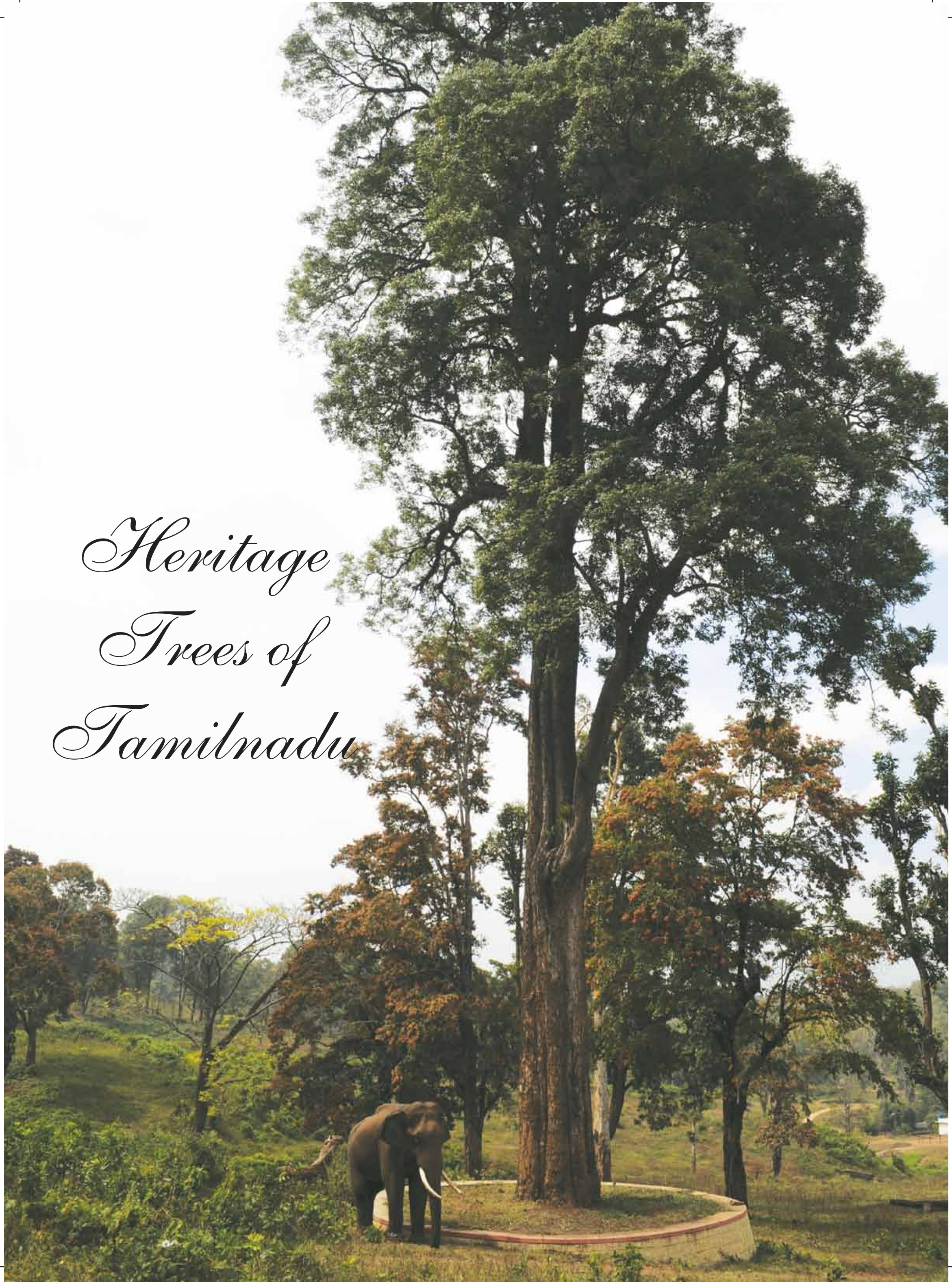
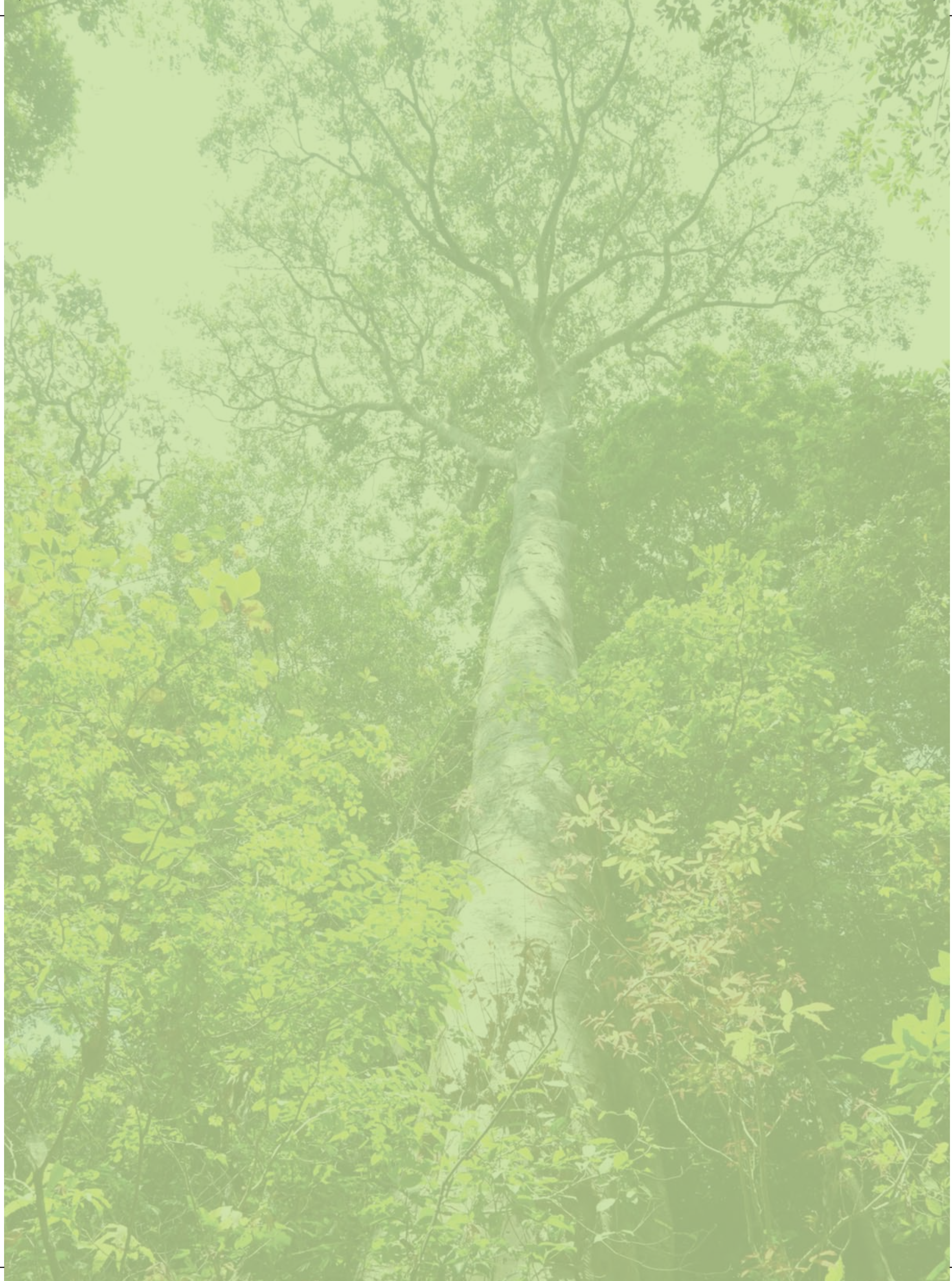




*Heritage
Trees of
Tamilnadu*







P R E F A C E

Forests and tree covers approximately 30% of the Earth's land surface and provide critical ecosystem goods and services, including food, fodder, water, shelter, nutrient cycling, and cultural and recreational value. Forests also store carbon, provide habitat for a wide range of species and help alleviate land degradation and desertification. Climate change and forests are intrinsically linked. The forests and the wood they produce trap and store carbon dioxide, playing a major role in mitigating climate change. Trees and forests help alleviate these changes by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and converting it during photosynthesis to carbon, which they then "store" in the form of wood and vegetation, a process referred to as "carbon sequestration. Forests are also one of the most biodiversity rich habitats on Earth.

Forests are increasingly threatened as a result of deforestation, destruction, fragmentation, climate change and other stressors that can be linked to human activity. The Government of Tamilnadu have initiated a number of conservation projects and programmes to combat the process of deforestation with active participation of community. We have largely succeeded in arresting the destruction and degradation of our forest, but it requires continuous follow up action to reach sustainability.

