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REGION

TIMES OF INDIA

WHALE CARCASS WASHES ASHORE

K. Antony Xavier



ALL THAT REMAINS: A carcass of a whale washed ashore at Uvari near Thisayanvilai in Tirunelveli district on Tuesday. A large number of people visited the shore to have a look at the highly decomposed carcass

PIL wants govt to dredge mouth of Pulicat lake

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The Madras high court has ordered notices to the central and state government on a PIL to dredge the mouth of Pulicat lake to ensure free flow of sea water into the lake. The Pulicat lagoon is considered to be the second largest brackish water body in India.

Usha, a native of Thiruvallur, also wanted the court to direct the authorities to maintain the lake and restore it to its pristine state free from any pollution or encroachment. Admitting the plea, a division bench of Jus-

tice M Sathyanarayanan and Justice N Seshasayee directed the authorities to file their responses in four weeks.

According to the petitioner, the authorities responsible to maintain the lake have failed to do so resulting in dumping of garbage, sewage, and industrial wastes into the waterbody. Failure on part of the authorities to prevent such contamination would amount to violation of rights conferred under Articles 21 and 51 of the Constitution causing serious health issue to the Pulicat fishermen community, the petitioner said.

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Four-year-old leopard and its two cubs found dead near Nanjangud

MYSURI: A four-year-old leopard and its four month old male and female cubs were found dead in a private farm land at Hallare village in Nanjangud Taluk of the District. Forest officials said on Tuesday that the carcasses of the animals were found on Monday and veterinary Doctors Dr Nagaraj and Dr Shivakumar carried out a postmortem to ascertain the reason for their deaths. Officials said that death appears to be unnatural and several parts of the bodies have been collected for the forensic report. Exact reasons will be known after receiving the report. DCF Prasath Kumar and ACF Parameswarappa visited the spot.

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'Unwell, distressed' tiger attacks zoo keeper

NEW DELHI

An animal keeper was on Tuesday attacked by an "unwell and distressed" Bengal tiger in the Delhi Zoo when he went to fill the water bowl. The zoo's curator said the incident happened around 5 a.m. and zoo-keeper had suffered minor injuries to his right hand. PTI

THE HINDU

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29 PARAKEETS RESCUED IN KOVAI

■ 29 rose ringed parakeets were rescued by the Forest Department in Coimbatore on Tuesday

■ They were kept for sale in a cramped carton box on the Singanallur-Vellalore Road

■ Keeping parakeets, listed under Schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, is an offence

■ On a tip off, Forest Department officials found two persons selling them. However, the two men were let off with a warning

The rescued birds had their primary flight feathers and beaks clipped and were without tail feathers. They will now be nursed at the rescue centre of the forest department until their feathers grow to normal size. When they can start to fly, they would then be left in their natural habitat

D Venkatesh, DFO, Coimbatore



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SMART CITY WILL HAVE NO PLACE FOR FAUNA

G.SRINIVASAN | DC
THANJAVUR, SEPT 10

Children will not have the delight of looking at Deer and other wild animals in Sivaganga park here when it is opened after renovation. The park is reconstructed under smart city programme. As the licence to keep wildlife in the garden came to an end in December 2018 and as forest department felt that keeping wildlife in the park is not conducive hereafter; deer in the park are being shifted to wild life sanctuary at Point Calimere (Kodaiakara) in Nagapattinam district.

On Monday thirty deer-29 female and one male were packed in a special vehicle designed to transport them

to Kodiakral. According to city corporation officials, next batch of eleven deer-eight male and three female will be sent on Wednesday. "It is not easy to transport them. The vehicle itself had a forest appearance inside and the animals were trained to board the vehicle before they were taken on Monday" said forest department officials who oversee the operation. "We have given a gap of one-day and on Wednesday we will shift the next batch of deer," said the officials. Nine rabbits have also been shifted.

