

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA



KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT

PROJECT PROPOSED CSR FUND

OF

ECO TOURISM & TREKKING ACTIVITIES HIREMARALI TREE PARK
& KUNTHI BETTA

FOR THE YEAR

2025-26



Submitted by :

**PANDAVAPURA RANGE, PANDAVAPURA
MANDYA DIVISION**

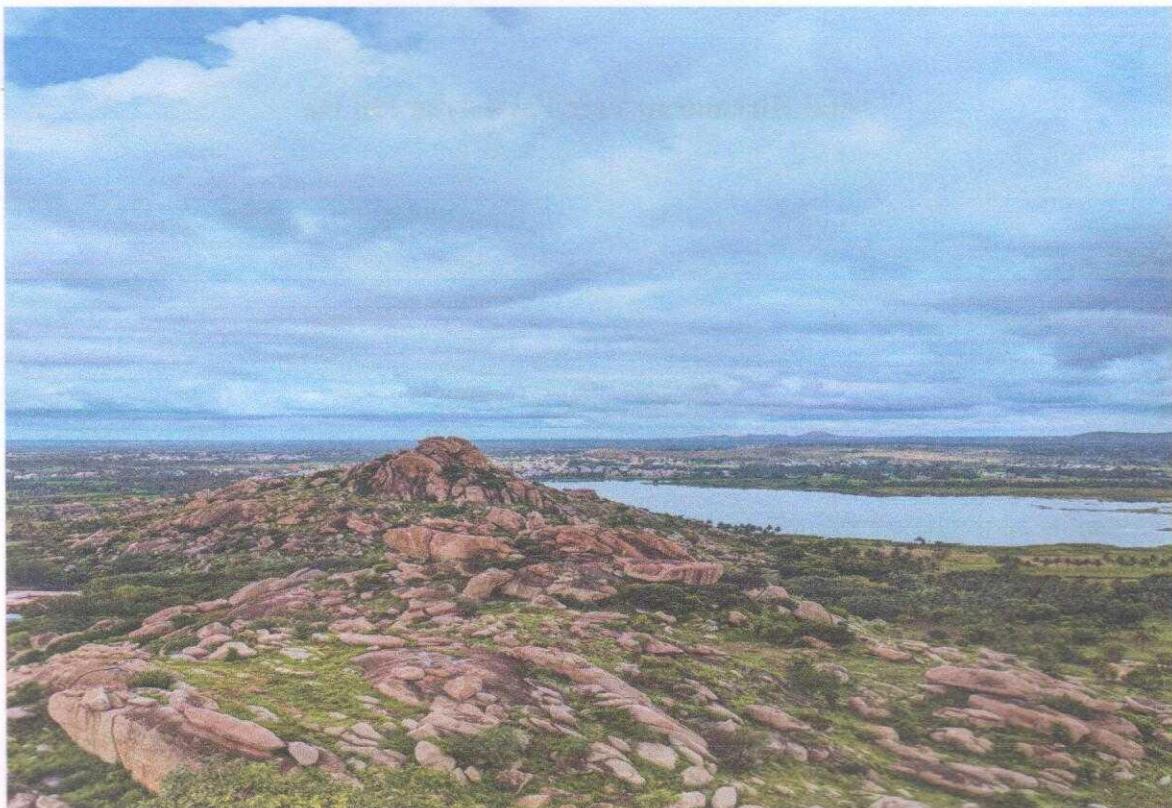
Brief Note on Pandavapura Territorial Range

Mandya forest division extending over the taluks of Mandya, Srirangapatna, Pandavapura, Maddur, KR Pet, Nagamangala and Malavalli. The forest division with its headquarters at Mandya consists of two sub-divisions with headquarters at Mandya and Nagamangala. There are seven ranges with headquarters at Mandya, Maddur, Mandya, Nagamangala, Srirangapatna, KR Pet, Malavalli and Pandavapura. The geographical area of the division is 496100.00 hectares. The total extent of notified forests of Mandya district is 15323.22 hectares. Of which Reserved Forests- 6913.12 hectare, Section 4 - 2365.84 hectare and Village Forest- 6044.26 hectare area is under the control of Mandya territorial division and 13669.41 hectare area under the control of the Wildlife wing 8531.58 hectares in Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and 4,982.00 hectares in Melkote wildlife sanctuary, 67.49 hectares in Ranganathittu wildlife sanctuary and 88.34 hectares area in Adichunchangiri Peacock Sanctuary. The notified forest area in Mandya District is 5.84% of the total geographical area. As far as Mandya Forest Division is concerned the notified forest area is only 3.08%. In Additional to this as per the Government Notification No. FEE 185 FAF 2011 Dt.05.05.2022 an extent of 32,958 HA is Notified as Deemed Forest in the Division.

