

ECO-HERITAGE.COM

EIACP Newsletter

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

October - December 2025, Vol. XXIV, No. 3



In this issue

- ❖ From the EIACP Desk 02
- ❖ Cover Story: Know Your Plants - Henna 03
- ❖ News - Celebrating the Sacred Cow 05
- ❖ News - Ecological balance: Jackals, otters increasingly sighted at Pichavaram ... 06
- ❖ In-focus 07
- ❖ Abstracts of Recent Publications 24



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 Plants - Henna”**.

Henna, a plant revered for its cultural significance and medicinal properties, deserves a spot in our daily lives. From adorning hands in intricate designs to promoting hair health, henna's benefits are multifaceted. Its cooling properties make it

a popular choice for natural hair dyes and skincare remedies. Henna's antibacterial qualities have been used for centuries in traditional medicine. As a drought-resistant plant, henna is also an eco-friendly choice, offering a sustainable alternative to chemical-based products. Mehndi art is an integral part of Indian weddings, festivals, and rituals. Let us harness the power of this natural wonder and make it a part of our daily self-care.

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 Plants - Henna

Dr. A. Abirami

Programme Officer

C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, EIACP PC -RP, Chennai

Botanical Name	:	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i> L.
Tamil Name	:	Maruthani
Sanskrit Name	:	Mendhika
English Name	:	Henna



<https://mtechgardens.com/product/henna-mendhi-tree-lawsonia-inermis-medicinal-live-plant/>

Distribution and Habit

Lawsonia inermis (L.) is a shrub or small tree of the family Lythraceae. This plant is cultivated in many regions as an ornamental and commercial dye crop. It is mostly found in the tropic, sub-tropic and semi-arid zones of Africa, South Asia and North Australia. It is a much branched, slender, evergreen shrub. It usually grows up to 6-25 feet tall. The stems and other branches can be spiny. The leaves grow opposite each other on the stem. Flowers are heavily scented, ovate with white or red stamens. Fruits are small, brownish capsules, 4-8 mms. in diameter.

Parts used

Whole plant.

Phytochemical constituents

Lawsone - naphthoquinone, coumarins, xanthenes, tannins, flavonoids, aliphatic components, glucose, gallic acid, amino acids, mannitol, trace elements and minerals.

Uses

It is one of the oldest cosmetics in the world and its leaves are used to colour the fingernails, and decorate the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet and to dye grey hair. The

essential oils extracted from henna flowers are used in the perfume industry. In India, mehendi function is organised before a wedding.

Medicinal uses

Henna leaves, flowers, seeds, stem, bark and roots are used in traditional medicine to treat a variety of ailments such as rheumatoid arthritis, headache, ulcers, diarrhoea, leprosy, fever, diabetes, cardiac disease and act as hepatoprotective. Leaves are used for alleviating jaundice, skin diseases, bronchitis, boils, syphilitic, scabies, and smallpox and favour the growth of the hair. Traditionally in India, the leaves are applied to hands and feet because of their cooling effect. The bark is applied in the form of decoction to burns and scalds. Root is considered as a potent medicine for gonorrhoea and herpes infection. Pulped roots are applied to the heads of children for boils. Seeds in powdered form are a good medicine for liver disorders and associated problems (Chaudhary *et al.* 2010; Gupta, 2018). Flowers are used as refrigerant and in insomnia.

Conclusion

L. inermis (L.) is one of the popular and important medicinal plants of tropical and sub-tropical areas of the world. Phytochemical constituents of this plant are responsible for its analgesic, anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant, anti-malarial, anti-cancer and anti-microbial activity. Presence of these properties in this plant develops it as medicine against various pathogenic organisms and diseases.

References

- ❖ Chaudhary, G., Goyal, S., and Poonia, P. (2010). “*Lawsonia inermis* Linnaeus: A phytopharmacological review”. *International Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Drug Research*, Vol. 2, pp. 91–98.
- ❖ Gupta, S. R. N. (2018). “Review on Henna Plant (*Lawsonia inermis*) and its applications”. *International Journal of Researches in Biosciences, Agriculture and Technology*, Vol. 5 (2), pp. 26–33.



— News —

Celebrating the Sacred Cow

by Ramesh Savaikar



Govats Dwadashi is a Hindu festival that marks the start of Diwali celebrations. In Goa and Maharashtra, it is known as 'Vasu Baras' and it is also observed in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and northern India. Cows are considered sacred (Gomata) for providing nourishment and supporting livelihoods and they are worshipped to express gratitude for their contributions.

The festival falls on Vadhya Dwadashi *tithi* (12th day of the dark fortnight) of the Hindu month of Ashwin. Tradition holds that it was first observed by King Uttanpada and his wife, whose prayers and fasting (*vrata*) blessed them with a son, Dhruva.

Govats Dwadashi is also celebrated as 'Nandini' *vrata*, dedicated to the sacred cow Nandini, revered in the Shaivite tradition.

Worshipping cows and calves is believed to fulfil devotees' wishes. The *Bhavishya Purana* describes the festival's significance. On this day, cows and calves are bathed; their foreheads marked with vermilion and turmeric, decorated with clothes and flower garlands and offered wheat products called '*Pola*'. Devotees perform *aartis* and prayers to seek blessings.

Women observe the 'Nandini' *vrata* for the well-being of their children. For farming communities, cows are an essential source of income. The tradition is also linked to the myth of Kamadhenu, the divine cow that emerged from the churning of the Samudra Manthan (Milky Ocean).

Source: *The Navhind Times*, Panaji, 16/10/2025, pg.7.