Sivaganga park, the main tourist attraction, particularly for school children, had a mini zoo with animals like fox, rabbits, deer and even camel. A proposal



Deer grazing at the Sivaganga park in Thanjavur, Which is to be restructured under smart city programme.

-DC

to improve the zoo and add more animals was sent to the Forest department and permission was also got in the past.

But now a zoo has become

a thing of the past and the park will have only amusement facilities for children hereafter. Thanjavur city corporation has taken up renovation of Sivaganga

park and tank under Area Based Development (ABD) under Smart city programme of Thanjavur.

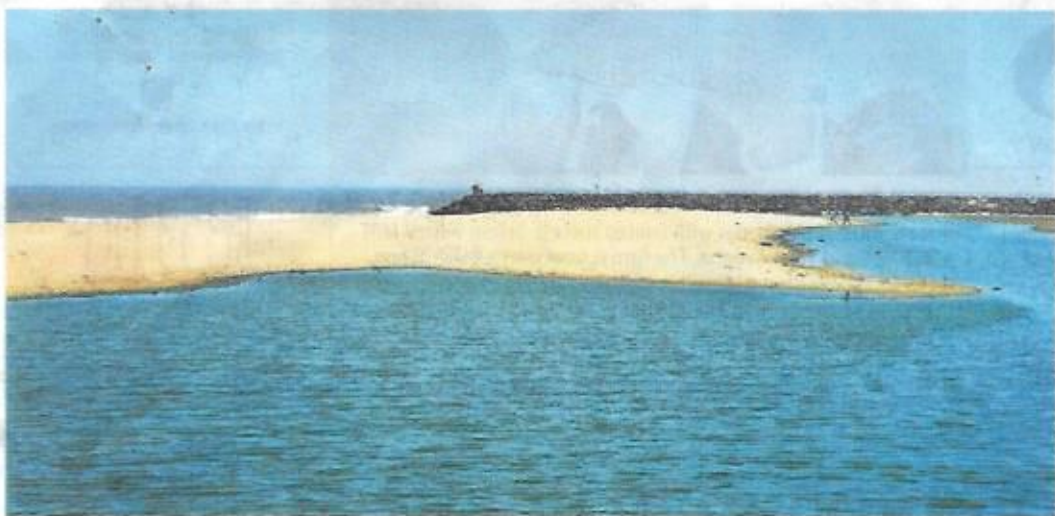
Renovation is done at a cost of Rs 8.10 crore. The

park was shut for tourists during this year summer as city corporation has taken up the work.

As the park and tank are located within the

UNESCO monument complex, namely Sivaganga Little Fort, entire improvements will be done considering the heritage value of the park and without disturbing the heritage monuments available, officials clarified. Improvements are done as per norms of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), they added.

"It is going to be a complete renovation with improvements to be done to infrastructure, lighting, constructing and maintaining kiosks, improvement to the entrance of the park, greenery, park furniture, musical water fountains, children play equipment and renewal of the toy train which was running inside the park," officials said.



The Muttukadu bar mouth choked due to sand accumulation and failure to carry out periodic dredging | SHIBA PRASAD SAHU

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Curious case of Muttukadu lagoon turning green

Algae thriving in estuary produce toxins that are harmful to humans

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

MUTTUKADU lagoon on East Coast Road has become a ticking bomb loaded with harmful toxins that can prove fatal for humans as well as aquatic life. The entire water body, which is an important fishing ground, has turned green due to algal bloom.

This algae that cause discoloration is not an ordinary species. Marine biologists identify it as Cyanobacteria (*Microcystis aeruginosa*), commonly called blue-green algae that are capable of producing toxins (cyanotoxins) that affect humans, fishes and shellfishes.

It has adverse effect on skin, liver or nervous system. Illegal discharge of untreated effluents and choking of bar mouth are causing the algal bloom, experts say.

They can also cause water quality deterioration associated with excessive biomass production (such as depleted dissolved oxygen levels, decline in fish population and detrimental changes in water quality). Local fishermen are already reporting fish kill. A week ago, thousands of fish washed ashore dead near Karikatukuppam hamlet indicating the deterioration of the lagoon's health.