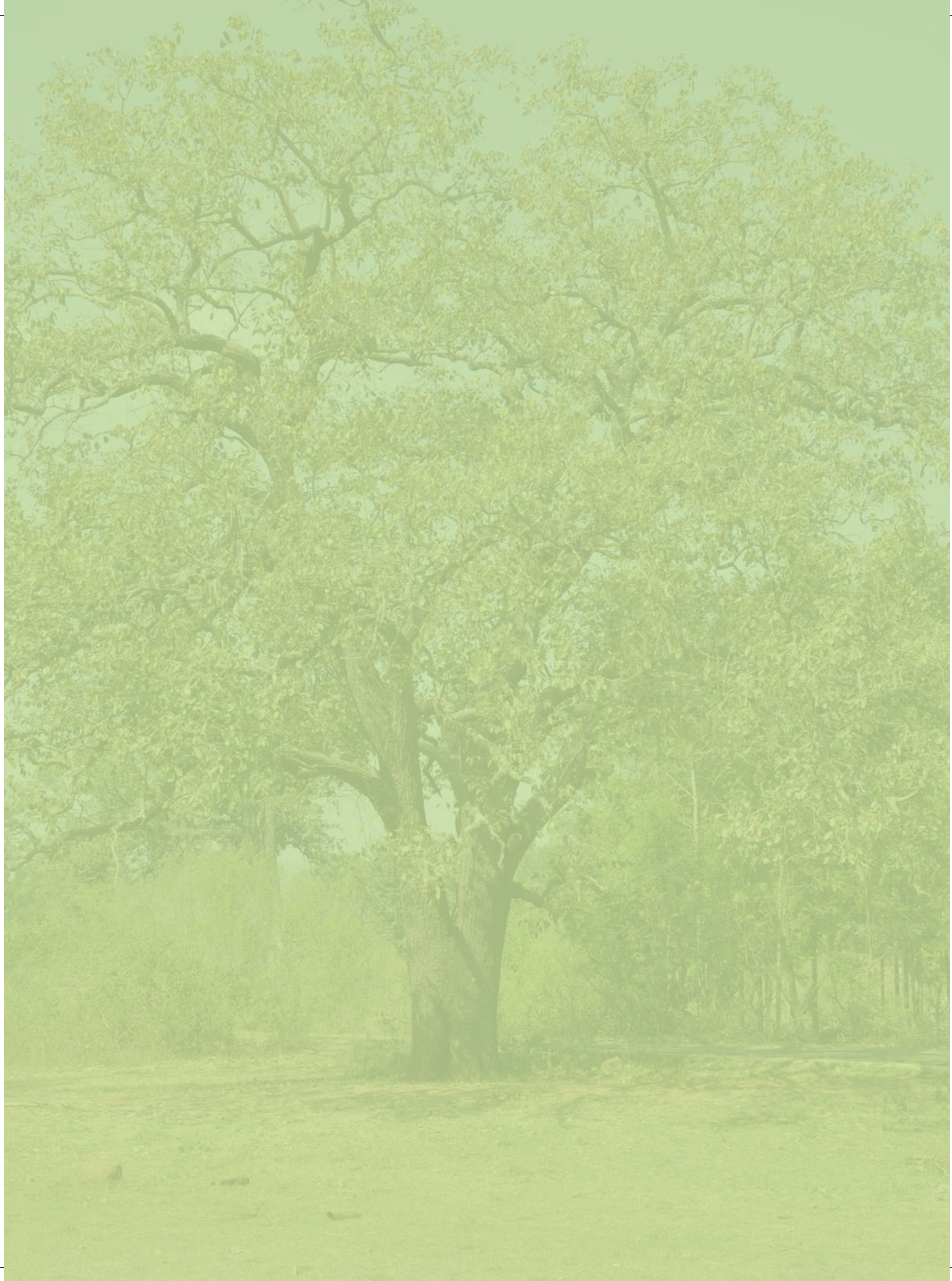
Our effort in compilation of a coffee table book on "Heritage Trees" of Tamilnadu is a part of such conservation programme that safeguards and promotes appreciation of our natural heritage. A heritage tree is typically a large, individual tree with unique value, which is considered irreplaceable. The major criteria for 50 heritage trees in this book are age, rarity, and size, as well as spiritual, aesthetic, botanical, ecological, and historical value. Estimates of age are made based on the tree's size and presumed growth. These trees are found in reserved forest, community land or in private lands.

I am grateful to Mr. Venu Srinivasan, CMD TVS Motor Company Ltd. for not only supporting and extending financial help in printing this document but also writing a motivating informative foreword. A totally degraded Santhavasal Reserved Forest in Thiruvannamalai district has since been fully restored by his initiatives alone. The contribution of Mr Venu Srinivasan in conservation of forest and wildlife in private and public land will ever remain as a remarkable model, for any other private citizen to follow suit.

The professional work done by Dr. C.K.Sreedharan I.F.S (Rtd) Former PCCF and HOFF and Dy. Chairman, Srinivasan Services Trust in designing, executing, editing and completing this memorable work is highly appreciated. I am also grateful to Mr. A.C. Soundarrajan I.F.S(Rtd) former Deputy Conservator of Forests for sharing photos and details of a few heritage trees from his valuable collections.

These trees take decades to mature gracefully and beautify our landscape. We intend to follow up this documentation with initiatives such as awareness creation on conservation of this national wealth, installation of interpretive signage and application of prophylactic measures to prevent disease and damage to heritage trees. We hope that this treatise about the exceptionally large and aged magnificent trees existing in the state of Tamilnadu will arouse more interest and support from all concerned in conservation of our precious natural resources.

R.K.Upadhyay I.F.S
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Research and Education





Foreword

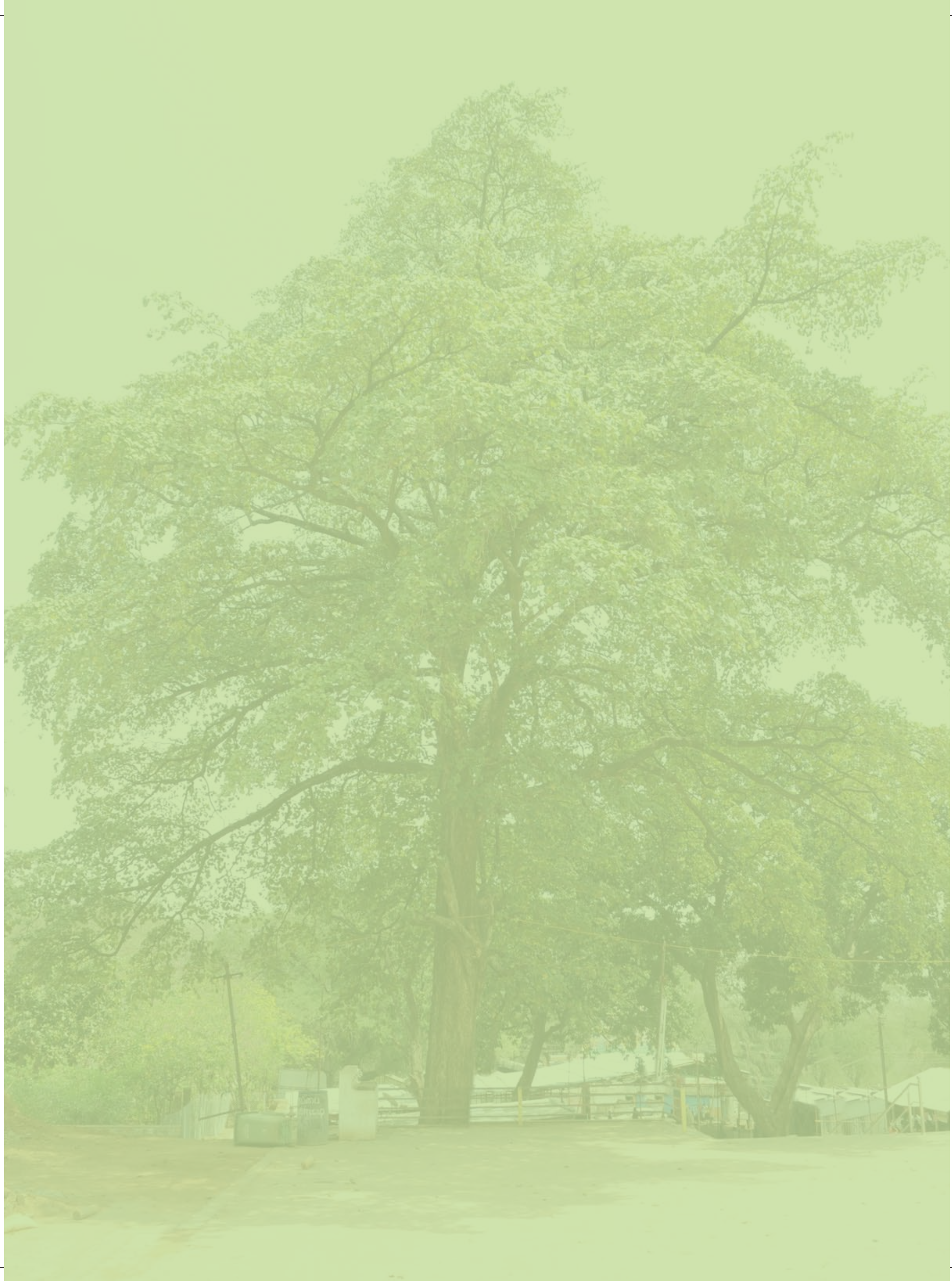
It gives me great pleasure to write a foreword to a book that aims to catalogue, with empathy and careful research, the heritage trees of Tamilnadu. From the first green shoots pushing skywards to the sweep of a canopy spreading majestically at the crown, trees represent the pulsating rhythms of the Universe, silently noting the passage of time, the changing seasons, reminding us as singular signposts, of the interconnectivity between Man and Nature. From time immemorial, trees have also been repositories of myth and folklore, enriching the social, historical, religious and secular fabric of our lives. Whether the arasa maram or peepul tree, the sacred fig or Bodhi, the mighty redwood or the fragrant sandal, trees have remained etched in human consciousness as symbols of fecundity, selflessly providing oxygen without and an ecosystem within, allowing life itself to burgeon and flourish. No less remarkable is the ecological and economic value of trees, thrown into high relief in modern times with the imminent threat of global warming and climate change looming large. As a Buddhist sutra rightly states, 'you will find something more in the woods than in books. Trees and stones will teach you that which you cannot learn even from masters'