— News —

Ecological balance: Jackals, otters increasingly sighted at Pichavaram



CAUGHT ON CAM: An Indian jackal at Pichavaram



'OTTER' NATIVES

Tourists who arrive at Pichavaram to take in one of the world's largest mangrove ecosystems by boating through its tangled green tunnels now regularly get to see Indian jackals and smooth-coated otters too during the day, a sign that ecological balance is returning to the area.

Over the past six months, these elusive creatures have become the highlight of Pichavaram's eco tours. Jackals venture out even when there are visitors, darting across the mudflats or resting near the water's edge. The otters glide effortlessly through the clear, fish-rich creeks.

Forest range officer B. Iqbal said the department is planning a census to estimate the jackal population. "We believe there are more than 100 of them inhabiting various mangrove patches. Tourists now see them almost daily during boat rides". He said.

Iqbal said otter sightings too have increased in the past six months. Otter sightings were not reported earlier, he said. Spread over 1,400 hectares, the Pichavaram mangroves are dominated by *Avicennia marina*, a species that thrives even in shallow waters and forms natural burrows ideal for jackal dens.

Years of conservation and replanting rejuvenated large portions of this ecosystem, leading to a surge in fish, prawn and crab populations – the primary food sources for both otters and jackals.

Forest officials said these sightings underscore a deeper success story, ecological balance returning to Pichavaram. Conservationists, however, caution against human intrusion in this recovering ecosystem.

With wildlife making a comeback, they want the authorities to ban film shoots and other disruptive activities within the mangrove channels. The harmony between conservation and tourism, they warn, can last only if the ecosystem remains protected.

Source: *The Times of India* Chennai, 5/11/2025, pg. 1&4.

— In-focus —

World Animal Day – October 4, 2025

As part of celebrating World Animal Day 2025, CPREEC EIACP PC - RP, Chennai developed an awareness poster.



As part of celebrating **World Animal Day**, CPREEC EIACP PC - RP organised a Film Show to raise awareness about **Saving animals and fostering love for animals** among the staff of the Host Institute. Dr. P. Sudhakar, Director and EIACP Coordinator, narrated the significance of observing World Animal Day. Two Documentary films (1) 'What is Animal Welfare?' and (2) 'Elephant Whisperers' were screened.



Wildlife Week Celebration – (02nd – 08th October, 2025)

As part of celebrating Wildlife Week – 2025, CPREEC EIACP PC - RP, Chennai designed and developed an awareness poster.



As part of celebrating Wildlife Week (02nd – 08th October, 2025), CPREEC EIACP PC - RP's Ooty Field Office organized an awareness programme and released an awareness poster at Government High School, Kanerimukku, Kotagiri, The Nilgiris. A total of 8 teachers and 60 students attended the programme and distributed the poster.





அரசு பள்ளியில் காணுயிர் வார விழா



▶ கோத்தகிரி நகராட்சி கன்னேரிமுக்கு அரசு உயர்நிலை பள்ளியில் காணுயிர் வார விழா நடந்தது.

ஊட்டி, அக். 9: கோத்தகிரி நகராட்சி கன்னேரிமுக்கு அரசு உயர்நிலை பள்ளியில் காணுயிர் வார விழா நடந்தது.

ஊட்டியில் உள்ள சிபி ஆர் சுற்றுச்சூழல் கல்வி மையம் சார்பில் நடந்த காணுயிர் வார விழா நிகழ்விற்கு தேசிய பசுமைப்படை ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் ராதாகிருஷ்ணன் வரவேற்றார். பள்ளி தலைமை ஆசிரியர் அரவிந்தன் மையத்தின் காணு

யிர் காப்போம் போன்ற பிரசார போஸ்டர்களை வெளியிட மாணவர்கள் பெற்றுக் கொண்டனர். வனம் என்பது மனிதனுக்கும் மற்ற உயிரினங்களுக்கும் அவசியமாக கருதப்படும் காற்று, நீர் மற்றும் உணவு போன்ற தேவைகளை அளவில்லாமல் வழங்கி வருகின்றது.

இன்றைய காலகட்டத்தில் உலகில் வனங்களும் வன உயிரினங்களும் மனிதனால் அழிக்கப்பட்டு

வருகிறது. இது எதிர்கால சந்ததியர்க்கு வாழ்வாதார பிரச்சனைகளை உருவாக்கும் என்பதால் வனத்தை பாதுகாக்கவேண்டும், என எடுத்துரைக்கப்பட்டது.

இயற்கை விவசாயிதம் பட்டி ராம் தாஸ் விஷமில்லா காய்கறிகள் விளைவிப்பது மற்றும் வீட்டுத்தோட்டம் அமைப்பதுபற்றி விளக்கமளித்தார். முடிவில் வனவளம் காக்க மாணவர்கள் உறுதிமொழி எடுத்துக் கொண்டனர்.

அரசு பள்ளியில் காணுயிர் வார விழா வன வளத்தை பாதுகாக்க உறுதியேற்பு

கோத்தகிரி, அக். 10- கோத்தகிரி கன்னேரிமுக்கு அரசு உயர்நிலை பள்ளியில், சி.பி.ஆர்., சுற்றுச்சூழல் கல்வி மையம் சார்பில் காணுயிர் வார விழா நடந்தது.

தேசிய பசுமைப்படை ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் ராதாகிருஷ்ணன் வரவேற்றார். பள்ளி தலைமை ஆசிரியர் அரவிந்தன் தலைமை வகித்து, 'காணுயிர் காப்போம்' பிரசார துண்டு பிரகடம் விளையாடித்து, விழிப்புணர்வு ஏற்படுத்தினார்.

