

# Nature interpretation centre opened



STAFF REPORTER

TIRUVANNAMALAI, FEBRUARY 03, 2018 01:28 IST



## **An initiative to help students develop a better understanding of nature and its complex inter-connectedness**

Collector K.S. Kandasamy inaugurated Arunachala Nature Interpretation Centre in the Arunagiri Forest Park near the Arunagiri children's park on Friday.

According to a press release, the centre was a collaboration between the local administration and the Forest Way Trust.

The objective of the interpretation centre is to help students and public develop a better understanding of nature and its complex inter-connectedness, with particular focus on the area around Tiruvannamalai.

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The Forest Way Trust has been conducting regular nature education programmes for local schools at the forest park. Now, visits to the interpretation centre will become a part of the initiative.

Schools and colleges can bring their students for a visit to the centre by fixing up earlier. A nature expert will interact with the students, and explain the various aspects on display, the release said.

The centre will be opened on Saturday mornings to those interested.

As it is a forest area, visits should be booked in advance, and visitors must go with a guide. The number of persons will be restricted to preserve the natural balance, the release added.

The trust plans to conduct nature walks for children and public on weekends. This will include bird watching, learning about trees, shrubs and other flora and fauna of the region.

The Forest Way Trust has also begun work on a new project to develop a park surrounding Thamaraiikulam in Tiruvannamalai.

Archana Kalyani, district forest officer and Parijatham, commissioner of Tiruvannamalai Municipality were present.

## **Book on birds**

A total of 197 birds find place in a guide to the birds of Tiruvannamalai compiled by the Forest Way Trust and released by the Collector K.S. Kandasamy on Friday.

According to V. Arun, managing trustee, Forest Way Trust, these bird species were spotted within 10 km radius of Arunachala Hills – including the hill and the waterbodies.

“The number of species has been going up with increase in the green cover. There has been a dramatic increase in the last 10 years, particularly in the last three to four years. We have recorded 60 to 70 species in a year, and a little more,” Mr. Arun said.

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Some birds that are usually spotted in a forest landscape were found here.

Black Eagle, which is a large bird, was spotted in Tiruvannamalai, he said, adding that Yellow-throated bulbul, generally found in rocky regions, was also spotted.

The book has colour pictures and illustrations of the birds found in Tiruvannamalai.

“Our resident artist Kumar has been painting pictures of the birds spotted in the region. The book has both photographs of the birds spotted, and photos of his paintings. It has information on where the birds were locally found,” he said.