As conscientious corporate citizens, we at TVS Motor Company, are committed to reforestation and afforestation projects with an aim to revivify and strengthen fragile ecosystems or to safeguard endangered species. We plant, nurture and sustain an average of 5 lakh trees annually through the Srinivasan Services Trust, the social service arm of TVS Motor Company. The Srinivasan Services Trust, has successfully facilitated reforestation projects in 1,75,250 hectares of the Eastern Ghats in association with the Forest Department and with active community participation in 375 villages in Vellore and the Thiruvannamalai districts of Tamilnadu. The TVS Motor Company campus at Hosur has successfully supported the regeneration of 10,486 sandal (*Santalum album*) trees in 50 acres resulting in the creation of the largest natural sandal gene pool in Tamilnadu of this endangered valuable species.

A request from my mother to document trees unique to Tamilnadu, was indeed the genesis of a project that has resulted in the publication of this coffee table book. We were delighted that Mr. R.K. Upadhyay, I.F.S, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Research and Education) of the Tamilnadu Forest Department and his team, readily took up the task to research and catalogue trees particular to Tamilnadu. This resultant book, beautifully showcases the biggest, the oldest and some of the rarest trees of the region, complete with details of location and singular characteristics. I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation for the dedication and diligence of Mr. R.K. Upadhyay, I.F.S, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Research and Education), Dr. S Balaji, I.F.S (Rtd), former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Research and Education) Ms. Mita Banerji I.F.S, (CCF Research) and their respective team members. This book, remarkable for its content and aesthetic production, will undoubtedly be a treasure trove both for seasoned tree aficionados and for those just beginning to discover the rich diversity that is quite literally, at their doorstep. It is in equal measure an invitation to wonder and rejoice at Nature's munificence and a clarion call to protect and bequeath 'a green thought in a green shade', for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Venu Srinivasan', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Venu Srinivasan
Chairman, TVS Motor Company



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***Adansonia digitata*(AanaiPuliyamaram)**

***Adansonia digitata* L.(Malvaceae) Baobab,
monkey-bread tree, Tamil Name : Aanai Puliyamaram.**

(GPS Coordinates : E 77.56387° & N 09.43877°)

Called as 'life of trees', they usually grow as solitary individuals. Its presence indicates availability of water underneath deserts. Traders brought it to India from Africa.

Have a characteristically bottle shaped trunk.

**It is located in Chinmaya vidyalaya school,
Rajapalayam in Virudnagar district. It is 23.4 metres in height and 17.2 metres in girth. Estimated age is over 500 years. The largest girths in living trees are attributed to *Adansonia digitata* in Africa with measurements of 43 metres (141 ft) recorded.**



***Ailanthus excelsa*(Pi-nari maram)**

***Ailanthus excelsa* Roxb**

(Simarubaceae) Pi-Nari Maram

(GPS Coordinates: E 77.0037° & N 11.38946°)

**This tree is located in Thekkankadu Saragam, ,
Uliyur, Sirumugai range in Coimbatore district. It is
estimated to be over 150 years old. Being a soft
wood, it is a preferred tree in matchstick industry.**

It is used as fodder for goats in India.

It is one of the ideal trees used to trap

Suspended Particulate

Matter (SPM).



***Albizia saman*(Thoongu Vagai)**

***Albizia saman* Jacq.Merr.(Fabaceae)**

**Rain tree, Thoongu Vagai . (GPS Coordinates:
N 13.0418° & E080.015°).**

Rain tree, is a common ornamental and avenue tree species. Its Tamil name literally translates to “sleeping Albizia/Vaagai tree”, so named due to the tree’s light sensitive leaflets in compound leaves folding up in the evenings and remaining so throughout the night. One of the oldest of the species in Tamil Nadu is over 150 years old and can be seen at the Government Museum, Egmore, Chennai where it was planted during the British period.



***Artocarpus heterophyllus*(Pala)**

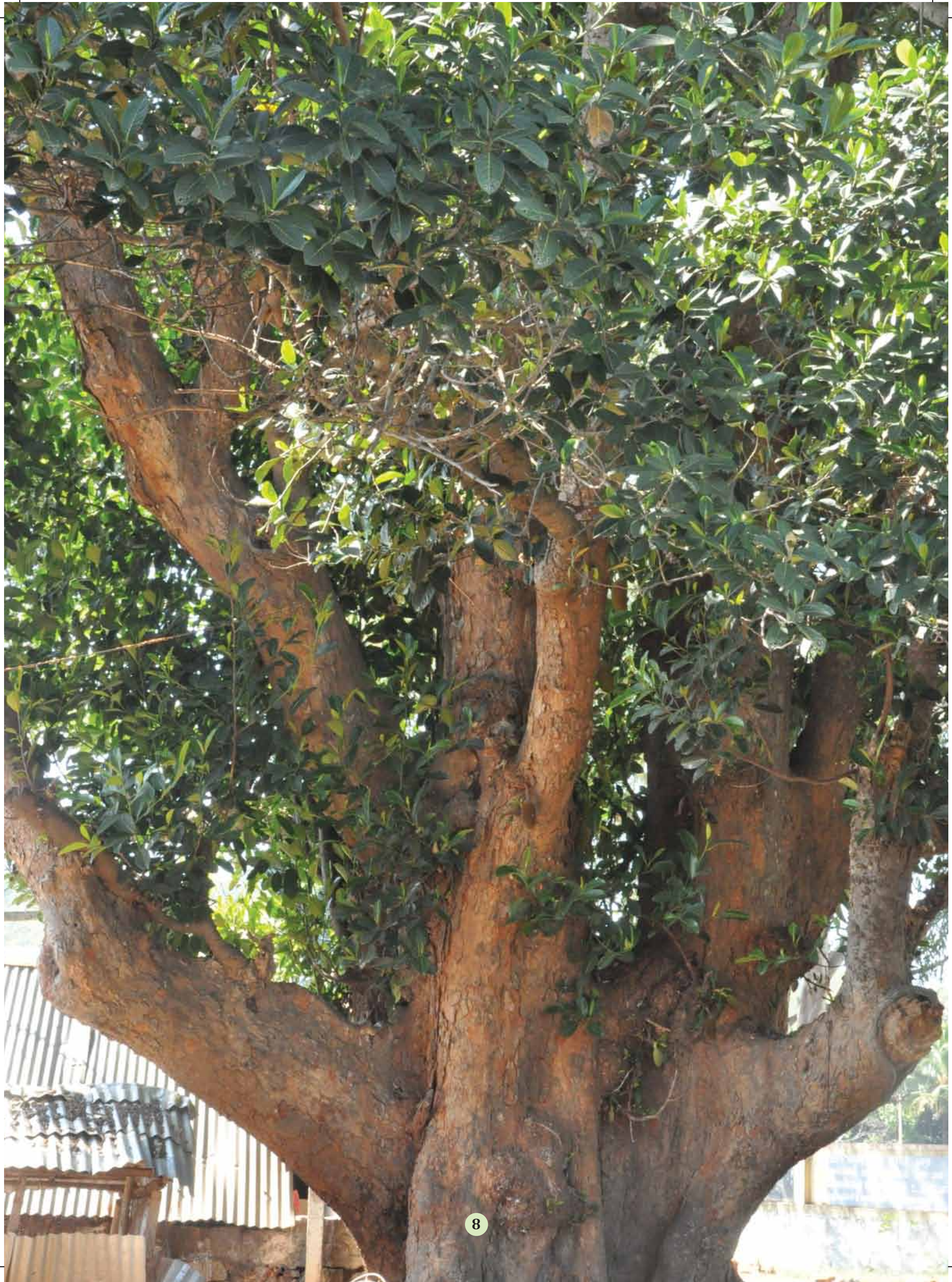
***Artocarpus heterophyllus* LAM.**

(Moraceae) Jack fruit, Pala.