சி.பி.ஆர்., சுற்றுச்சூழல் கல்வி மையம் அலுவலர் குமாரவேலு பேசுகையில், "மனிதனுக்கும், மற்ற உயிரினங்களுக்கும் அவசியமாக கருதப்படும் காற்று, நீர் ஆகியவை உணவு பொருட்கள் உள்ளிட்ட, தேவைகளை அளவில்லாமல் வழங்கி வருகிறது. இன்றைய சூழலில் வனங்களும், வன



▶ கோத்தகிரி கன்னேரிமுக்கு அரசு உயர்நிலை பள்ளியில், சி.பி.ஆர்., சுற்றுச்சூழல் கல்வி மையம் சார்பில் காணுயிர் வார விழா நடந்தது.

உயிரினங்களும் மனிதனால் அழிக்கப்பட்டு வருவது, எதிர்கால சந்ததியர்க்கு வாழ்வாதார பிரச்சனைகளை உருவாக்கும் என்பதால், வன பலத்தை பாதுகாப்பது அவசர அவசியம்," என்றார்.

இயற்கை விவசாயி ராம் தாஸ், 'விஷமில்லா காய்கறிகள் விளைவிப்பது, வீட்டு தோட்டம் அமைப்பது' குறித்து விளக்கம் அளித்தார். தொடர்ந்து வனவளம் காப்பது குறித்து மாணவர்கள் உறுதிமொழி எடுத்துக் கொண்டனர். ஆசிரியர்கள், சுற்றுச்சூழல் ஆர்வலர்கள் மற்றும் மாணவர்கள் பலர் பங்கேற்றனர்.

News Clipping (Daily newspaper - Dinakaran – October 9, 2025

and Dinamalar – October 10, 2025, Coimbatore edition) pertaining to the Awareness programme organised at CPREEC EIACP PC - RP, The Nilgiris as part of Wildlife Week Celebration

CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Chennai Mission LiFE awareness programme

CPREEC EIACP PC – RP, Chennai conducted Mission LiFE Awareness Programme under the seven themes – Save Energy, Save Water, Avoid SUPs, Reduce Waste, Reduce E-Waste, Adopt Healthy Food System and Adopt Healthy Lifestyle at Madha Arts and Science College, Thandalam, Chennai – 600 128 on 11.11.2025. A total of 308 students and 24 staff members participated and took the pledge on Mission LiFE and awareness pamphlets were distributed.



CAPACITY BUILDING COURSES

Nursery Raising (Budding, Layering and Pepper cutting) at The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu

EIACP Resource Partner (RP) on “Conservation of Ecological Heritage and Sacred Sites of India” at C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC), Chennai organized a 7 days capacity building programme on “Nursery Raising (Budding, Layering and Pepper cutting)” from November 14, 2025 to November 20, 2025 at Uyilatti, Ooty Taluk, The Nilgiris (11°46'19 N; 76°83'94 E), Tamil Nadu. This week long course aimed to empower Tribal women / Self-help groups to develop a basic understanding of the principles of plant propagation, propagation methods of commonly cultivated plants and the basic knowledge on entrepreneurial skills required to run a small scale commercial nursery.

Thirty (30) women trainees were selected from the Below Poverty Line (BPL) to attend the course. The programme was funded under the EIACP of the MoEF&CC, Government of India.



Smt. S. Jayalakshmi, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Ooty inaugurated the programme and addressed the gathering



Expert person explaining the basics of gardening techniques to the participants



Mr. Haribasker and Mr. Mohan Kumar, Horticulture Officers handled the session on grafting and nursery bag preparation





Mr. Arunkumar, Horticulture Officer, Kallar, Nilgiris handled the theoretical and training sessions on Pepper cutting and layering



Trainees involved in preparing soil bags



The training sessions on nursery preparation were led by Mr. Kavin, Horticulture Officer, Nilgiris



Participants involved in the preparation of soil with manure and organic growth hormone and pot mixture filling in the bags



Mr. Kumaravelu, Field Officer, CPREEC, Ooty handled the session on grafting techniques and Trainees involved in hands-on training on grafting techniques



Trainees involved in land preparation for seed sowing and pot mixture filling



Ms. Sibila Mary, Joint Director of Horticulture, The Nilgiris delivered the valedictory address and distributed the certificates to the participants

Nursery Raising (Budding, Layering and Grafting) at Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

A 7-days' Capacity Building Programme on "Nursery Raising (Budding, Layering and Grafting)" for Self-Help Group (SHG) members and women commenced on November 26, 2025 at ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sippighat, South Andaman organised by CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Chennai and supported by MoEF & CC, New Delhi. Dr. Y. Rama Krishna, Principal Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK, Sippighat, South Andaman inaugurated the programme and addressed the gathering.



Dr. Y. Rama Krishna, Principal Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK, Sippighat, South Andaman inaugurated the programme and addressed the gathering



Ms. Sushma, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture), ICAR-KVK, delivered the introductory session and explained the programme objectives, followed by a field visit and demonstration on nursery management techniques



Trainees involved in preparation of soil mixture



Trainees involved in filling of polybags / pots and nutrient management



Trainees involved in seed and cutting propagation



Ms. Sushma, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture), ICAR-KVK,
handled the session on Budding Techniques



Ms. Sushma, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture), ICAR-KVK
handled the session on Layering Techniques (Air Layering and Simple Layering)



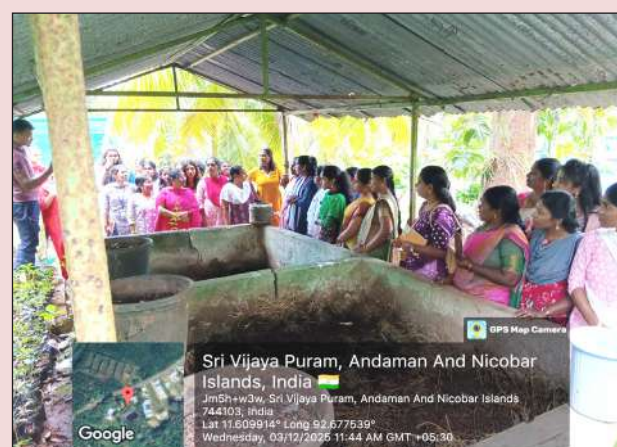
Shri A. Gopal, Project Officer, CPREEC handled the session on Nursery bag preparation from Banana sheath and Trainees involved in hands-on training in Banana sheath bag preparation



