Coimbatore Corporation Mayor Mr. C.M. Veluchamy releasing Vulture Conservation Calendar in presence of Coimbatore Corporation Commissioner Mr.A.ponnusamy, Salim ali centre for Ornithology senior scientist Dr.promodh Arulagam Secretary S.Bharathidasan, Save Coimbatore Wetlands Mr.Mohanraj and Volunteers present at the place where existence of vultures in abundant were recorded 20 years back.

The calendar was received by Khadir Mills Higher Secondary School.



News clipping on Wetlands Day Programme organized as volunteer based groups including ARULAGAM at Coimbatore.

Towards Conserving City's Aqua Wealth

Express News Service

Coimbatore: On the occasion of World Wetlands Day, several environmental groups and students came together to save water-bodies in the city.

When he visited the Big Tank at Ukkadam here on Thursday, Mayor S M Velusamy was shown the sewage and debris being dumped into the lake. He said that Coimbatore Corporation has received a proposal to clean up the tanks.

"We have already issued orders to clean up the debris at the lakes. I have instructed the officials to tighten night patrols and prevent the offenders from dumping debris in water bodies. A heavy penalty will soon be decided upon and imposed on anybody found polluting the wetlands and lakes in the city," he warned.

"A sum of ₹134 crore allocated under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Re-



Mayor S M Velusamy receiving the nest box at the meeting on the banks of Big Tank, in Coimbatore on Thursday | Photo by Special Arrangement

newal Mission (JNNURM) will be utilised for de-silting the tanks and cleaning up the water bodies," the mayor added.

The Noyyal basin has a total of 28 system tanks and the city has about 22 urban wetlands between Perur and Sulur. Eight of these wetlands fall under the corporation's jurisdiction.

The district has the least number of wetlands, just around 70, compared to over 30,000 wetlands across the state. "We must conserve at least the remaining wetlands as there are no other perennial sources of water here except these wetlands. It is imperative that efforts to conserve these should be taken at the earliest," stressed K Mohan Raj, secretary, Save Coimbatore Wetlands.

A large number of youngsters joined the conservation drive. Students of Sri Krishna Arts and Science College, Kadhir Mills Higher Secondary School and some other educational institutions were present.

Dr P Pramod, Senior Scientist, Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History(SACON) said: "It is heartening to see so many youngsters coming forward and taking the lead. Corporation officials also seem to be responding positively." T ir Cac

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The World Wetlands Day is observed to commemorate the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in 1971 at Ramsar in Iran. The day has been officially celebrated since 1997.

Besides the Mayor, Corporation Commissioner T K Ponnuswamy, SACON director Dr P A Azeez and other

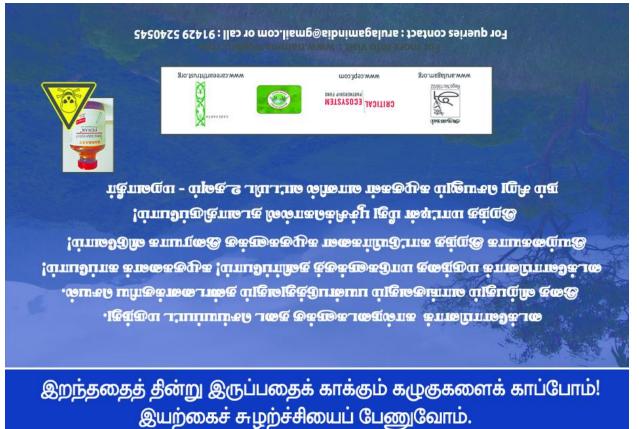
scientists from the centre, po NGOs like Save Coimbatore da Wetlands, Arulagam, Young dis Indians and animal welfare to organisations participated in co the function. pa Arulagam issued pocket po calendars which were re-Crt leased by the mayor. He was

presented a nest box on the es, occasion. the

ENTEDTAINMENT CHIDE

Vulture Conservation Calendar - Front view

(Calendar depicts on preventing the use of banned drug Diclofenac for cattle diseases, which affects the kidney of vultures and thereby reduce the population of Vultures)





Vulture Calendar (Inside)

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