**(GPS Coordinates : E 078.56445° &
N 11.32803°).**

**Located in Periya Pakkalam Village,
Pachamalai in Salem district, the tree is over
250 years old with a height and
girth of 20 metres and 7.5 metres respectively.**

**A large evergreen tree, it is seen to be
branching from near the base itself and
is still yielding fruits.**



***Artocarpus hirsutus*(Ainipila)**

***Artocarpus hirsutus*. Lam (Moraceae)**

Ainipila (GPS Coordinates : E 77.29272° & N 08.36137°). It is called wild jackfruit. It is a member of tropical evergreen forest. Good timber and the famous snake boat of Kerala is made of it. It is 5.2 metres in girth and 34 metres in height. Located in Kulasekaram range of Kanyakumari district. It is estimated to be about 200 years old.



***Artocarpus lacucha*(Kuranku pala)**

***Artocarpus lacucha*- Wild Jack;**

(GPS Coordinates : E 076.83680° & N 10.47265°).

The tree is aptly called Kuranku pala in Tamil which when roughly translated means “Monkey jackfruit”.

Indeed it is a favourite of not only monkeys, but also langurs, giant squirrels and a whole lot of other denizens of the forestscape. The tree identified inside the ‘Tree improvement plot’ in Karian Shola within the Anamalai Tiger Reserve, is a large evergreen tree over 150 years old, measuring 30metres in height and 3.45 metres in girth rising straight up with a clear bole.



***Azadirachta indica* (Vembu)**

***Azadirachta indica* A.JUSS (Meliaceae)**

Neem, Vembu. (GPS Coordinates:

E 077.25° & N 11.18°)

**A tree of more than 200 year old is found at
Sullikadu, Karuparayan kovil near**

Gobichettipalayam,

**Erode district. It is significant for it's age, shape, size and
height of 20 metres and girth of 6metres. It is worshipped
by villagers. It constitutes a major component of sidha,
Ayurvedic and Unani medicines and is particularly
prescribed for skin diseases. It is an important constituent
of Non Pesticide Management.**



***Bombax ceiba*(Mull ilavu)**

***Bombax ceiba* L (Malvaceae)**

Red Silk cotton, Mullilavu GPS

(Coordinates : E 076.83517° & N 10.47456°).

This large deciduous tree about 200 years old is found to be literally reaching for the top with a diameter of 5.5 metres and an height of 31 metres inside the 'Tree improvement plot' in Karian Shola within the Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Coimbatore district. This species is of of great commercial value. Each part of this anti-malarial tree, including the bark, flowers and leaves have therapeutic uses.



***Canarium strictum* (Karun Kungiliya)**

***Canarium strictum* Roxb. (Burseraceae)**

**Black dammar; Karun Kungiliya (GPS Coordinates :
E 076.83164° & N 10.42307°).**

**It is an ever green tree aged about 200 years,
standing tall at 29 metres with a girth of 2.9 metres
inside the Anai Onthi Sholai
near Top Slip. It is an indigenous and endemic
plant species of Eastern and Western Ghats.**

**It is a critically endangered species
and is "Vulnerable" as per IUCN category.**

**It's traditional medicinal and spiritual importance
is well known. It's resin is tapped and used as
sambrani incense.**



***Cassine glauca*(Kanniramaram)**



***Cassine glauca* Rottb.Kuntze
(Celastraceae) Kanniramaram
(GPS Coordinates: E 077.39°
& N 10.10°). This tree
located at Pathinettampadi
Karuppasamy kovil, a temple at
Devadanapatti in Theni district
is said to be over 200 years old.
Worshipped by the local people,
this old tree of religious
importance is
19 metres tall with a massive
girth of 9 metres.**



***Couroupita guianensis*(Nagalingam)**

***Couroupita guianensis* Aubl.(Lecythidaceae)**

Cannon ball tree;Nagalingam. (GPS Coordinates:

N 13.0416° & E 080.016°). A huge tree

**of more than 150 years old, was planted during the
British period at the Government Museum, Chennai.**

**It is 30 metres high, with a girth of 2.6 metres and
with fruiting all around the trunk. Shape of the
flower is like a snake and Hindus believe that Lord Shiva
resides in them. It is indigenous to the
Amazon rainforest.**

As a species, it is categorized as Rare.



***Dalbergia latifolia*(Eeti)**

***Dalbergia latifolia* Roxb (Fabaceae)Rosewood,
Eeti. (GPS Coordinates: tree 1
E 076.52° & N 10.267°)**

**Located in Kozhikamuthi inside
Anamalai Tiger Reserve, this tree is around
200 years old, 25 metres tall and having a girth
of around 6 metres. Indian rosewood is ranked
among the finest wood for furniture, cabinet
work, decorative objects, musical
instruments, religious artifacts, etc**



***Eucalyptus globulus*(Thailamaram)**

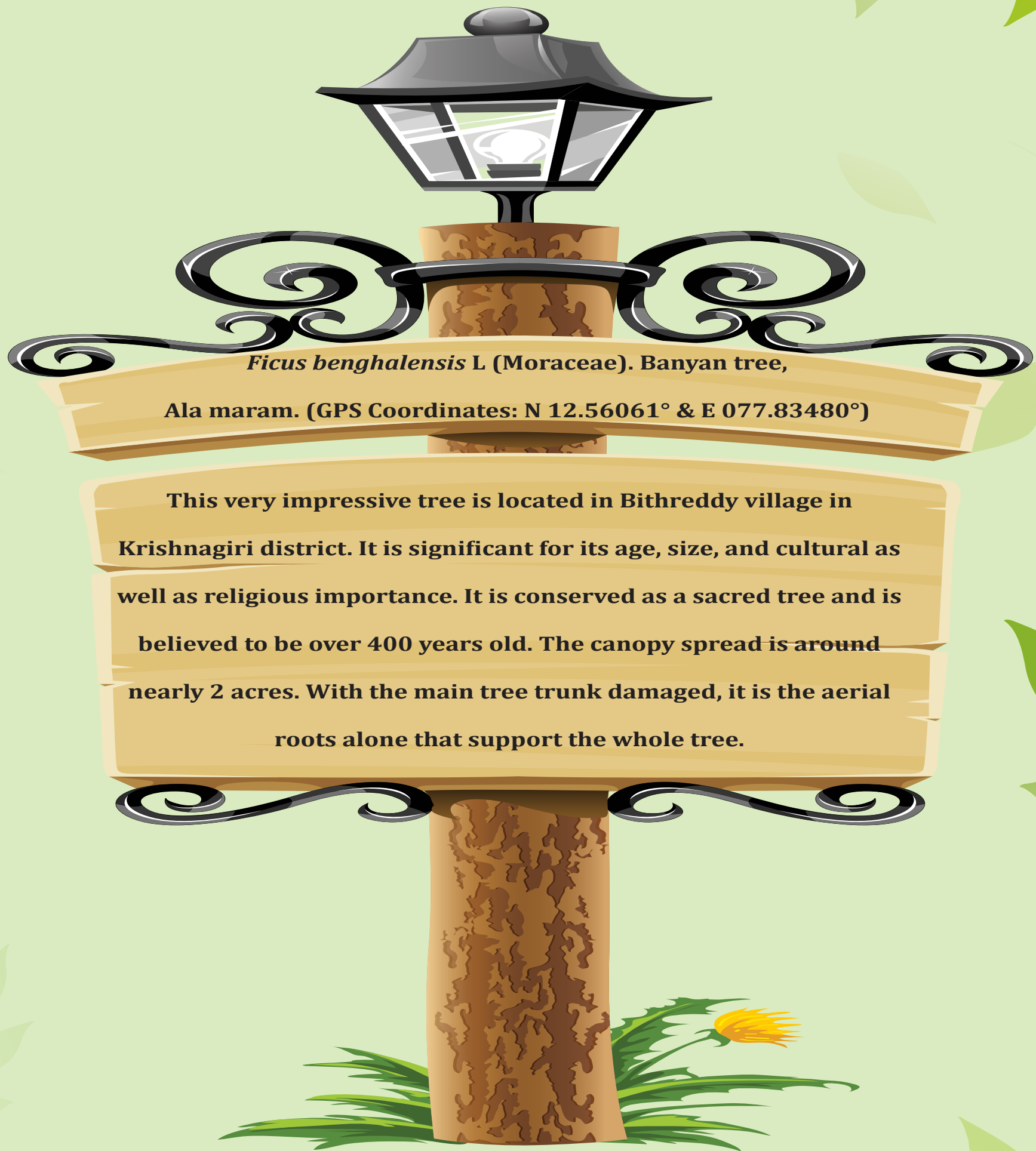
***Eucalyptus globulus* Labill. (Myrtaceae)**