Ms. Sushma, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture), ICAR–KVK handled the session on Grafting Techniques and Trainees involved in hands-on training in Grafting Techniques



Shri Mohit, Subject Matter Specialist, Plant Protection, ICAR–KVK handled the session on Pest and Disease Management in Nurseries



Session on natural farming and vermicomposting

Valedictory Programme

The valedictory for the certificate course on “Nursery Raising (Budding, Layering and Grafting)” conducted by CPREEC EIACP PC - RP was held on December 3, 2025 at ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sippighat, South Andaman. Dr. Jaisunder, Director, ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram delivered the valedictory address and Dr. Y. Rama Krishna, Principal Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK felicitated the gathering and distributed the certificates to the participants.



Chief Guest and Guest of Honour distributed the course completion certificates to the trainees



Trainees during Valedictory programme

News channel Coverage

Sri Vijayapuram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands DD News channel covered the Valedictory function of Capacity Building Programme on **Nursery Raising – (Budding, Layering, and Grafting)** conducted by CPREEC EIACP at CPREEC Field Office, Sri Vijayapuram (Port Blair) on December 3, 2025. The links for the news coverage in YouTube Channel is given below:

<https://youtu.be/20ueUALRoYE?si=I7Sako-tIF9tZME3>

<https://youtu.be/-EZ5pD3YGLg?si=aJAW7K5cetzu-I4G>

Press Clippings:

Andaman Chronicle :: Sri Vijaya Puram, Friday, December 05, 2025

Capacity Building Programme on Nursery Raising Concludes at ICAR-KVK, Sippighat

Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 4: The 7-Day Capacity Building Programme - Certificate Course on Nursery Raising (Budding, Layering and Grafting Techniques) for Self-Help Group (SHG)



members and women, organised by the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) - EIACP PC-RP, Chennai, in collaboration with ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), South

Andaman, and supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, concluded on

Continued on P3

Continued from Page 1
03.12.2025 with a Valedictory Function held at ICAR-KVK, Sippighat.

The programme, which was conducted from November 26 to December 3, 2025, aimed at skill development and livelihood enhancement through scientific nursery management and plant propagation techniques, benefiting SHG members and women entrepreneurs interested in horticultural activities.

The Valedictory Function commenced with a welcome of the dignitaries. Ms. Sushma, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture), ICAR-KVK, delivered the Welcome Address, followed by a presentation of Programme Report and Training Highlights by Shri A. Gopal, Project Officer, EIACP-CPREEC. Participants shared their training experiences and appreciated the practical exposure provided during field demonstrations.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Y. Rama Krishna, Principal Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK, Sippighat highlighted the importance of nursery-based

entrepreneurship opportunities in the islands and encouraged participants to utilize the technical knowledge gained to generate self-employment and contribute to community-level green initiatives.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Jai Sunder, Director, ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram, in his address, appreciated CPREEC and ICAR-KVK for organising such capacity-building programmes that support women and SHG members towards sustainable livelihood. He emphasized the role of scientific nursery techniques, propagation skills, and quality planting material production in strengthening the horticulture sector across the Andaman Islands.

Certificates were distributed to all trainees who successfully completed the course by the Chief guest.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Shri A. Gopal, who expressed gratitude to the resource persons, organising team, participants, and supporting institutions.

THE ECHO OF INDIA • SRI VIJAYA PURAM

Friday • December 5, 2025

Capacity building prog on nursery raising concludes at ICAR-KVK, Sippighat

SRI VIJAYA PURAM, DEC 4/-/ The 7-Day Capacity Building Programme- Certificate Course on Nursery Raising (Budding, Layering and Grafting Techniques) for Self-Help Group (SHG) members and women, organised by the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) - EIACPPC-RP, Chennai, in collaboration with ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), South Andaman, and supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, concluded on 03.12.2025 with a Valedictory Function held at ICAR-KVK, Sippighat.

The programme, which was conducted from November 26 to December 3, 2025, aimed at skill development and livelihood enhancement through scientific nursery management and plant propagation techniques, benefiting SHG members and women entrepreneurs interested in horticultural activities.

The Valedictory Function commenced with a welcome of the dignitaries. Ms. Sushma, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture), ICAR-KVK, delivered the Welcome Address, followed by a presentation of Programme Report and Training Highlights by Shri A. Gopal, Project Officer, EIACP-CPREEC. Participants shared their training

experiences and appreciated the practical exposure provided during field demonstrations.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Y. Rama Krishna, Principal Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK, Sippighat highlighted the importance of nursery-based entrepreneurship opportunities in the islands and encouraged participants to utilize the technical knowledge gained to generate self-employment and contribute to community-level green initiatives.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Jai Sunder, Director, ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram, in his address, appreciated CPREEC and ICAR-KVK for organising such capacity-building programmes that support women and SHG members towards sustainable livelihood. He emphasized the role of scientific nursery techniques, propagation skills, and quality planting material production in strengthening the horticulture sector across the Andaman Islands. Certificates were distributed to all trainees who successfully completed the course by the Chief guest.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Shri A. Gopal, who expressed gratitude to the resource persons, organising team, participants, and supporting institutions.

