.6829            |
| 8       | Black-naped hare | 4.7526            |



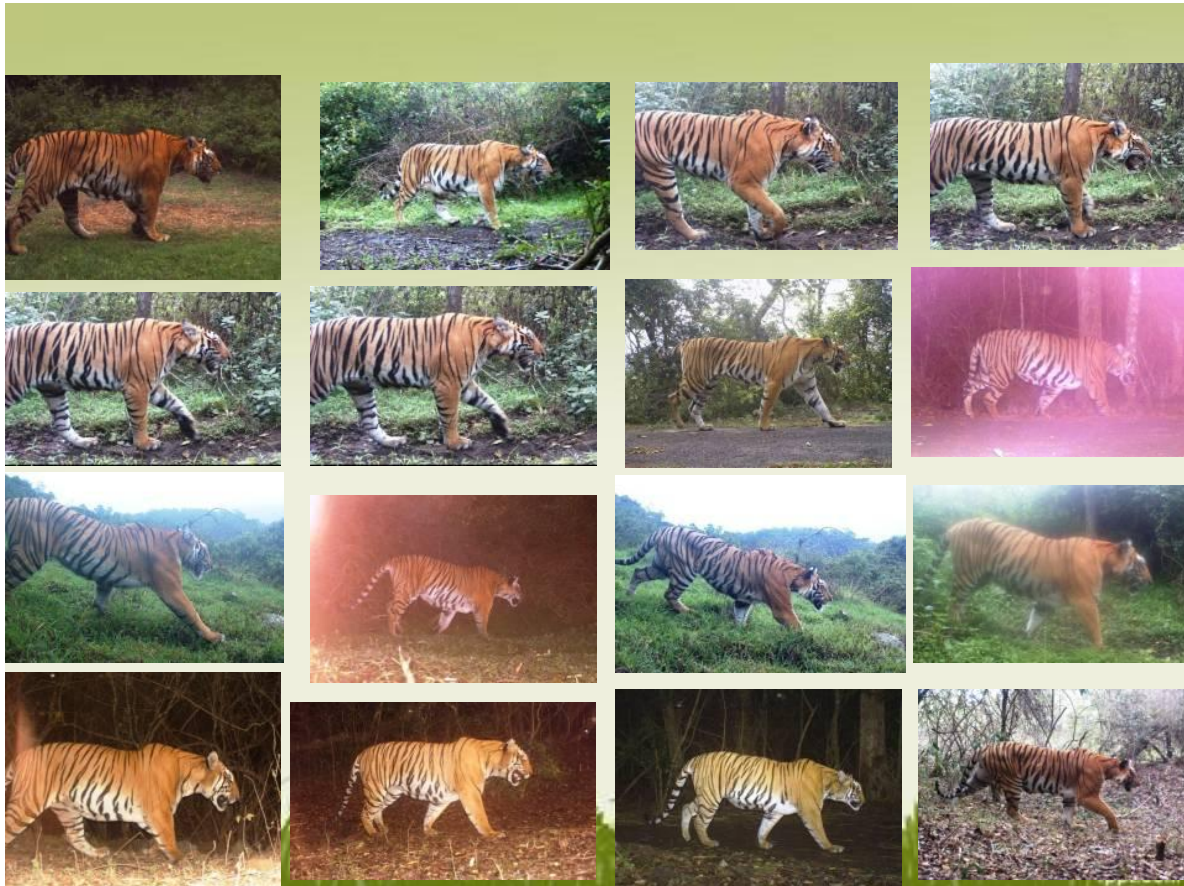




## TIGER OCCUPANCY

18 Tigers estimated from the scat analysis and camera trapping study before declaration of Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve.

| Year    | No. of Tigers estimated | Authority                   |
|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2012-13 | 47                      | Wildlife Institute of India |
| 2013-14 | 54                      | Phase IV monitoring         |



Core and Buffer areas of Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve has been properly delineated and legally notified vide Govt Order. (Ms) No. 41, Environment of Forests (FR V) Dept. dt. 15-03-2013. The legal of core area 79349.331 Ha. and buffer area is 61491.21 Ha. Sathyamangalam Tiger Conservation Foundation was formed as per Government Order (Ms.) No. 182, Environment & Forests (FR 5) Dept. dated 11-11-2013 and functioning well. Based on the comments received from NTCA on the indicative plan for STR, the Tiger Conservation Plan for STR is under preparation.