**Blue gum, Thailamaram. (GPS Coordinates
E 076.68748° & N 11.42577°).**

The Blue gum like the rest of the *Eucalyptus* species is not a native species but introduced to Nilgiris from Australia by the British. Among the germplasm assembled over the years, the oldest is a 200 year old tree in Aramby Shola, Ooty towering over other trees in the neighbourhood at a height of 45 metres and a huge girth of 7.5 metres. Eucalyptus oil extracted from leaves offers therapeutic, perfumery, flavoring, antimicrobial and biopesticide properties



***Ficus benghalensis*(Ala maram)**





***Ficus lacor*(Malai ichi)**

***Ficus lacor*. Buch.**

Ham(Moraceae) Malai Ichchi

(GPS Coordinates

E 76.89575° & N 11.526°).

**This tree is located in Gandhinagar,
Kundah range of Nilgiris district. It has a
girth of 8.5 metres and height of
21 metres. It is estimated to be
200 years old. It can come up on
rocks and in totally
barren areas.**



***Ficus racemosa*(Athi)**

***Ficus racemosa* L**

**(Moraceae) Fig tree Athi. (GPS
Coordinates E 076.698° & N 11.511°).**

**It is located in Masinagudi, Mudumalai Tiger
Reserve of Nilgiris district. This tree is special having a
massive girth of 7 metres, height of 25 metres and being
over 200 years old. It's fruit is an excellent source of
food for birds, bats and a host of mammals.**

**The phenomenon by which the figs (fruits)
grow on the trunk itself is called
cauliflory.**



***Ficus religiosa*(Arasa maram)**

***Ficus religiosa* L.**

(Peepal tree) (Moraceae) Arasa maram.

(GPS Coordinates: E 78.3877° & N 10.3788°).

This tree is situated in the middle of a private agricultural land Thuvarankurichi in Tricity district and is over 300 years old. It is worshipped and afforded full protection.

It has a height of 21 metres and a massive girth of

11.9 metres. The root, bark, leaf and seeds

are used to treat ulcers, uterine

disorders and cough in traditional

Indian medicine The *Ficus religiosa* tree is

considered sacred and In the Bhagavad Gita,

Krishna says, "I am the Peepal tree. Gautama Buddha

attained enlightenment (bodhi)

while meditating

underneath a *Ficus religiosa*.



***Ficus retusa* (Ichchi)**

***Ficus retusa* L.**

(Moraceae): Spotted white fig,

Tamil Name: Ichchi (GPS Coordinates:

N11.05194° & E078.54726°). The tree is located amidst lush green fields near Eattiyampatty X road in Dharmapuri district. It has a height of 28 metres and girth of over 7 metres. Dedicated to local deities, this 200 year old tree is protected by the local people. There is a Muniappan Statue under the tree which is worshipped by the people. The fruits are eaten by birds, bats and other frugivores. It is considered one of the easiest trees to keep as a bonsai.



***Gmelina arborea* (Perun kumil)**

***Gmelina arborea* Roxb.**

(Lamiaceae)

Kanghar tree. Perun kumil,

(GPS Coordinates: E 076.99337° & N 11.40716°).

This *Gmelina* tree near Uliyur Settlement is a large deciduous tree in Coimbatore district with a height of 25 metres and girth of 4.9 metres. It is estimated to be over 200 years old.

It is used in constructions, furniture, carriages, sports, musical instruments and artificial limbs.



Great banyan tree Adyar(Maha Ala maram)

***Ficus benghalensis* L1753.**

(Moraceae). Great Banyan tree at Adyar; Aala maram (GPS Coordinates : N 13.1130° & E 80.26760°). This tree called "Great Banyan" tree is located in Theosophical Society premises at Adyar in Chennai city. It occupies an area of 62000 sq feet and is about 15 metres tall. The rotten main trunk has been removed. Hundreds of aerial root alone support the tree now. It is said to be more than 450 years old and is one of the oldest banyan tree in the world.



***Haldina cordifolia* (Manja kadamba)**

***Haldina cordifolia* (Roxb.) Ridsdale(Rubiaceae)Kadam,
Manja kadamba. (GPS Coordinates:
E 076.72432° & N 10.96971°).**

This tree is seen at the Vellaingri temple in Coimbatore district and towers at 30 metres and has a girth of 4 metres. It is estimated to be over 200 years old.

Kadam is at its blossoming best during winter. The shape and branching pattern of the tree is really eye catching.

The foliage is thick and leaves are heart shaped.

The bark of the tree acts as antiseptic. It is an excellent timber with yellowish colour.



Hildegardia populifolia

Hildegardia populifolia.

(Roxb.) Schott & End

(Malvaceae) (GPS Coordinates:

E 78.82466° & N 11.97038°).

This tree is located at Cherappatu road

in Cherapattu in

Kalrayan hills of

Viluppuram district. Being a rare and endemic species of southern

India it needs immediate species recovery programme. The species is

believed to have disappeared from all it's recorded localities except

for one on the forested eastern slopes of the Kalrayans

Hills, where about 20 trees survive. Used in unani medicine.



***Holoptelia integrifolia*(Aaya)**

Holoptelia integrifolia
Planch. (Ulmaceae) Indian Elm. Aaya
(GPS Coordinates : E 078.19120° &
N 10.59750°). This tree is 27 metres
in height, and 6.2 metres in girth. It is estimated
to be about 200 years old. It is located in a private
land at Kadavur village in Karur district. It is
sacred to the local people. It is often grown in
private agricultural land and jealously
protected by villagers.



***Hopea parviflora* (Vellai Kongu)**

***Hopea parviflora* –Bedd.**

(Dipterocarpaceae)

Iron wood of Malabar; Vellai Kongu;

(GPS Coordinates : E 076.83606° & N 10.47391°)

Eventhough known as the “Iron wood of Malabar”

this species is endangered and requires special

attention for its conservation. This tree is

30 metres tall with a girth of 6.6 metres. Aged over

200 years old, this evergreen tree is

located in the well protected environs

of Karian Shola within the

Anamalai Tiger Reserve.



***Madhuca longifolia*(Iluppai)**

***Madhuca longifolia* var.**

latifolia (Roxb) A chev(Sapotaceae) Iluppai .

(GPS Coordinates : E 078.59480° & N 11.14650°)

This tree with a height of 32 metres and girth of 9.7 metres is located at a revenue poramboke land in Puliyancholai village, in the foot hills of Kolli hills in Trichy district. It is estimated to be over 300 years old. Every part of mahua yields economic products of great potential value. Oil from flowers was used to light lamp in temples in olden days. The wood is known for maximum durability. It is used in making temple chariot.



***Mangifera indica*(Maa maram)**

***Mangifera indica* L.**

(Anacardiaceae) Maa maram.

(GPS Coordinates : E 078.43776° & N 11.27993°).

**This tree found in Pulianchola
Reserved forest on eastern slope of Kolli hills in
Trichy district has a height of 27 metres and a
girth of 6.8 metres. Estimated to be over
250 years old. The fruits are liked by both
humans and animals alike. The various parts of the
plant are used as an antiseptic, astringent,
dentifrice, diaphoretic, vermifuge, laxative,
diuretic and laxative.**



***Manilkara hexandra*(Ulakkai Palai)**

***Manilkara hexandra* (Roxb) Dubard
(Sapotaceae) Ceylon Ironwood;
Ulakkai Palai(GPS Coordinates :
E 078.78020° & N 10.07310°). A 15.4 metres
tall tree, over 300 years old with girth of
6.2 metres and with gray bark and smooth
branchlets is seen in a private land in
Karaikkudi in Sivagangai district. Very slow
growing tree. Used as root stock for
cleft grafting *Manilkara zapota* (sapota) scion
and raise quality sapota grafts**



***Magnolia champaka*(Shenbagam)**

***Magnolia champaca* (L.)
Baill. ex Pierre (Magnoliaceae)
Shenbagam(GPS Coordinates :
E 077.31810° & N 08.45460°). It is
located near Pechiparai dam in
Kanayakumari district. Known as joy
perfume tree, It has strong fragrant
flowers used for worshiping in temples.
It is 18 metres in height and 2.1 metres
in girth. Estimated to be over
200 years old.**



***Mimusops elengi*(Makizham)**

***Mimusops elingi* L**

(Sapotaceae) spanish cherry,

Makizham: (GPS Coordinates : E 78.7723° &

N 11.0383°). A 7.5 metre tall tree with a

girth of 3.55 metres is estimated to be

over 200 years old. It is located in

Brahmapureswarar temple,

Thiruppattur,

near Siruganur in

Trichy district





Pancha vriksham(Ainthu maram)

Panja Vriksha.

special compound tree

(GPS Coordinates: E76.8678° & N11.0386°).