Total Hiremarali Tree Park Area 150 Ha

I. INTRODUCTION

The name Pandavapura means "Town of Pandavas". Mythology states that the Pandavas during their period of exile stayed here for some time, and Kunti, mother of the Pandavas, liked the hillock so much that it became one of her favorite haunts. The town is also named after the Pandavas because of their brief stay in this region. The name "French Rock" dates back to India's Pre-Independence days, the place was used as the camping ground by the French army, which came to help Tippu Sultan in his war against the British. It is believed that French named the small town as "French Rocks", as the town is in the vicinity of two rocky hills. After Indian Independence, these rocky hills called as "Kunti Betta" by locals. There was another smaller hill called "Kauravara betta" on the western side of the town which has been mined out of existence for its stone Pandavapura town is surrounded by well-known tourist spots Melukote, Krishnaraja Sagar, Kunthi Hill and Kere Thonnur.



Mythological Background

The town of **Pandavapura** has an interesting mythological background. It is said the demon Bakasura resided here and harassed the villagers who sent him a cartful of eatables along with a person to devour everyday. That is why the place was originally called 'Hiri Yede' (yede means food). But the Pandava Bheema slew the demon and the place was renamed **Pandavapura**.

There is also a lake in **Pandavapura**, and it is famous for katla and kuchulu fish. Interestingly, **Pandavapura** town is also home to the only temple in India that is dedicated to Ahalya, Sage Gautama's wife, Lord Brahma's daughter.

Melukote in Pandavapura taluk of Mandya district, Karnataka, in southern India, is one of the sacred places in Karnataka. The place is also known as Thirunarayananapuram. It is built on rocky hills, known as Yadugiri, Yaadavagiri and Yadushailadeepa, overlooking the Cauvery valley. Melukote is the location of the Cheluvanarayana Swamy Temple, with a collection of crowns and jewels which are brought to the temple for the annual celebration. On the top of the hill is the temple of Yoganarasimha. Many more shrines and ponds are located in the town. Melukote is home to the Academy of Sanskrit Research, which has collected thousands of Vedic and Sanskrit manuscripts.

Early in the 12th century, the famous Srivaishnava saint Sri Ramanujacharya, who hailed from Tamil Nadu, stayed at Melukote for about 12 years. It has thus become a prominent centre of the Srivaishnava sect.

Kere Thonnur is a well-known tourist spot because of its green paddy fields, ancient temples and the twin lakes. Many Kannada films were shot in this village and the adjacent village of Shingapoore. Keretannur lake is famous.



II.LOCATION OF PROPOSED AREA

The selected site is situated adjacent to be Hirode lake in Pandavapura Town. The site is also situated beside Kunthibetta. Which is mythological place Pandavapura. This area is part of Forest Department covered mostly with natural Trees. The selected area for Tree Park is spread over more than 40 Ha. The site is situated adjacent to the national highway 150A and is easily accessible from Pandavapura town and near by Villages. The proposed site is nearer to be Tourist spots like Kunthi Betta (0.1 Km), Melukote (15 Km), Kerethonnuru (9 Km), Arathi Ukkada (3 Km) & K.R.S Back water (15 Km).



III. JUSTIFICATION FOR SITE SELECTION:

The main USP (unique selling proposition) of the area is its proximity to the main Town Pandavapura. which could be visited by huge number of people everyday. The spot is adsent to the Kunthi betta & Hirode lake. Moreover, there is no facility similar to tree park existing in this area. Thus, it is an opportunity for the Forest Department to create a system of nature learning especially linking mythology with forest and wild life conservation.

- The site selected for this tree park is situated very near to Kunthi betta and Lake and which is proximity to the Pandavapura town where thousands of people visit everyday.
- This patch of area has good vegetation with quite a good number of big trees, thus provides ready made shade for the visitors.
- As the site is surrounded by Kunthibetta, Hirode lake and Pandavapura Town, it provides ample opportunity for visitors to study the rich flora and fauna of the area and enjoy the scenic beauty.
- The site is situated on the national highway, there by would act as way side amenity for the travellers visiting Kerethonnuru and Melukote .
- As the site is situated on the bank of lake and a stream, several bird species visit the place. Hence, it would be a birders' paradise.
- Establishing tree park in this area would definitely achieve the main objective of providing calm and serene space for the people visiting the place.
- The site provides ample opportunity for school children to learn about the forests and its conservation.
- As the proposal involves establishing medicinal garden, butter fly garden,bamboo setum etc., it provides for ex-situ conservationof these species and an opportunity for visitors to learn about the rich biodiversity of the location.
- The proposal involves creation of children activity area which would attract school children and provides a perfect setting for conducting nature camps.

- Because of peaceful environment, light breeze and morning dew, this place would be ideal locale for morning and evening walks for the locals.