**Fire line clearing works in Dhimbam - Uginium Road ,  
Sathyamangalam Range**



**Maintenance of Check dam in Talamalai Range**

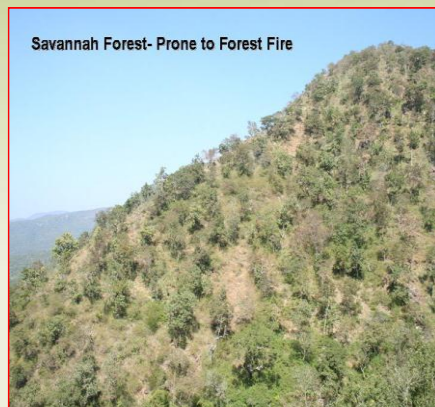


## DETAILS OF FOREST TYPES

| Sl. No. | Forest Type                         | % of Forest |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1       | Tropical dry thorn forest           | 28          |
| 2       | Tropical dry mixed deciduous forest | 57          |
| 3       | Tropical semi evergreen             | 5           |
| 4       | Sub tropical hill forest            | 7           |
| 5       | Riparian forest                     | 1           |

STR encompasses large contiguous Reserve Forests with diversity of vegetation types from dry thorn shrub to patches of semi-evergreen forests in the upper regions. As per recent estimation there are 64 Tigers, 924 Elephants, 3687 Wild Boars, 13442 Deers, 3189 Indian Guar are the major wild animals exist in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Erode.

## VARIOUS FOREST TYPES IN SATHYAMANGALAM



*Scrub forests on the slopes of  
Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary*



*A typical dry mixed thorn forest for Blackbuck  
in Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary*



## VARIOUS FOREST TYPES IN SATHYAMANGALAM



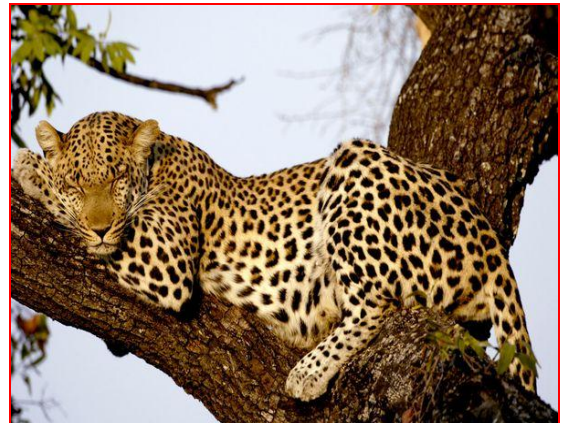
*Open Savannah forests in  
Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary*



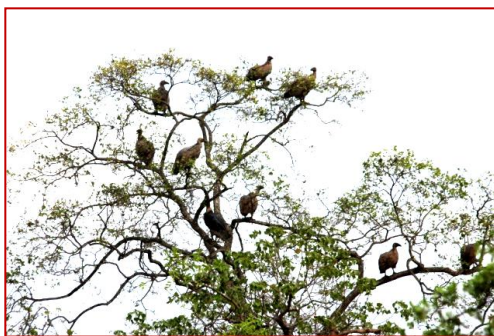
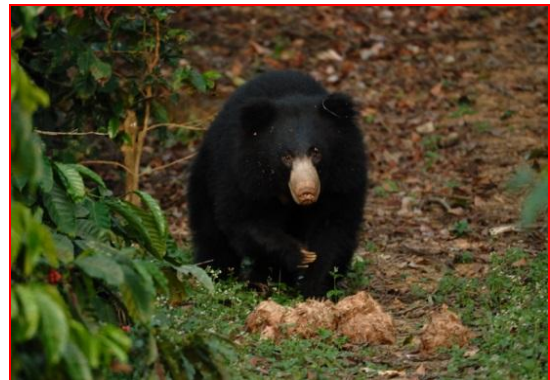
*Moist deciduous forest tracts in  
Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary*



## WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS IN SATHYAMANGALAM TIGER RESERVE







## SPECIAL DETAILS IN SATHYAMANGALAM TIGER RESERVE

### ECO-TOURISM

- To regulate the movement of the devotees who are undertook pilgrimage to Gejalatti Masjid and Karuvannarayan koil which are located in the Bhavanisagar Range, a core zone of Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, the Executive committee of Nandhipuram Tribal Village forest council decided to purchase second hand bus as a part of initiation of Eco-tourism specifically for pilgrimage. As per the decision taken, a second hand bus has been purchased for a sum of Rs.3.5 lakhs from the Tribal village forest development fund. This is mainly used for making transportation facilities to the devotees which ensures the avoidance of human wildlife conflict & better park management.