This is the “Panja Vriksha” of Maruthamalai Murugan Temple in Coimbatore district, so named as five trees of different species have embraced and merged as a single tree. It is estimated to be over 100 years old. The five species so joined together are *Ficus mysorensis*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Ficus benghalensis*, *Melia dubia* & *Atalantia monophylla* viz. Kal Echi, Arasu, Al, Malaivembu, korandai in Tamil. This “Panja Vriksha” is about 25 metres tall with a girth of 9 metres. It is special both due to it’s religious importance and also uniqueness in 5 species hugging and growing together.



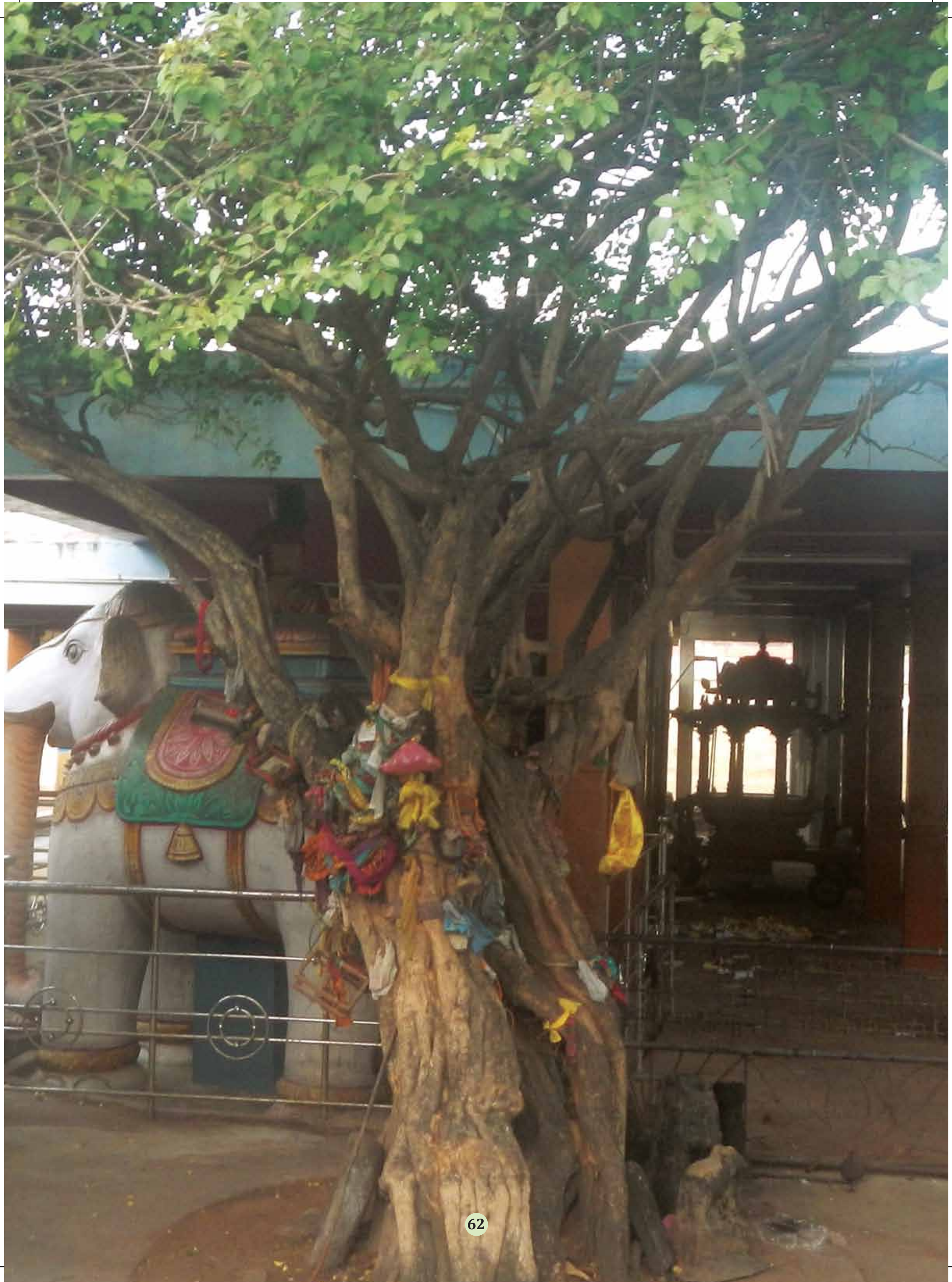
***Premna serratifolia* (Pasumunnai)**

***Premna serratifolia* L.**

**(Verbenaceae) Headache tree,
Pasumunnai. (GPS Coordinates:
N10.3747° & E078.260°)**

**Sacred groves and temple trees are often
repositories of excellent germplasm and are
responsible for conserving trees. Likewise,
the tree at NallandavarKovil, Tiruchirappalli
to Dindugul Highway is said to be as old as 400 years.**

**It's one of several herbal ingredients of 'Dasamula'
used in the Indian Ayurvedic system
of medicine. The plant is extensively
used in Indian traditional
medicine.**



***Prosopis cineraria*(Vannimaram)**

***Prosopis cineraria* .L (Druce)**

(Fabaceae).syn. *Prosopis spicigera* Indian

Mesquite, Vannimaram.GPS

(Coordinates: N11.045° & E077.532°)

It is the Sthalavriksha i.e. Temple tree for 26 important temples in Tamil Nadu. This tree located at Kodumudi in Erode district is said to be quite ancient at 300 years of age. It has a height of 12 metres and girth of 4.56 metres. It is the state tree of Rajasthan and Telangana and the national tree of United Arab Emirates

***Pterocarpus marsupium*(Vengai)**

Pterocarpus marsupium

Roxburgh. (Fabaceae) Vengai.