Press Clipping (Andaman Chronicle and The Echo of India, Sri Vijaya Puram, December 5, 2025) on Valedictory of the Capacity Building Programme for the certificate course on “Nursery Raising (Budding, Layering and Grafting)” conducted by CPREEC EIACP PC - RP at CPREEC Field Office, Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair)

Green Skill Development Programme: Inauguration

CPREEC EIACP PC - RP's GSDP certificate course on "Micro Entrepreneur NTFP Plant Origin - Coconut Shells and Fibre Handicrafts" for ST was inaugurated on December 03, 2025 at Kuvamoola ST Village, Pandalur, The Nilgiris. Mr. Sanjeevan, Range Officer, Pandalur inaugurated the programme and Mr. Suresh, Forester, Pandalur Range felicitated the gathering.



Inauguration by Mr. Sanjeevan, Range Officer,
Pandalur



Felicitation by Mr. Suresh, Forester,
Pandalur Range



Mr. Kumaravelu, Field Officer, CPREEC
emphasized the objectives of the course.

பழங்குடியினருக்கு பசுமை திறன் பயிற்சி துவக்கம்

பந்தலூர், டிச. 6-
பந்தலூர் அருகே கூவ
மூலா பழங்குடியின கிராமத்தில், பசுமை திறன் மேம்பாட்டு பயிற்சி துவக்கப்பட்டது.

சி.பி.ஆர்., சுற்று
குழல் மையம், மத்திய
அரளின் சுற்றுச்சூழல்,
வனம் மற்றும் காலநிலை
மாற்றத்திற்கான திட்டம்
மூலம், பழங்குடியின மக்
களுக்கு, 'பசுமை திறன்
மேம்பாட்டு பயிற்சி' துவக்
கப்பட்டது.

சி.பி.ஆர்., ஒருங்கி
ணைப்பாளர் குமாரவேல்
வரவேற்று பேசுகை
யில், "பழங்குடியின மக்
கள் மத்தியில் கய வேலை,
வாய்ப்பினை ஏற்படுத்தும்
வகையில், பசுமை சார்ந்த
தொழில் பயிற்சி வழங்கப்
படுகிறது. உணவு மற்றும்
உதவி தொகை வழங்கப்
பட்டு, பயிற்சி வழங்கும்
நிலையில் அதனை பயன்
படுத்த கொள்ள முன்வர
வேண்டும்," என்றார்.

தேவாலா வனச்சரகர்
சஞ்சீவி துவக்கி வைத்து
பேசுகையில், "இயற்கை
சார்ந்து வாழும் பழங்
குடியின மக்கள் மத்தியில்
இயற்கையை பாதுகாக்கும்
வகையில் சுற்றுச்சூழல்
சார்ந்து, தொழிற்பயிற்சி
வழங்கும் நிலையில்,
அதனை பயன்படுத்தி தங்
கள் வாழ்வில் முன்னேற



பந்தலூர் அருகே கூவமூலா பழங்குடியின கிராமத்தில் பசுமை திறன் மேம்பாட்டு பயிற்சியினை தேவாலா வனச்சரகர் சஞ்சீவி துவக்கி வைத்து பேசினார்.

சஞ்சீவி துவக்கி வைத்து பேசுகையில், "இயற்கை சார்ந்து வாழும் பழங்குடியின மக்கள் மத்தியில் இயற்கையை பாதுகாக்கும் வகையில் சுற்றுச்சூழல் சார்ந்து, தொழிற்பயிற்சி வழங்கும் நிலையில், அதனை பயன்படுத்தி தங்கள் வாழ்வில் முன்னேற

பழங்குடியின மக்கள் முன்
வர வேண்டும்," என்றார்.
தொடர்ந்து, சுற்றுச்
சூழல் பாதுகாப்பு மைய
பொது செயலாளர் சிவசுப்
ரமணியம், வனவர் சுரேஷ்
குமார், பயிற்சியாளர்கள்
ரமணி, ஹரிதா மற்றும்
பழங்குடியின மக்கள் பங்
கேற்றனர்.

News Clipping (Daily newspaper - Dinamalar –
December 6, 2025, Coimbatore edition)
pertaining to the Inauguration of the GSDP
Certificate Course on Micro-Entrepreneur NTFP:
Plant Origin – Coconut Shells & Fibre Handicraft
conducted by CPREEC EIACP PC - RP
at Kuvamoola ST Village, Pandalur, The Nilgiris.

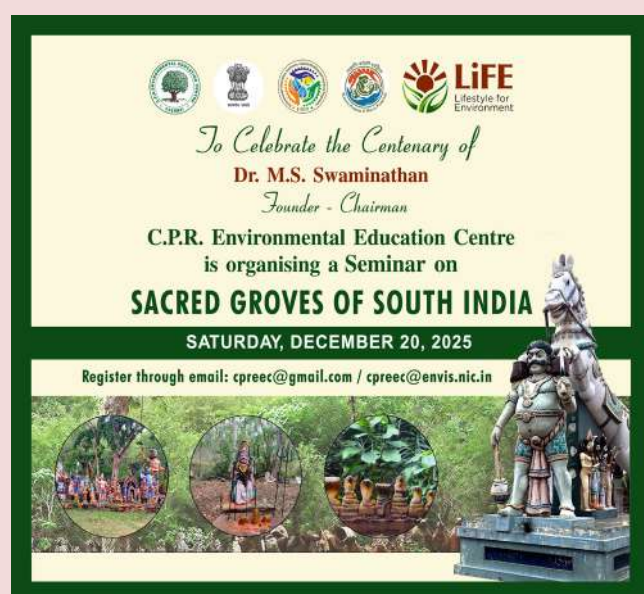
World Soil Day – December 5, 2025

As part of celebrating World Soil Day 2025, CPREEC EIACP PC - RP, Chennai developed an awareness poster highlighting this year's theme, 'Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities'.