Apart from above,

- It is an opportunity for Forest department to provide the visitors a system for learning and appreciating nature.
- Providing certain facilities to the visitors would earn a lot of good will from public to Department which would help garner support for conservation initiatives of the Department.
- As the site is situated near famous temples, it would draw good crowd especially families.
- It would be a nature learning center for the schools and colleges existing in-and-around Pandavapura.
- The site provides opportunity for lying nature trails which could be used for nature appreciation walk for students and other visitors.
- The site is also perfect place for morning joggers and walkers.
- Near to this site there are several tourist places such as K.R.S Dam & garden, K.R.S Back water, Kerethonnuru & Melukote historical places. (A detailed account of these places is given in Annexure)

In all, the site has all the characters which fulfill the objectives of establishing a tree park.

- a. Location Map is enclosed as **Annexure-1**
- b. Survey Sketch –Since the park is started at the fag end of the Financial year hence, Survey work is under progress.

IV. COMPONENTS OF THE PROPOSAL WORK DETAILS:

It is proposed to develop the tree park with following components.



➤ Protection of the area:

For the protection of the area from illegal entry and to control entry of cattle in to the park and to provide necessary protection to the seedlings proposed to be planted in the area, it is proposed to provide chain-link fencing along the boundary of tree park abutting road. Wherever there is less threat of trespass, barbed wire fencing is proposed.



➤ Maintenance of Toilet block

It is Maintenance of men's and women's toilet, one each for the visitors.



➤ Construction of walking path

Walking path along with the periphery of Tree Park abutting canal bank and internal paths connecting various components is proposed to be constructed with both sides of walking path bordered by stone/cement brick masonry and painted. Walking path would provide a guided directional path for visitors to go to different areas of the park and avoids unregulated movement in the park.



➤ Establishing medicinal plant garden / Butterfly Garden

A medicinal plant garden will be formed by planting indigenous medicinal plants, which are used locally in treating ailments in human and domestic animals. Each medicinal plant will be planted in exclusive blocks and a signage will be displayed in front of the block containing details such as scientific name, importance, uses and medicinal values, part of plant used in treating ailments etc. Butterfly Garden will be established to attract different butterfly and other useful insets.



➤ Establishing important and valuable bamboos Species plots (Bambusetum)

It is proposed to establish plots of important and valuable bamboos Species. It provides for ex situ conservation and an opportunity for visitors to learn about the importance of bamboo.



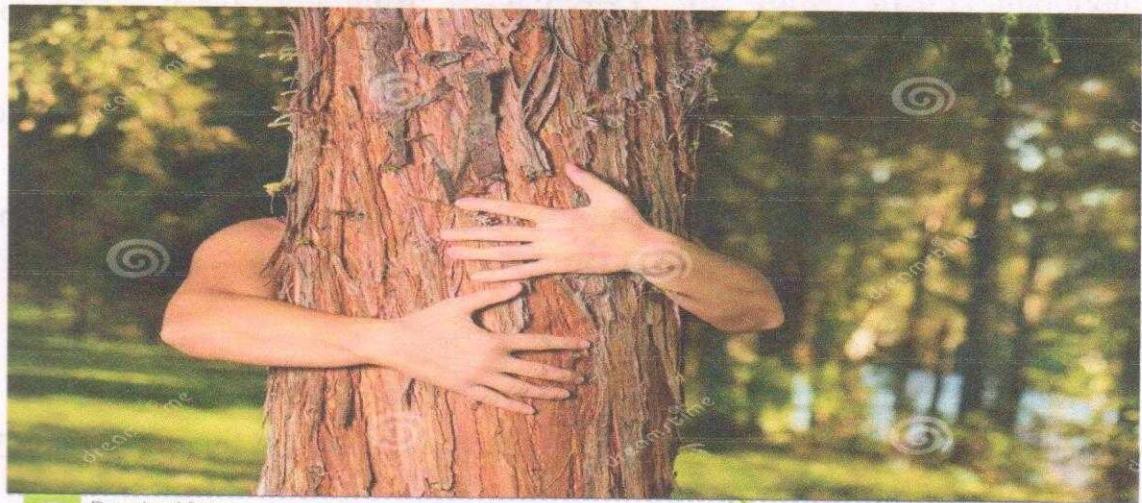
➤ Providing water facility

The site is blessed with flowing canal / stream adjacent to tree park. Thus, the canal/stream water is the source of water for providing irrigation facility to medicinal garden/butterfly garden and for Toilet blocks. It is proposed to supply water by laying pipe line network in the tree park.