### WILDLIFE WEEK CELEBRATION

- During the first week of October'2016, Wildlife week celebrated in Sathyamangalam Division. Students from the Government Middle school, Erumaikuttai Anna Nagar village located at T.N.Palayam Range participated in the awareness rally.
- The students were told about environment pollution, importance of greater awareness of wildlife conservation and also organized essay writing, painting, quiz competitions for students.





**Students take out wildlife awareness rally in T.N.Palayam**



**Winners among students received Prize from FRO, T.N.Palayam**

### **INSTALLING SPEED CONTROL MEASURES ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY 209 – PASSING THROUGH SATHYAMANGALAM TIGER RESERVE**

- National Highway (NH 209) road passing through Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve from Pudhuvadavalli to Pulinjur in the length of 28 km within Tiger reserve area. This National Highway poses a grave threat to wildlife & prone for Human-Leopard conflict. Hence it is essential to installing speed control measures in the following vulnerable locations on National highway 209.

- The above details of vulnerable locations wherever the Rumble – Strips are necessary within the stretch of the road that runs through the Tiger Reserve were sent to the Divisional Engineer, National Highway Department, Coimbatore & rumble stripes were made in the some locations by the Highways department.
- Moreover, awareness boards about Human-leopard conflicts are erected in various places and also ban of travel through two wheeler vehicle during night time via NH 209 crossing across STR is imposed. Night patrolling is being done frequently in this stretch.
- Awareness Programmes about Human-wildlife conflict in forest fringe villages are frequently conducted.



**Awareness camp organized at Bhagavathi Nagar village , T.N.Palayam Range.**

## **MAJOR ACTIVITIES**

**Replenishing drying water trough using water tankers:** Poor rainfall is being received as now in North-East Monsoon. Therefore most of the water troughs are dried. In a bid to provide water to quench the thirst of Wildlife, drying water troughs are replenished by water tankers.



## De-silting of Water Holes



## Supply of water to water troughs during pinch period





**Replenishing water trough at Karikkal mokai of Sathy Range  
through water tankers**



**A Tiger uses water trough replenished by water through water tankers**







**Wild Elephants uses water at solar powered water trough at Navakinaru mathaiyam koil,  
T.N.Palayam**



## **ERODE FOREST DIVISION**

### **ABOUT ERODE FOREST DIVISION**

(i) Erode Forest Division was carved out from Coimbatore Division as per G.O.Ms. No. 1433 Food and Agriculture Department dated 19.4.1961 and was named as Coimbatore North Division. Further the Coimbatore North Division was bifurcated into two Divisions namely Erode Forest Division and Sathyamangalam Division as per G.O.Ms.No.999 Forests and Fisheries Department dated 22.8.1980. The Velamundi Reserve Forest (4329.15 ha) was transferred to Sathyamangalam Division as per G.O. Ms. No. 124 Environment and Forest Department dated 10.4.1997. Recently, the Mettur Range with the areas falling within the Salem District and the RCP, Mettur were transferred to Salem Division with effect from 4.4.2006 as per the proceedings of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Proc. No. TS1/72425/05, dated 23.3.2006. The balance areas of erstwhile Mettur Range which fall within the Erode District and were a part of Anthiyur Range formed as new Range namely chennampatty with effect from 19.6.06.

(ii) The total area of Erode Division at present is 83,303.88 ha spread over Bhavani, Erode, Perundurai, Kangeyam and Dharapuram taluks of Erode District.

(iii) The Division is surrounded by Kollegal Forest Division of Karnataka State on the Northern side, Salem, Namakkal, Karur and Thiruchirapally Districts on Eastern side, Sathyamangalam Division Coimbatore District on Western side and Dindigul District on southern side.