Seminar on Sacred Groves of South India

A seminar on 'Sacred Groves of South India', organized by CPREEC EIACP PC - RP, Chennai was held on Saturday, 20.12.2025 to celebrate the Centenary of Dr M. S. Swaminathan, Founder Chairman of CPREEC. Dr. Sultan Ismail, Governing Body Member CPREEC & Member, Tamilnadu State Planning Commission inaugurated the seminar. Dr. Nanditha Krishna Honorary Secretary, CPREEC presided over the function. Eight eminent speakers delivered lectures on various topics covering the Sacred Groves of South India. 125 students and Assistant Professors from various colleges and 30 members of the general public participated in the programme.



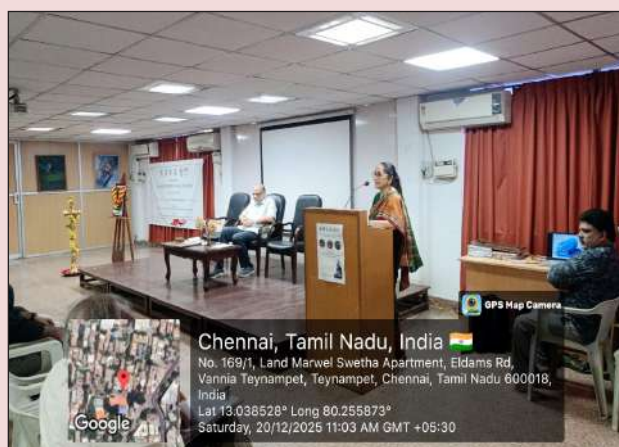
E-invite for the Seminar on Sacred Groves of South India



Inaugural address by Dr. Sultan Ismail,
Governing Body Member, CPREEC & Member,
Tamilnadu State Planning Commission



Dr. C.G. Kushalappa, Former Dean,
College of Forestry, University of Agricultural &
Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga
delivered a lecture on Sacred Groves of Karnataka



Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Honorary Secretary,
CPREEC presided over the function



Mr. R. Selvapandian, Environmental Education
Officer (Retd.) C.P.R. Environmental Education
Centre, Chennai delivered a lecture on
“Restoration of Sacred Groves”



Dr. T. Ravishankar, Former Associate Director,
M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation
delivered a lecture on “Sacred Groves of
Andhra Pradesh & Telangana”



Dr. D. Narasimhan, Associate Professor (Retd.),
Centre for Floristic Research, Department of Botany,
Madras Christian College (Autonomous), Chennai
delivered a lecture on “Biodiversity and
Sacred Groves”



Dr. P. Thamizoli, Social Anthropologist,
Independent Researcher delivered a lecture on
“Anthropological perspective of Sacred Groves”



Dr. V. Krishnan, Officer on Special Duty (Retd.),
State Training Centre, Directorate of
School Education, Govt. of Puducherry delivered
a lecture on “Sacred Groves of Puducherry”



Dr. Kannan Warriar, Director,
Kerala Forest Research Institute, Thrissur
delivered a lecture on “Sacred Groves of Kerala”



Dr. E.D. Israel Oliver King, Ethno-Botanist
and Director, M.S.Swaminathan Research
Foundation delivered a lecture on
“Sacred Groves of Kolli Hills”



Abstracts of Recent Publications

- ❖ *Neha, G.T., Tarush, C., and Rina, S. (2024). “Religious Tourism at Sacred Eco Heritage Sites of Braj: Transformations, Concerns and Way Forward”. In Book: Religion Tourism and Pilgrimage in India (pp.77-97), Publisher: Bharti Publications, New Delhi, India.*

India being the cradle of some of the world's major religions, dominates as a prime destination for religious tourism. There are a number of studies on 'Religious Tourism' in disciplines like geography, anthropology, ecology and religious studies, yet it is a very under researched area in terms of the impact of tourism on the environment and the socio-cultural-political complexities associated with it. The sacred sites of built character still have some governance and management frameworks, but the Sacred Natural Sites, in the absence of methodology to delineate the boundaries, influence zones and governance mechanism, bear the uncontrolled brunt of religious tourism. This paper tends to contribute to a better understanding of spatial transformations and other impacts of religious tourism at Sacred Eco Heritage Sites, taking the case of Braj Region in India. Braj is a place where nature can be seen in an interdependent partnership with spirituality. Braj is located in the vicinity of River Yamuna and is internationally known as the land where young lord Krishna spent his childhood and performed lilas (playful dance) with his consort Radha Rani and cowherd friends. The paper provides an overview of the Sacred Eco Heritage Sites of Braj, mapping of

historic landscapes through archival analysis, and transformations using Geographic Information Systems. It demonstrates the capabilities and practical applications of satellite imagery in documenting, mapping, monitoring and conducting detailed analysis of Sacred Eco Heritage Sites. And it suggests several parameters that are essential to be investigated for the effective conservation of Sacred Eco Heritage Sites to avoid widespread losses.

Keywords: *Religious Tourism; Braj Region; Sacred Eco Heritage Sites; Geographic Information Systems; Conservation Framework.*

- ❖ *Jayraj, B., Lancelot, D., and Suhani, P. (2024). “A review on sacred groves in eastern central Gujarat”. International Journal of Botany Studies, Vol. 9 (4), pp. 12 – 16.*

The sacred forests of eastern and central Gujarat, India are evidence of the deep-rooted connection between communities and their natural environment. Protected by generations of local residents, these green spaces contain unique biodiversity and are of great cultural significance. This essay delves into the essence of these sacred spaces, exploring their ecological value, cultural roots and on-going conservation efforts.