➤ Save Tree concept structure

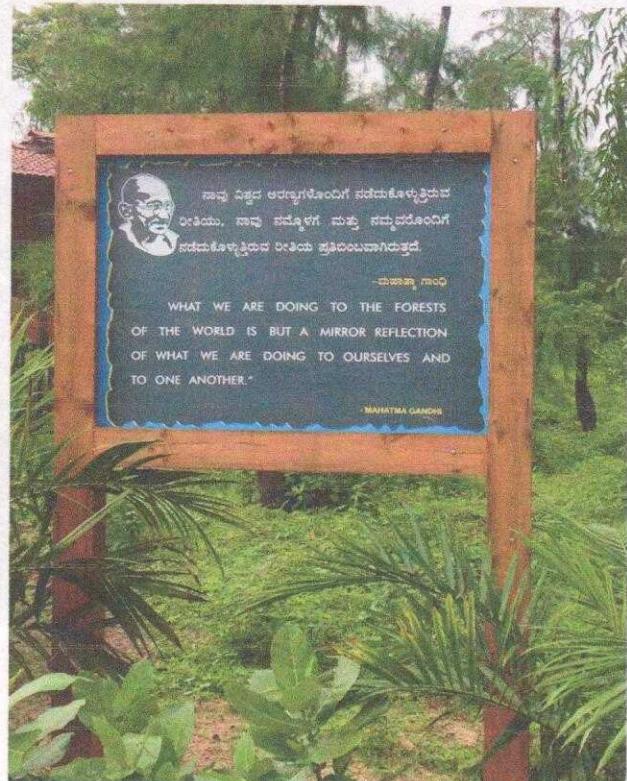
A attractive save tree concept structure will be developed at the entrance of the tree park to communicate importance of trees, symbiotic relationship between man and trees and an appeal to visitors for saving trees for their own existence.



Signages

Descriptive signage boards that explain about the richness of the flora, fauna such as the medicinal plants, birds and other fauna will be put along the walking Path. Apart from awareness signages, the signages pertaining to 'caution, do's and don'ts also will be displayed.

➤ Providing Public amenities

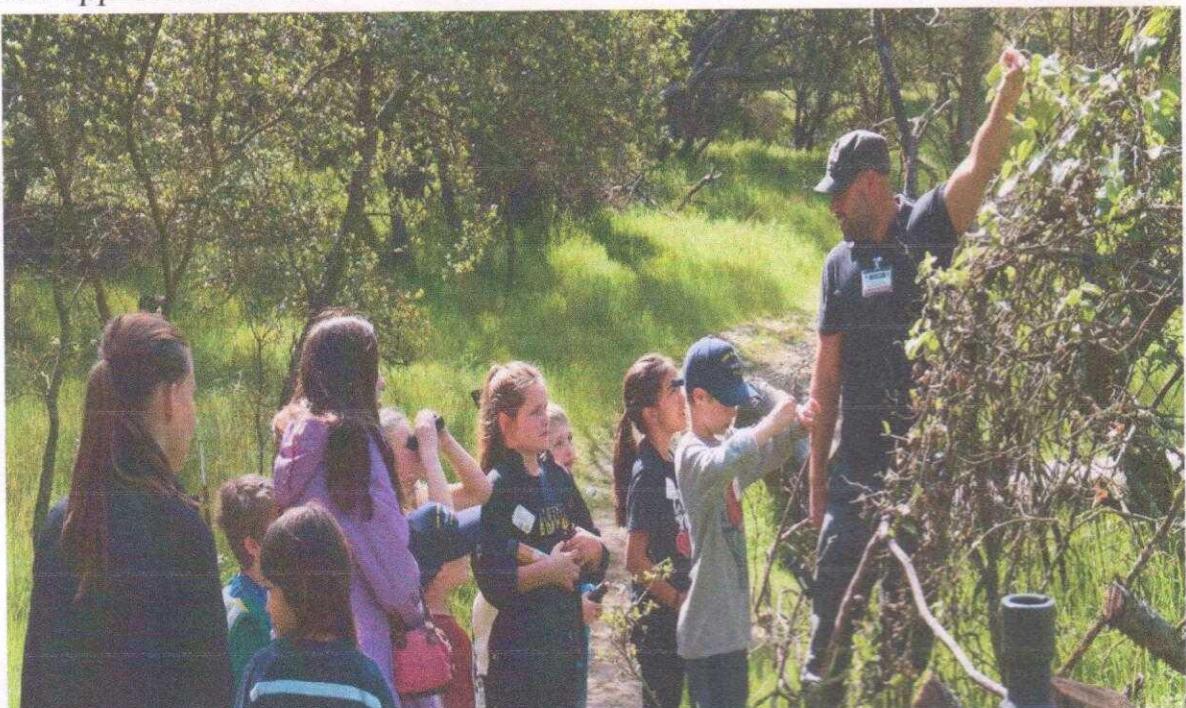


The people visiting the area need to be provided with certain amenities like restrooms, drinking water, benches, lighting in the paths etc.