(iv) The major forest area of Erode Forest Division lies in the northern part of Erode District from where Palarriver flows and drains into Caverry river. The tract falls between 77°45'E and 77°55'E longitudes and between 11°25'N and 11°50'N latitudes. The total length of the R.F. boundaries of this division is 956.10 kms out of which natural boundaries form a length of 613.60 kms. The interstate boundary is 53.75 kms of which the river Palar forms 29 kms boundary.

### **TOURIST SPOT IN ERODE FOREST DIVISION**

**Vellode Birds Sanctuary:** Vellode Birds Sanctuary is situated in Vadamugam Vellode Village, Perundurai Taluk, Erode District of Tamil Nadu. It is located about 12 kms. From Erode on the Erode-Chennimalai Main Road. Its area is 77.185 ha. The sanctuary falls between lat& long 11o15'20" N to 11o04'50" and 77o38'40" E to 77o39'30" E. People at Erode do not have much recreation facilities except small parks and Cinema theatres. People want to spend time with their children in the outdoors especially in forest areas

where the atmosphere is very calm and green. Vellode Birds Sanctuary has huge potential to attract travellers and visitors to visit the wildlife / wilderness areas has become common these days and more people from all walks of life throng Vellode Birds Sanctuary to satisfy their curiosity are with a hope to see avi-fauna etc.

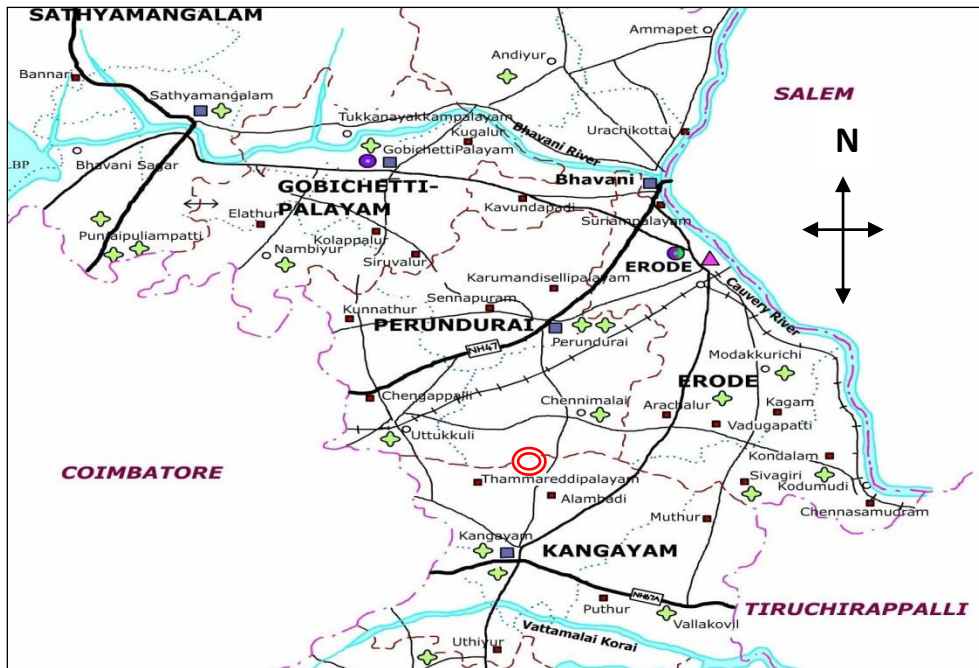
A greater future and potential for eco-tourism in the sanctuary can be created. The concept can be profitably sold but first we must create and extend matching tourist facilities. The Government also foresees a future for such initiatives and is financially supporting such endeavour.



Vellode Bird Sanctuary, one of the ten critical breeding habitats of wet land birds within the state of Tamil Nadu, while providing opportunities for the public of Erode and visitors from other parts of the state or country to approach to learn more about birds, nature and bio-diversity conservation and other wildlife management aspects also enable the scientific and student communities to observe and come to findings about the birds habits, breeding habits and other aspects of birds study.



## Road access to Vellode Birds Sanctuary



This area has been continuously receiving huge influx of visitors to view the various migratory and native birds visiting and nesting here.



## **PROTECTION SQUAD**

Erode Division is rich in Flora and Fauna. Forest areas of this division are being patrolled by the field staff regularly. The Field staff are instructed to perambulate their areas for curtailing poaching and other illegal activities in their areas. The Forest Range Officers have been instructed to form special party to make routine patrol in their jurisdiction. They are also instructed to take necessary action for refilling the water tanks inside Reserved Forests thus providing water facilities to the animals in order to avoid animals straying out of Forests into patta lands for fodder and water.