Keywords: *Sacred Groves; eastern central Gujarat; plant conservation; Biodiversity; Eastern Gujarat India; Resource management techniques; religion; soil biodiversity preservation; natural state protection; forest preservation, sustainability.*

- ❖ Akther, R., and Keshlata. (2023). **“Beliefs and Practices among Indigenous Tribes of Jammu and Kashmir”**. *Innovations*, Vol. 73, pp. 777 – 783.

According to the 2011 Census, the Gujjar and Bakarwal make up more than 11.9 percentage of Jammu and Kashmir's total population, making them the third-largest ethnic groups in the state. The only group of people in the state that has preserved its culture and heritage over the years is a Scheduled Tribe. A community's and an individual's shared set of ritualistic activities and beliefs are referred to as religion. The organisation and operation of indigenous religion in both the traditional and contemporary contexts are given particular attention in this study. In this study, the Gujjar tribe of State traditional indigenous beliefs and customs are mapped. The majority Muslim Gujjars of J&K still practise ancient traditions and practises today. This research paper's major goal is to shed light on the native beliefs and customs of the Jammu and Kashmir, tribes. In this study, derivative sources of data were gathered from books, newspapers, the census, Google and other websites. This research takes a theoretical look into the Gujjar people of Jammu and Kashmir to better understand their culture, customs and beliefs.

Keywords: Tribes; Scheduled Tribe; Indigenous; Belief; Practices.

- ❖ Firoz, K.T. (2019). **“Chola Naikans: The Cave Man of Western Ghats”**. *Research Review International Journal of Multidisciplinary*, Vol. 4 (6), pp. 525 – 528.

India is famous for its rich bio-diversity and varied cultural heritage. One can notice a synchronous relationship between the natural resources and endemic way of life of groups of people scattered across the country. There exist different races and groups in the country with sole mode of life specific to them. Scheduled Tribes in India are generally considered to be 'Adivasis', meaning indigenous people or original inhabitants of the country. The tribes have been confined to low status and are often physically and socially isolated instead of being absorbed in the mainstream Hindu population. The present paper aims to document the traditional way of life and social background, cultural life of one such groups of adivasis (*chola naikkans*-cave man of Kerala) residing in the Eranad Taluk of Malappuram District of Kerala. The valley is bounded on the North by the Vythiri Taluk of Wayanad District, on the East by the Nilgiri District of Tamil Nadu, on the South by Nilambur village, on the West by the Manjeri Tahsil headquarters. The forest is divided in to three ranges – Nilambur range, Chugathara range and Karulai range. The tribes, who live in isolation, practice their own system of life and settlement. This research effort brings light in a timely manner to highlight their need for preserving their culture along with the traditional life style of this group.

Keywords: Adivasis; Cave man; settlement pattern; social life.

- ❖ Nanthakumar, S. (2019). **“Karikkiyur Rock Art – A Study”**. *Review of Research*, Vol. 8 (8), pp. 1 – 7.

Rock art is a terminology used to refer to paintings, carving and engravings found on the ceilings and walls of caves or rock shelters, located in the plains. In India, rock art is also termed as ‘cave paintings’.

Keywords: *Rock shelters; Cave paintings.*

❖ *Venkatalaksjamma, M., and Munirathnamma, N. (2015). “Kolan-Bharathi-The one and only one Saraswathi temple in Andhra Pradesh, Kolan Bharathi-Utsavas”. Paripex Indian Journal of Research, Vol. 4 (4), pp. 1 – 2.*

Kolanu Bharathi Temple is the abode of Sri Bharathi. This place is a locally famous pilgrim destination. It has an ancient Saraswathi temple worshipped with the name of Bharathi. A small perennial stream forms a water body (*kolanu*) near the

Bharathi temple. The word “*Kolanu*” (in Telugu) with usage over the years has become “*Kollam*”. That is how the temple is known as “*Kollam Bharathi*”. The same temple complex also has seven temples dedicated to Siva (Sapta Linga Kshetram). Siva Ratri is a major festival here. It also has beautiful waterfalls. This temple is nestled in the hills of Nallamala forest. It is around 10 kms from Kothapalle. The nearest village is Sivapuram about 4 kms away. People who visit the place should obey many rules and regulations there. They should consider meat sacred and should not scare animals there. They should not smoke or drink in the premises and should not have non-vegetarian food.