- Thus, it is proposed to provide toilets.
- All along the walking Path, nature merging benches will be placed for resting.
- Also, at suitable places solar LED lights will be provided for safety of tourists and as an eco-friendly gesture.
- Dustbins will be installed at various points inside the park so as to maintain cleanliness and hygiene.
- In the park area there are few trees which provide necessary shade for visitors. Hence, it is proposed to build sit outs around these trees.

➤ **Nature awareness programme**

Awareness programmes on conservation of nature and wildlife will be conducted at the park especially for youngsters and children at the park to enjoy and appreciate nature.



Raising of Fruit yielding trees for Nesting of water birds :

Hiremarli tree park and pandavapura lake total area 150 hacter , This area will connect with kunti betta. many frui-bearing trees can attract water birds offering Nesting sites and a food source. Willows, serviceberries, and mulberries are especially effective for creating welcoming habitat near wetlands rivers and other water source. this forest area is important and significant flora and fauna like birds, aquatic animals , rabbits , primates etc. The primary vegetation of this area designated to conserve and provide a safe habitat for birds and important habitat for migratory and endemic birds. Pandavapura taluk receives less amount annual rain fall 350-400 mm . so managing the water resource is one of the top most priorities and it is part of routine habitat improvement program which has to be taken up so as to ecologically restore wildlife habitat. They are natural facilities that help to conserve numerous species as well as their natural habitats. It also encourages the birds survival and restoration.

Tree selection:

Fruit bearing trees : mango, jamuna ,ficus spices,guava, and tamarind indica etc.

Benefits for water birds :

Nesting habitat – broad canopy and strong branches support large nests.

Food source – fruits nectar and insects attracted by trees help sustain birds.

Safety - told trees near water bodies act has safe roosting breeding sites.

Ecological and community benefits :

Fruits yield - provide food and income opportunities for locol communities.

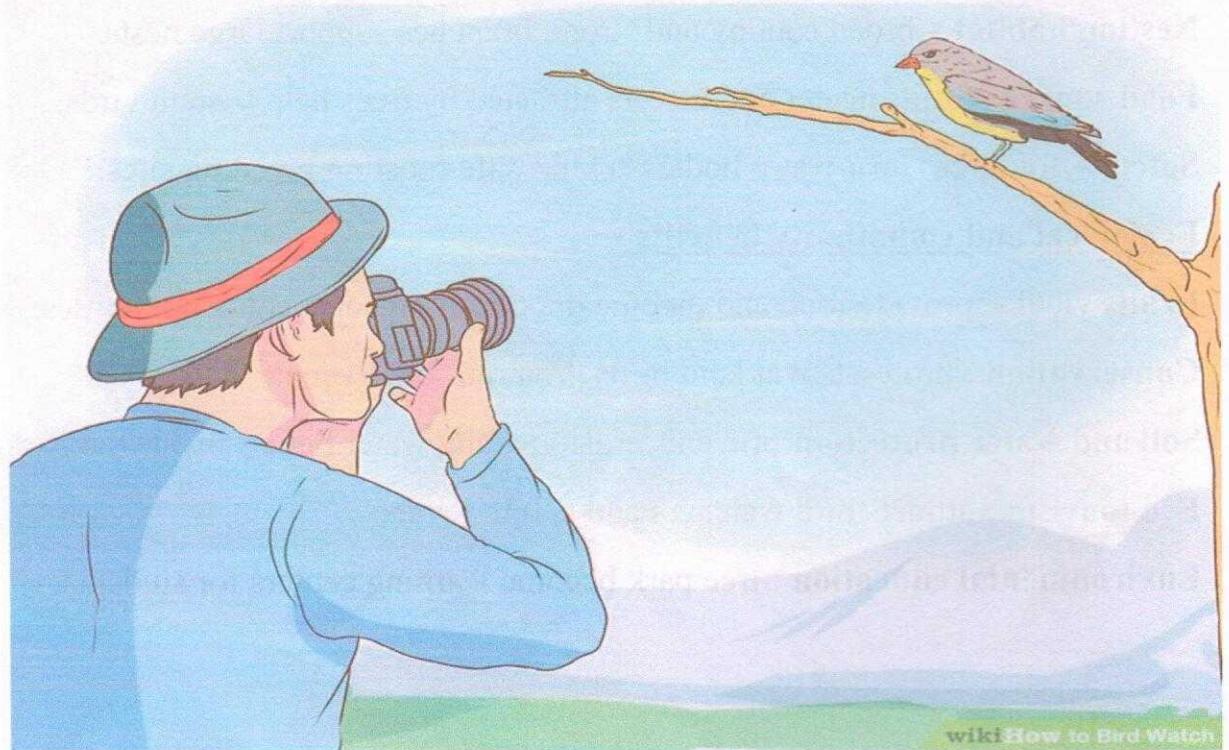
Conservation : protescts wet land birds promotes biodiversity.