Strict instructions have been issued to all Forest Range officers to make combing operation in their jurisdiction daily. Daily patrolling is being done in various places in all the Ranges and details of members involved in patrolling, area patrolled, and illegal activities if any found are recorded in the register maintained for this purpose. Forest Range officers are instructed to concentrate on Forest Protection and Patrolling operations. Local Village Forest Council members are involved in Forest Protection activities.



Under Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project (TBGP) scheme, Anti-depredation squad is formed in Anthiyur Range to monitor and control the wild life movements and to drive away the wild animals straying into the peripheral villages.

## **INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY CELEBRATION**

“International Tiger Day” was observed on July 29 at Government High School, Bargur in Bargur Range. In this programme, awareness creation, competitions to students and rally has been conducted and Students, NGO’s and Publics participated.

## **MASSIVE TREE PLANTATION PROGRAMME (68 Lakhs)**

Under this scheme, few Saplings were planted by Hon’ble Member of Parliament, Erode and Hon’ble Member of Legislative assembly, Modakuruchi on 06.09.2019 at



Kodumudi, Erode Range. Local body members and public were presented in this occasion.



**Saplings planted in Kodumudi Village by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Erode and Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Modakurichi**

For the successful implementations of this scheme, one day special training workshop was conducted to DRDA officials about **“Modern Nursery Techniques and Planting Strategy”** at Vellode Birds Sanctuary, Erode. The Divisional Forest Officer, Bamboo Estate Division, Gobichettipalaym, Project Director, DRDA, Assistant Director, DRDA, Erode and Block Development Officers attended the workshop.

**AWARENESS CREATION**

Special Cleaning camp was conducted with the NSS students of Erode, Sengunther Higher Secondary School at Vellode Bird Sanctuary, Erode on 23.10.2016.



Awareness creation camp and rally was conducted regarding “Avoidance of Plastic” in Anthiyur and Bargur Range on 02.10.2016.



Special alertness created to fringe village peoples to avoid blasting crackers like Rocket and etc to prevent fire occurrence in Reserved Forests during Diwali Festival session.

#### **WILDLIFE WEEK CELEBRATION:** District level Wildlife week celebration

“Competitions” were conducted to school and college students on 06.09.2016 at Govt. Girls. Hr. Sec., School, Erode. Prizes were distributed to the students who won the first, second places in the various competitions by the District Collector, Erode on 07.11.2016.

**AWARENESS ABOUT VELLODE BIRDS SANCTUARY:** Special awareness created to students about “Birds Habitations and Importance of Birds” at Vellode Birds Sanctuary, Erode during weekends.



#### ***Erode District Collector Consultation with the School students about the Birds at Vellode Bird Sanctuary campus in Erode Division***

The Pamphlets and Brochures are prepared both in Tamil & English and being issued to the visitors at **Vellode Birds Sanctuary** in Erode Division.

**INCOME GENERATION ACTIVITIES - JOB MELA IN BARGUR VILLAGE:** Private Employment camp has been conducted for the Tribal students on 22-08-2015 at Bargur village in coordination with District Administration and District Employment Office. During this employment camp the tribal youngsters in surrounding areas of Bargur West and East hill, Thamarai karai, Thattakarai and Kongadai villages were benefitted.



## FOREST TYPES IN ERODE FOREST DIVISION

The general forest types of this division as described in the revised survey of forest types in India by Champion and Seth are :-

- Southern dry mixed deciduous Forests 5A/C3
- Southern tropical thorn Forests 6 A/C1
- Phoenix savannah forests 5/E8A

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEMES

**MASSIVE TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME SCHEME:** Massive Tree Planting programme scheme implemented since 2011-12 in this Division. Totally, 2,89,375 Nos. of seedlings have been planted in various Government and Private Schools / Colleges, industrials premises, Road sides and public places coordinate with public and resource organizations in and around Erode districts. In continuation of Massive Tree Planting programme scheme (68 lakhs seedlings) during 2016-17, 53,680 (10% including casualties) Nos. of seedlings (16x30 cm) have been raised and planted through 15,800 Nos. of seedlings in Erode Forest Division and 33,000 Nos. of seedlings in DRDA department as per instructions issued in the Government Order during 2016-17.