Keywords: *Education; Kolan-Bharathi; Poojas; Siva Temples.*



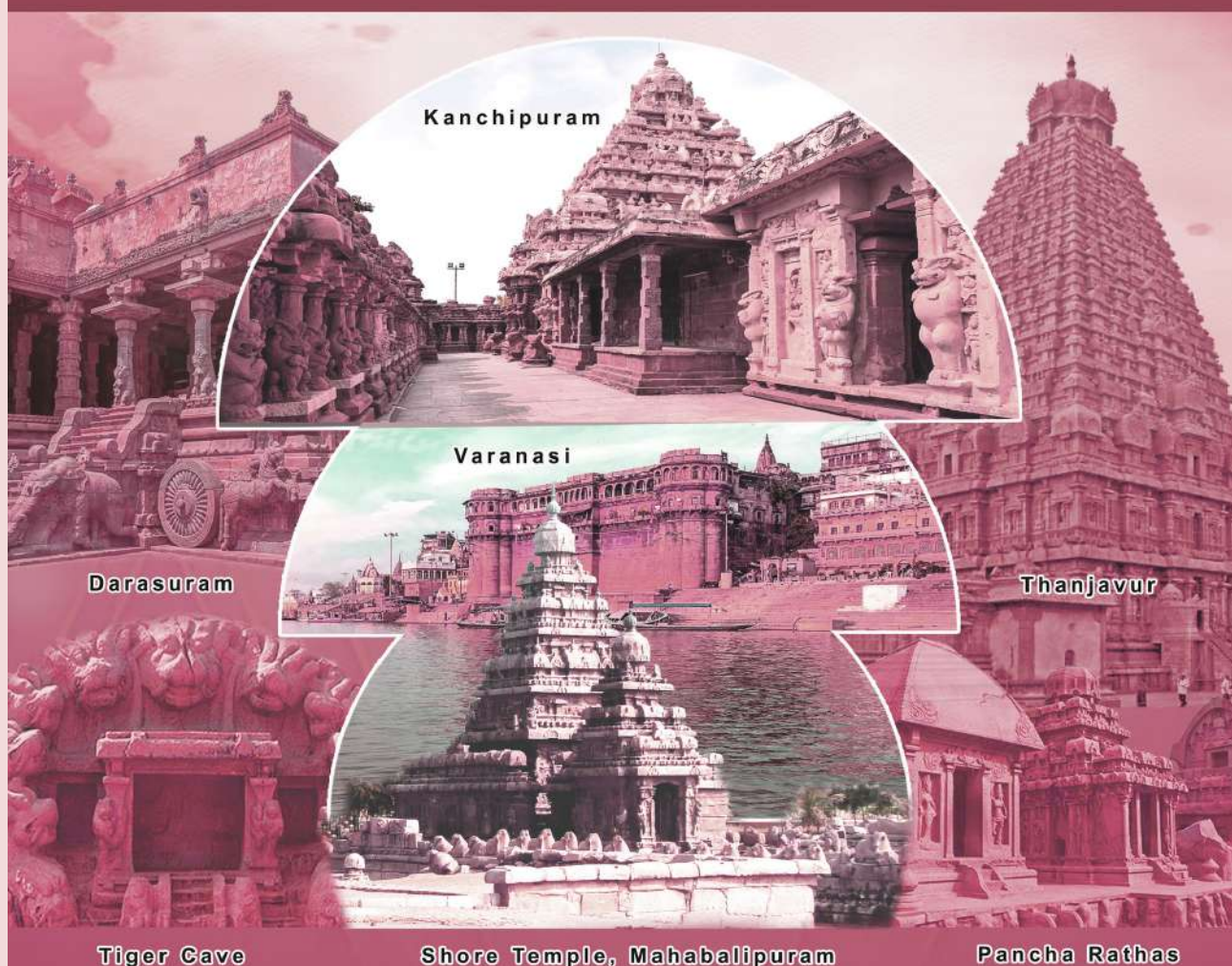


**C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre
CPREEC EIACP PC-RP, Chennai**

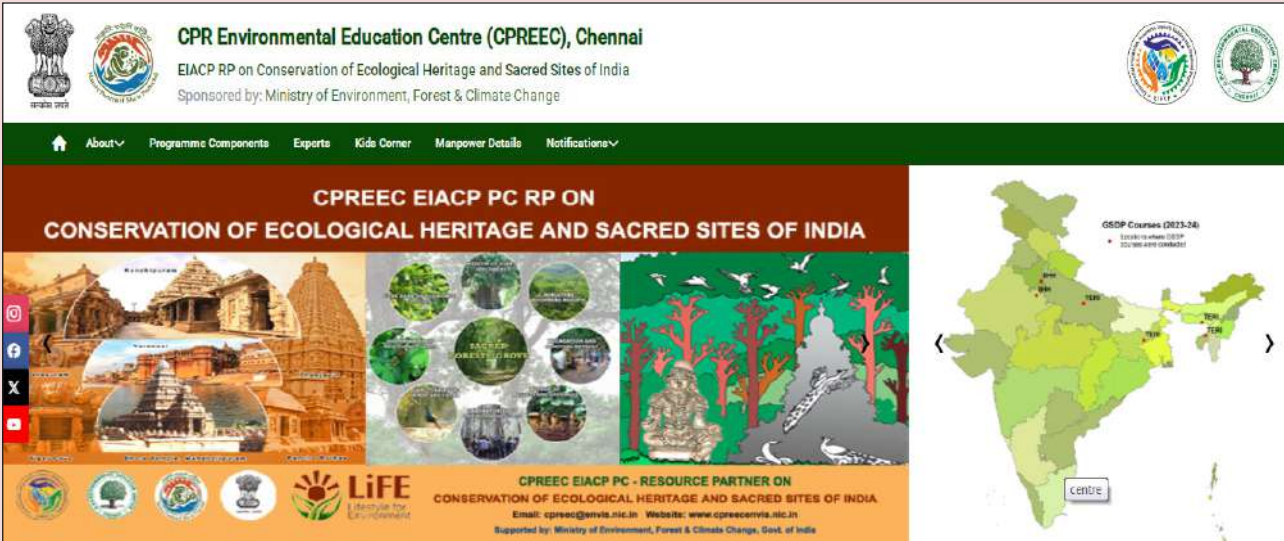
on

**Conservation of Ecological Heritage and
Sacred Sites of India**

Wishes you a
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026



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



CPREEC EIACP PC RP ON CONSERVATION OF ECOLOGICAL HERITAGE AND SACRED SITES OF INDIA

CPR Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC), Chennai
 EIACP RP on Conservation of Ecological Heritage and Sacred Sites of India
 Sponsored by: Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

CPREEC EIACP PC - RESOURCE PARTNER ON CONSERVATION OF ECOLOGICAL HERITAGE AND SACRED SITES OF INDIA
 Email: cpreec@envis.nic.in Website: www.cpreecenvis.nic.in
 Supported by: Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India

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



cpreeceiacrp



<https://enviscpreecrp.blogspot.com>



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 : www.eiacp.moef.gov.in/drc/centre/CPREEC