Soil and water protection:prevents erosion along water bodies inside the park.

Eco tourism : attracts bird watchers and nature lovers.

Environmental education : tree park become learning centers for students.

- Willow : characteristics – these fast growing trees such as the black willow are commonly found along streams and wet areas.
- Willow: Benefits – willows provide excellent nesting material from their Catkins and fluffy seeds. Some species like black willow have Denes, multi-branched habit that creates secure nesting sites.
- Hiremarali tree park and pandavapura lake need more fruit yielding plantation and water storage , soil and moisture conservation treatments using suitable structures to reduce the velocity of water flow during the peak monsoon season.
- The basic approach in taking up of any such fruit yielding plantation and water storage structure measures in any forest areas should be on a water shed basis with the prime intention of obstructing the flow of water , reducing the velocity and then retaining the every drop of rain water falling inside the tree park and lake.
- The main aim is to make availability of fruit to birds and animals , retain the least some quantity of water till the end of summer seasons, so that the sub soil moisture and vegetation can support fodder availability for wild animals .



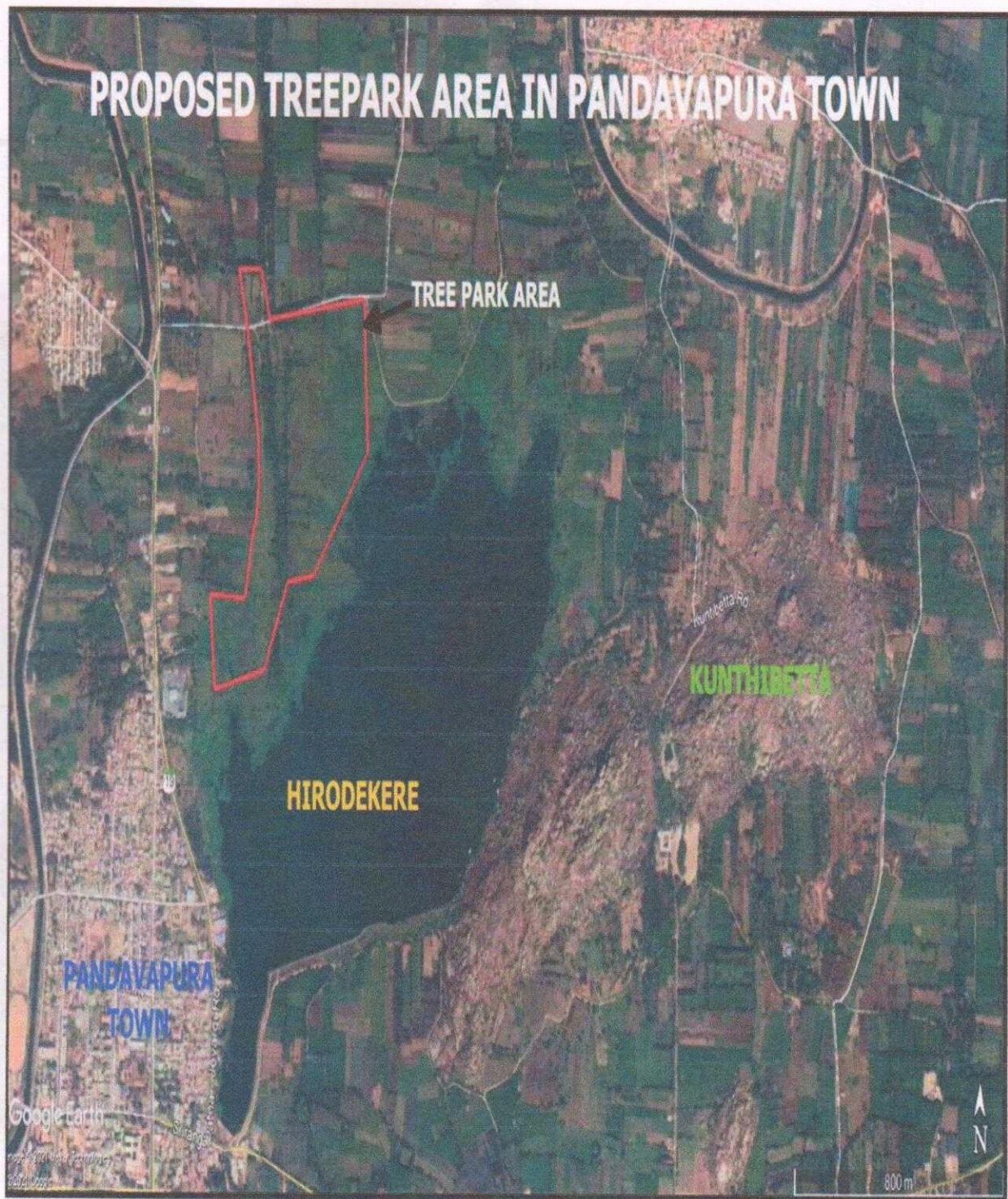
wiki How to Bird Watch

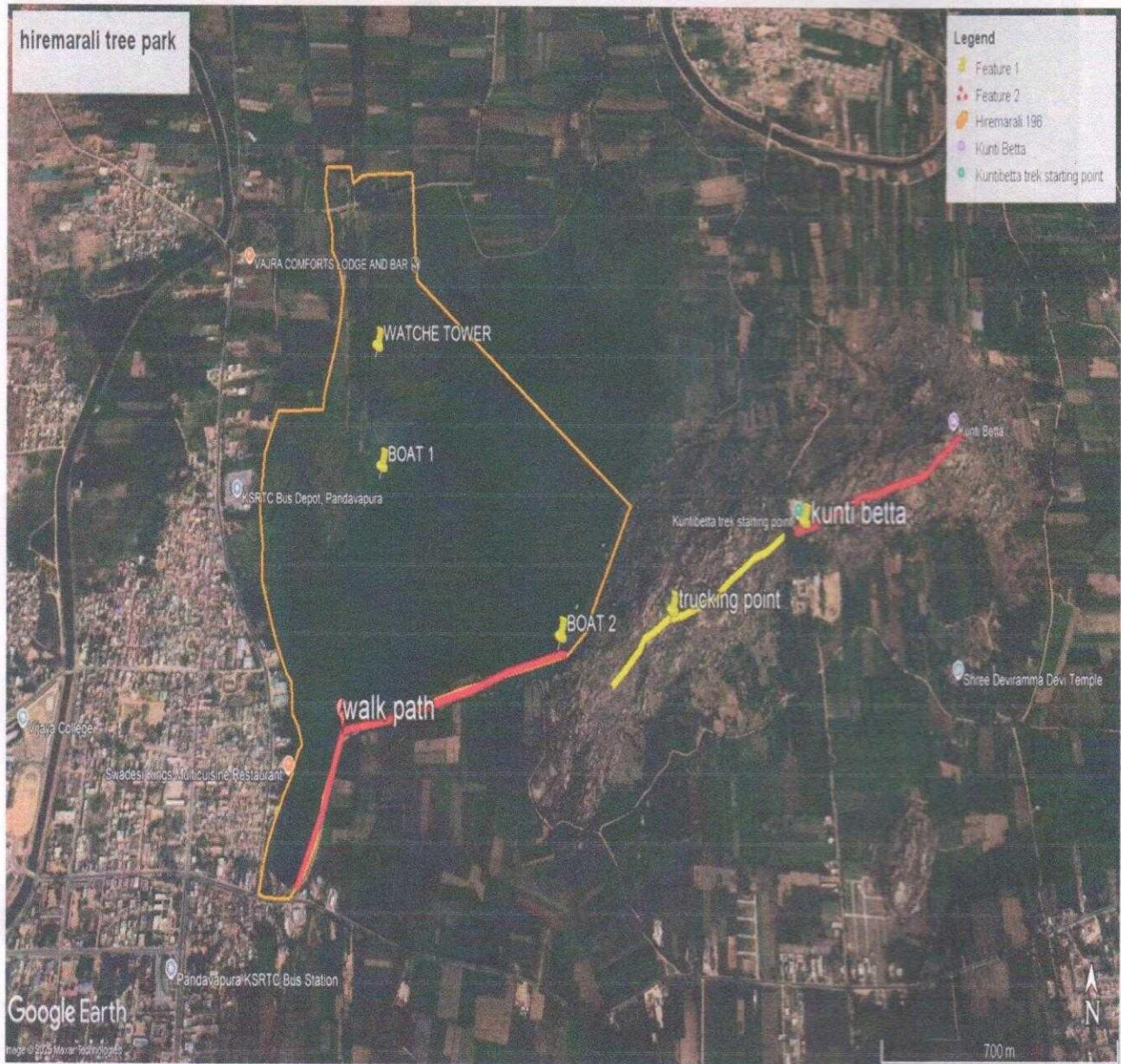


Proposed item of Works in the tree park in Pandavapura Range.