The water body is also used for recreational activities. Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) operates a boat house at Muttukadu. Sekhar, a fisherman at Kovalam said fish catch has drastically reduced in the lagoon. He blamed it on industrial and domestic waste discharge. Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA), which runs an experimental station using the lagoon, has abandoned activities due to toxic algal bloom.



Algal bloom spread across the Muttukadu estuary | SHIBA PRASAD SAHU

A team of five researchers, led by S Vasudevan, from the Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology in Annamalai University in 2015 conducted an extensive study and published a research article in leading international science journal 'Science Inventions Today' on how Muttukadu estuary is continuously reporting bloom of toxic algae year after year. They recommended for regular monitoring to conserve the fishery resources and to protect human health.

Root cause for crisis
Joe K Kizhakudan, officer-in-charge, Kovalam Field Laboratory of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), told *Express* that the root cause for the crisis was choking of the Muttukadu bar mouth.

Root cause for crisis

For the last three months, the

mouth is closed due to formation of sand bar. "For survival of any estuary, there should be constant exchange of sea water. When this stops, eutrophication happens. What is happening at Muttukadu is really worrisome. Due to the anthropogenic activities, high level of nutrients is carried into the estuary resulting in the bloom. The nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorus, along with solar radiation will enhance the algal growth," he said.

Eutrophication is a condition where the estuary is enriched with minerals and nutrients which induce excessive growth of algae and this process may result in oxygen depletion in the water body.

GS Sameeran, Director of Fisheries, said immediate steps will be taken to dredge the bar mouth. "I will also take up the issue of illegal discharge of untreated industrial and domestic effluents into the estuary with State Pollution Control Board."

Open spaces near Buckingham canal to be developed as an urban forest

Corporation to adopt Miyawaki technique of Japan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Chennai Corporation has kickstarted work on preparing a detailed report for developing public spaces along the Buckingham Canal. The work will be carried out adopting Japanese technique for urban forestry.

Civic officials said the first phase of the project along the canal will adopt the Japanese technique of Miyawaki for urban forest owing to inadequate space in the congested parts of the city. Other agencies such as the Water Resources Department (WRD) may take up resettlement later after getting the nod from the State government.

Two areas identified

Corporation officials have identified two localities along the canal for the projects.

"The detailed project report will be prepared in two months. Urban forest will be developed along a two-km stretch from Madhya Kailash MRTS to Thiruvanmiyur MRTS. We will adopt the Miyawaki technique to create a



An urban forest will be developed along a 2-km stretch from Madhya Kailash MRTS to Thiruvanmiyur MRTS. •FILE PHOTO

dense urban forest in the area," said an official. The project is estimated at ₹20 crore.

The space will have many recreational facilities such as a cycle and walking trail. "We will not demolish any building for the project. We will only remove encroachments in the area," said an official.

Street makeover

Similarly, Kalvi Varu Street along the canal in Mylapore in the vicinity of Mundakakanniamman Koil Street has been identified for a makeover.

Estimated to cost ₹4 crore, it will have street fur-

niture, walkways, parking space and greenery.

"We will get CRZ clearance for the project shortly. The area will have attractive lighting," said an official.

The road connecting Kutchery Road and Mundakakanniamman Koil Street has been a dumping ground, causing pollution in the neighbourhood. Greenery is expected to be developed in a 400m stretch with a width of 18m.

Former Chennai Corporation Floor leader V. Sukumar Babu said the illegal inlets in canal should be plugged and the civic agencies should develop adequate infrastructure for sewage treatment.

இரை தேடி குவியும் பறவைகள்

TIMES OF INDIA



▶ மதுராந்தகம் அருகே சிக்கனாகுப்பம் பக்கிங்காம் கால்வாய் தண்ணீரில் இரை தேடி ஆயிரக்கணக்கான வர்ண நாரைகள் வந்து குவிந்துள்ளன.

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