## MAINTENANCE OF WATER HOLDING STRUCTURES AND WATER SUPPLY THROUGH CARRIERS TO WILD ANIMALS IN THE TIGER RESERVES, SAND ELEPHANT DOMINATED AREAS OF TAMILNADU IN PINCH PERIOD SCHEME

Normally Erode Forest division experience sufficient rainfall only during North East monsoon. But unprecedently there is no sufficient rainfall during monsoon this year as on date. Due to prevailing of drought, there are no sufficient water sources available in the Reserved Forests for the wild animals. Accordingly, the wild life such as Elephant, Wild Boar, Bear, Deer etc are likely to stray into the nearby Patta land, arable lands and human habitations in search of water and food. This disputes leads to Human-wildlife

conflict in the form of crop damage, Human death, Human injury and damages to property.

In order to avoid such circumstances, the maintenance of water troughs and filling of water in the troughs have been done under the 'Maintenance of Water holding Structures and Water supply through carriers to wild life in the Tiger Reserves and Elephant dominated Areas of TamilNadu in Pinch period scheme' during 2016-17. Arrangements have been made to supply of water to the water troughs from the nearby Agricultural fields from the Bore well and also by Engaging Private water tanks.



**Elephant drinks water in the trough maintained under 'Maintenance of water holding structures and Water supply scheme'**

#### **WATER CONSERVATION AND CANOPY IMPROVEMENT IN DEGRADED FOREST AREAS UNDER NABARD:**

The Objectives of this scheme are that the establishment of permanent major water storage structures like percolation ponds and check dams and minor water harvesting structures like catch water pits insitu and in immediate vicinity of the forest areas are expected to improve the soil moisture regime, besides recharging the ground water aquifer and result in overall improvement in the availability of water for cultivation activities. Each unit would consist of a Percolation Pond, two check dams and 5,000 contour trenches that would benefit about 250 hectares of forest land. In each unit, as many as 5,000 Saplings would be planted on the down stride of the contour trenchers. The trenches will help in preventing soil erosion and storing water.

#### **TAMILNADU BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND GREENING PROJECT**

**TBGP - Mobile Veterinary Unit:** Under this component, a new veterinary vehicle was purchased and used for rescue and translocate the wild animals when straying out from forests into peripheral areas. Medicines and Post-mortem kits were purchased.

**TBGP - Elephant Proof Trench:** Under this component, Elephant proof Trenches were dug up over 34 kms on peripheral areas of Anthiyur, Bargur and Chennampatti Ranges in this Division.





**Elephant Proof Trenches - Bargur Range and Anthiyur Range of Erode Division  
TBGP - Eco Sustainable Development (ESD) village:**

**Thoddacombai village** in Anthiyur Range was selected and functioning since 2012-13. The basic amenities have been issued to the village such as Gas facilities, Flour machine, Renovation of Kitchen rooms, Maintenance of Roads and Loan has also issued to the people.



**GAS CONNECTION AND RAGI FLOUR MACHINE ISSUED TO THE THODDACOMBAI  
VILLAGE PEOPLE**



**ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS AT THODDACOMBAI VILLAGE IN ANTHIYUR  
RANGE**



### LOAN AMOUNT ISSUED TO THE THODDACOMBAI VILLAGE PEOPLE

**TREE CULTIVATION IN PRIVATE LAND:** An externally aided “Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project” scheme at an outlay of Rs.686crores is being implemented 2011-12, which will continue upto 2018-19. This project focuses on biodiversity conservation through TamilNadu Forest protection and socio-economic development of forest fringe villages and tribal communities. It will also help to continue the State’s efforts in increasing tree cover outside forests by taking up **Tree Cultivation on Private Land** program.



In Erode Division this scheme is being implemented from 2011-12. Totally, 3,49,300 Nos. of Long rotations species 1,44,700 Nos. of Short rotations species have been planted in 658 Nos. of Farmers land from 2011-12 to 2016-17. The species viz., Teak, Malaivembu, Nattuvembu, Silver Oak, Mahagony, Nelli, Kumil, Etti as Long rotation and *Casuarina* as Short rotation has been planted in farmers land as per their requirements and nature of soil.