(GPS Coordinates: E 078.16333° &

N 11.69183°). It is found on Yercaud

road, near check post in Salem

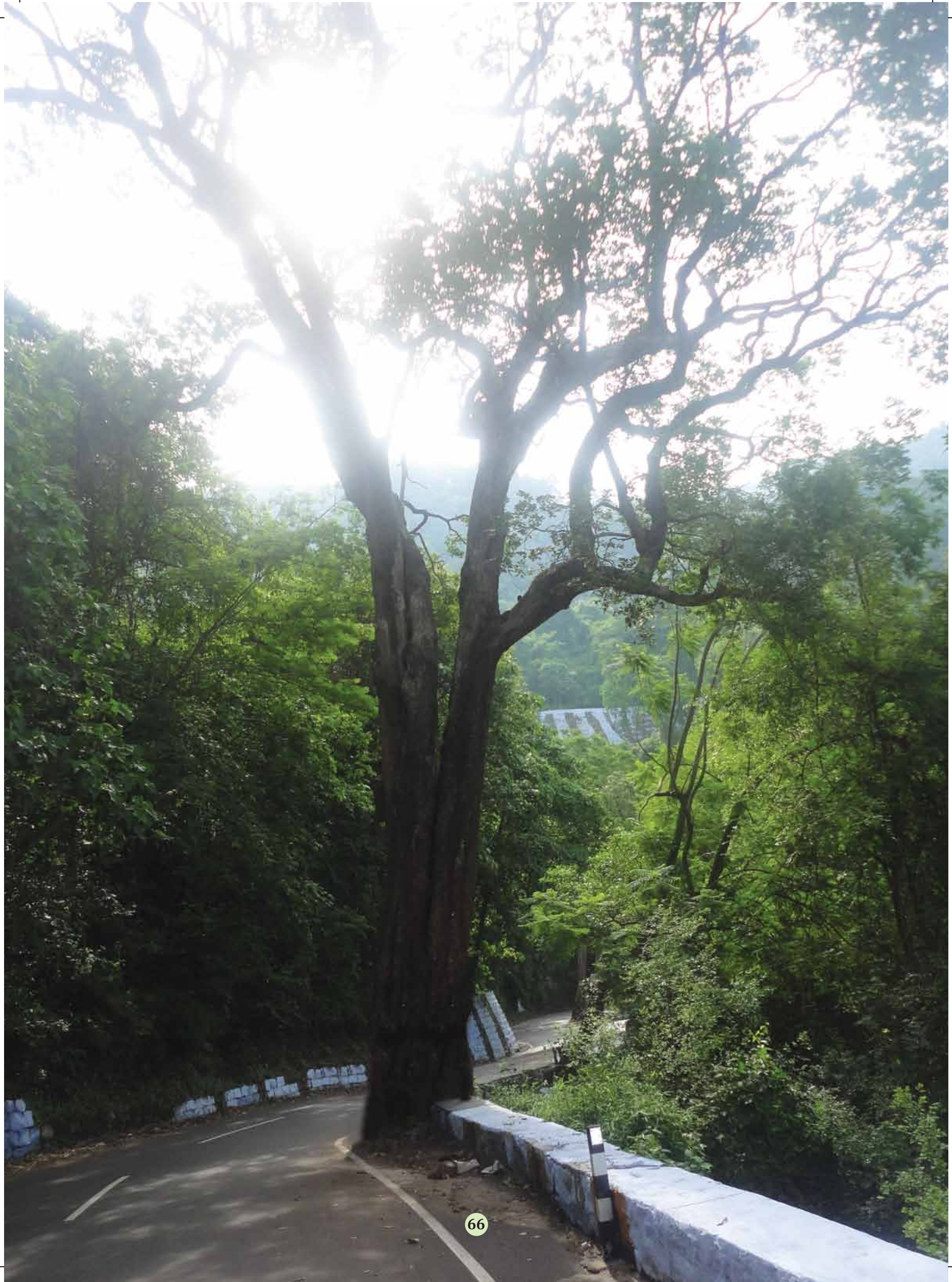
district. This tree has a height

of about 32 metres and

girth of 5.1 metres. It is

estimated to be about

200 years old



***Pterocarpus santalinus*(Sivappusandanam)**

***Pterocarpus santalinus* L.f**

(Fabaceae) Red sanders, Sivappusandanam.

(GPS Coordinates : N 12.0551° & E 08.0070°).

The Madras Christian College, Tambaram in Chennai has many old trees of red sanders of which this one is over 150 year old. This 30 metres tall tree has a girth of 2.4 metres. Classified as Endangered. Red sandalwood is being used for making the bridge and also the neck of the Japanese musical instrument Shamisen. It is a very costly wood and is used in traditional herbal medicine as an antipyretic, and anti-inflammatory



***Salvadora persica*(Ugamaram)**

Salvadora persica. L.

(Salvadoraceae),Ugamaram.

(GPS Coordinates : N11.0173° & E078.4003°)

It is a large, well-branched and evergreen tree. A tree estimated to be over 200years old, 12 metres tall and with 4.7 metres girth is located at the Annai Kamatchi Amman Temple on Tiruchirappalli to Omandur road in Trichy distict. It grows extremely slow. Around 215 trees of this species are recorded around these temples which are protected by the temple authority.



***Santalum album*(Santhanam)**



***Santalum album* L**

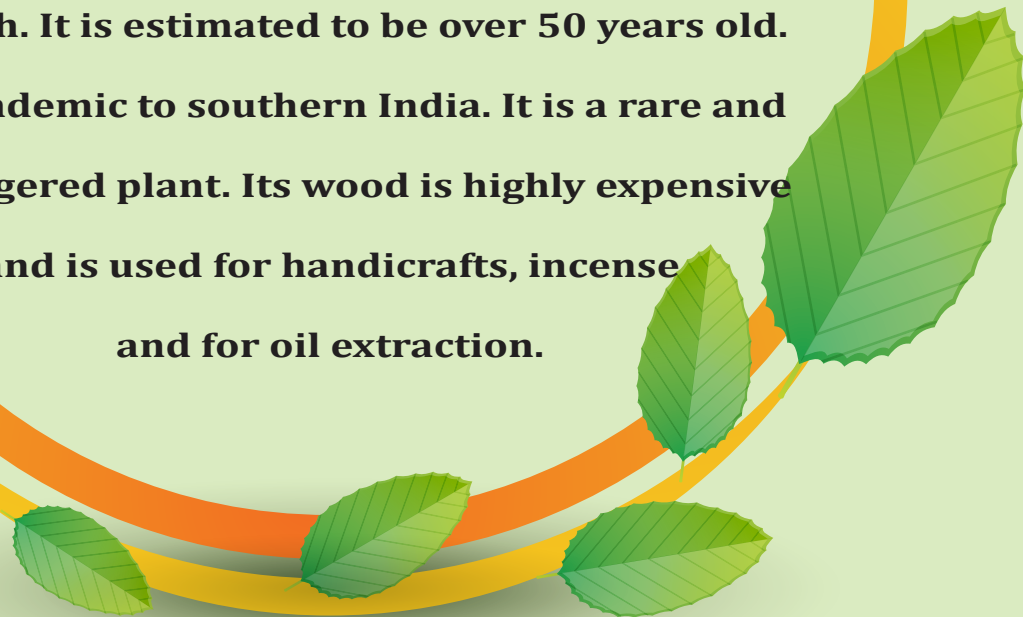
(Santalaceae)

Sandal wood, Santhanam.

(GPS coordinates N 2.7330° & E 79.05683°).

This tree located in Amirdhi zoo in Vellore district is 25 metres in height and 1.18 metres in girth. It is estimated to be over 50 years old.

It is endemic to southern India. It is a rare and endangered plant. Its wood is highly expensive and is used for handicrafts, incense and for oil extraction.





***Sterculia foetida*(Kuthirai kolambu)**

***Sterculia foetida* L.
(Malvaceae) Wild Indian Almond;
Kuthirai kolambu.
(GPS Coordinates:**

N 11.0400° & E 078.1856°)

The tree is located in Sivagangai park in Thanjavur district. It is about 200 years old and has reached a height of 18 metres with girth of 5.3 metres. The origin of the name *Sterculia* genus comes from the Roman god, *Sterquilinus*, who was the god of fertilizer or manure. The oil of *Sterculia foetida* has been found to be comparable to sunflower, soybean, and rapeseed oils for the use of biofuels.

Salvadora persica. L. (Salvadoraceae), Ugamaram.

GPS Coordinates : N11o 01.739 & E078o 40.032

It is a large, well-branched and evergreen tree. A tree estimated to be over 200 years old, 12 metre tall and with 4.7 metre girth is located at the Annai Kamatchi Amman Temple on Tiruchirappalli to Omandur road in Trichy district. It grows extremely slowly. Around 215 trees of this species are recorded around these temples which are protected by the temple authority.

Salvadora persica





***Strychnos nux vomica*(Etti)**



***Strychnos nux-vomica*.L,**

(Loganiaceae)Etti (GPS Coordinates :

E 077.29272° & N 08.36137°)

It is located in Kulasekaram forest range office campus of Kanyakumari district. This tree is 36 metres in height and 3.31 metres in girth.

It is estimated to be over 200 years old.

Seeds used extensively in alternate systems of medicine.



***Swietenia macrophylla*(Mahogany)**





***Swietenia mahogany*(AsalMahogany)**

***Swietenia mahagoni* L jack (Meliaceae)**

Small-leaved Mahogany, (GPS coordinates:

N 12.05514° & E 080.07024°).

This tree Planted during the British period at the Government Museum, Egmore, Chennai is the tallest of the lot at 40 metres and also one of the oldest, being over 150 years old.

It is a huge tree with a clear straight bole and girth of 4 metres.

It is the species from which the original mahogany wood was produced.

A good timber tree. It is categorized as "Endangered" in the IUCN Red List A tree



Syzygium cumenii(Naval)

Syzygium cumenii L

(skeels) Myrtaceae

Jamun; Naval (GPS

Coordinates: E 078.22643° &

N 11.87103°) The 250 year old tree located on a patta land at Kadumarathur village, Yercaud is indeed a very special tree not just for its age but also its history. Some forty years back, the entire set of branches on the tree were pollarded but the tree grew back and at present is 22 metres high with a huge girth of as much as 8.5 metres.



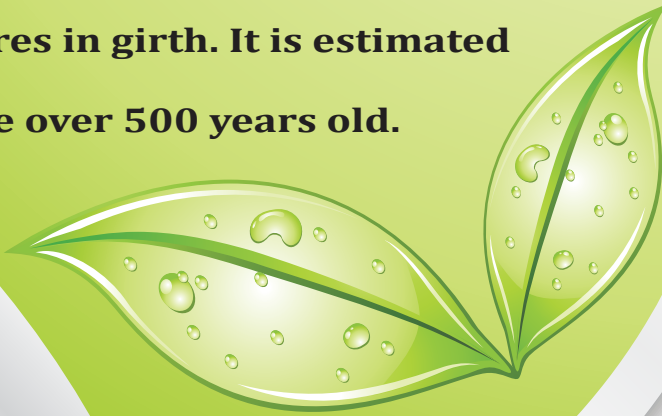


***Syzygium densiflorum*(Malai naval)**

***Syzygium densiflorum* Wall.**

ex Wt. & Arn (Myrtaceae) Malai naval.

**(GPS Coordinates : E 077.48802° &
N 10.22515°). This tree is found in Bombay
shoia Reserved forest, Kodaikanal in Dindigul
district. It is 21 metres in height and
15.2 metres in girth. It is estimated
to be over 500 years old.**





***Tamarindus indica*(Pulimaram)**

***Tamarindus indica* L (Fabaceae)**

Tamarind tree, Pulimaram. (GPS coordinates: N 11.14653° & E 078.36819°). This tree located on Trichy-Thuraiyur to Gundur [Pachamalai] road is quite gigantic with 11.51 metres girth and height of 25 metres. It is found in Kundar Tribal village at Pachamalai hills near Sellipalayam of Thuraiyur taluk of Trichy district. The age of this tree has been assessed to be about 400 years. The name 'Tamarindus' is said to have been derived from the Arabic name 'tamar-hindi' meaning 'Date of India'. This massive old tree with a gnarled look is protected by the Forest department and village tribals. This tree known as 'date of India', with its sour fruits inspired Linnaeus when he named the tree in the 18th century.



***Tectona grandis*(Thekku)**

***Tectona grandis* L.]**

(Lamiaceae) Teak; Thekku, (GPS coordinates:

N 10.021° & E076.050°). This huge teak tree 20 metres in height and 6.75 metres in girth at BH is located at Manambolly range of Anamalai tiger reserve in Coimbatore district. It is over 200 years old. Teak is used extensively in India to make doors and window frames, furniture, and columns and beams in old type houses. It is very resistant to termite attacks. Mature teak fetches a very good price.



***Terminalia arjuna*(Marudha maram)**

***Terminalia arjuna* (Roxby ex DC)
A&M (Combretaceae) Arjuna tree;
Marudha maram. (GPS Reading: N 8.01508°
E 077.02622°). This 400 years old tree is
located in Easanthimangalam of Kanayakumari
District. It is considered sacred by the local people.
The tree measures 35 metres in height and 14.2 metres
at girth. It has traditionally been used to treat heart disease for
centuries, which is why it got the nickname "Guardian of the
heart. It's named after Arjun, the hero of the
famous epic "Mahabharata",
because of its protective effects.**



***Terminalia bellerica*(Thandri)**

Terminalia bellerica

(Gaertn.) Roxb (Combretaceae)



**Thandri. (GPS Coordinates :
E 077.30828° & N 09.66490°).**

**It is situated near Suruli falls in
Pandarathurai Reserved forest in
Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary.**

**It is 32 metres in height and 11.2 metres
in girth. It is estimated to be over 300 years old.**

**As a constituent of the triphala (three fruits),
i.e., Nelli, kadukkai and Tandri myrobalans,**

**it is employed in a great number
of diseases**





***Terminalia chebula*(Kaduka)**

Terminalia chebula

Retz. (combretaceae) myrobalon,

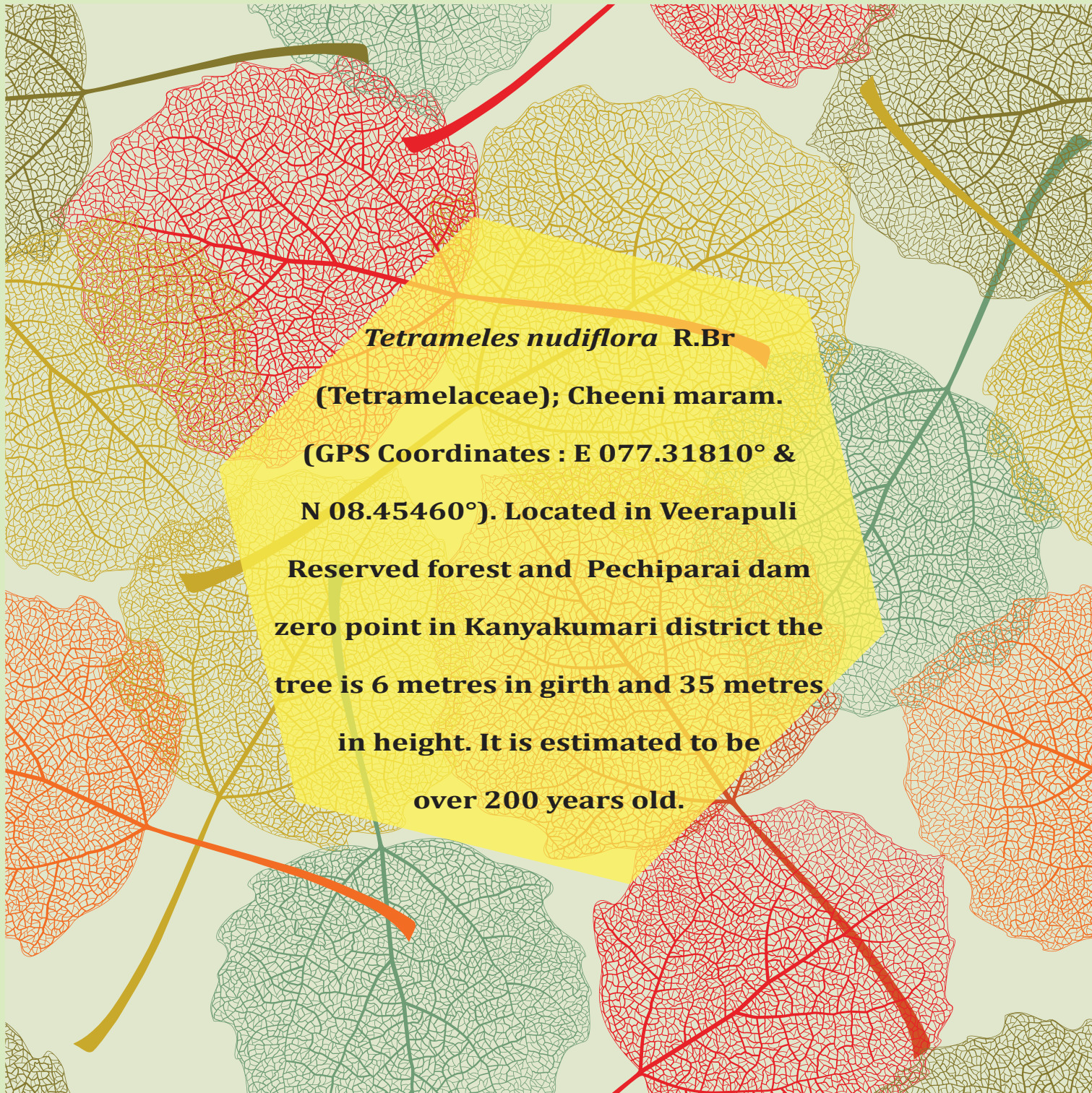
Kadukkai(GPS Reading: E78.717450° &

**N 11.868050°). This tree is located at Inaadu tower
road of Innadu range of Kalrayan hills. It is estimated to be
about 150 years old. It is regarded as a universal panacea
in ayurveda and in the traditional Tibetan medicine.**

**The fruit also provides material for tanning leather
and dyeing wool, silk and cotton**



***Tetrameles nudiflora*(Cheeni maram)**





***Toona ciliata*(Sandana vembu)**

***Toona ciliata* M. Roem.**

**(meliaceae) Sandana vembu(GPS
Coordinates : E 077.30828° & N 09.66490°).**

**This tree is found near Suruli falls,
Pandarathri reserved forest in Megamalai Wildlife
Sanctuary, Theni district. It is 36 metres in height and
6.21 metres in
girth. It is estimated to
be more than
200 years old.**



***Vateria indica*(Vellai Kungiliyam)**

***Vateria indica* – L.
(Dipterocarpaceae).**

White dammar Vellai Kungiliyam

(GPS Coordinates: E 076.83164° & N 10.42307°).

It is a large, handsome, endemic evergreen tree in Western Ghats. Due to destructive harvest of resin for making incense it has become a critically endangered species. This tree is as old as 200 years and has a truly magnificent height of 40 metres typical of a top canopy species inside forest areas. It is 4.7 metres in girth. Being part of the Anai Onthi Sholai, this magnificent tree is well protected in Anamalais in Coimbatore district. The resin is also used as an Ayurvedic medicine.