| Sl No. | Financial year | Proposed Item of Work | Quantity | Estimated Amount (Rs. in lakhs) |
|--------|----------------|---|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 2025-26 | Clearance of thick weed growth in the Tree park area | 5.00 ha | 1.00 |
| 2 | | Chain link Mesh fencing to the Hiremarali Tree Park and Around the Lake. | 5.Km | 75.00 |
| 3 | | Levelling of site at selected places of Tree Park Boat Standing Point | 1 Ha | 5.00 |
| 4 | | Walking Path | 2 Km | 15.00 |
| 5 | | Stone Pitching work inside flowing stream Heremarali Tree Park | 0.6 Km | 25.00 |
| 6 | | Hiremarali Lake Sarround Planting Trees 5*5 Feet | 3 Km | 5.00 |
| 7 | | Maintenance of Toilet for Men | 1 No | 2.00 |
| 8 | | Maintenance of Toilet for Women | 1 No | 2.00 |
| 9 | | Construction of resting platforms around the tree. | 2 No | 1.75 |
| 10 | | Boats facility. | 2 No | 10.00 |
| 11 | | Boats Standing Points | - | 25.00 |
| 12 | | Construction of watch tower | 2 No | 20.00 |
| 13 | | Purchase of Submercible Pump, Pipe, Cable Etc.. | 1No | 4.00 |
| 14 | | Providing Electrification to Pump | 1No | 1.00 |
| 15 | | Pipeline work and Distribution pipeline network | - | 2.75 |
| 16 | | Rope Way | 1 Km | 15.00 |
| 17 | | Providing benches | 15 Nos | 4.00 |
| 18 | | Purchase of dustbins | 05 Nos | 2.00 |
| 19 | | Creation of Garden of medical plants and maintainance | 1 No | 4.50 |
| 20 | | Afforestation in the area with important species and maintainance | 2 Ha | 3.00 |
| 21 | | Protection of the tree park by engaging labours for watch and ward of the area. | 2 No | 4.00 |
| 22 | | Signages pertaining to nature wildlife, forests for creating awareness among visitors | - | 1.00 |
| 23 | | Solar light system in the tree park area | 5 | 1.00 |
| 24 | | Raising of Fruit yielding block plantaion | 15 Hacter | 35.00 |
| 25 | | Miscellaneous. | - | 1.00 |
| | | Total | | 265.00 |

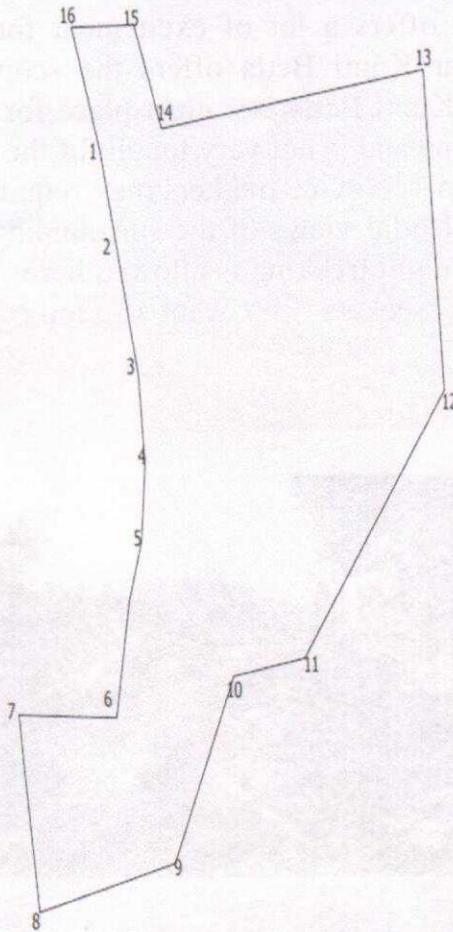
LOCATION MAP





SURVEYED SKETCH

PANDAVAPURA SY NO 196 25 HCT NEAR PANDAVAPURA TOWN



HIREMARAHALLI SY NO 196 25 HECTARE NEAR PANDAVAPURA TOWN

| | | |
|----|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | 12 30 47.77 N | 76 40 40.08 E |
| 2 | 12 30 41.28 N | 76 40 41.78 E |
| 3 | 12 30 38.36 N | 76 40 42.02 E |
| 4 | 12 30 36.01 N | 76 40 41.90 E |
| 5 | 12 30 34.19 N | 76 40 41.31 E |
| 6 | 12 30 30.69 N | 76 40 40.67 E |
| 7 | 12 30 30.74 N | 76 40 36.29 E |
| 8 | 12 30 24.88 N | 76 40 37.06 E |
| 9 | 12 30 26.37 N | 76 40 43.33 E |
| 10 | 12 30 31.92 N | 76 40 46.11 E |
| 11 | 12 30 32.47 N | 76 40 49.35 E |
| 12 | 12 30 40.49 N | 76 40 55.84 E |
| 13 | 12 30 50.17 N | 76 40 54.99 E |
| 14 | 12 30 48.53 N | 76 40 42.99 E |
| 15 | 12 30 51.59 N | 76 40 41.78 E |
| 16 | 12 30 51.52 N | 76 40 38.98 E |



100 0 100 200 300 400 m

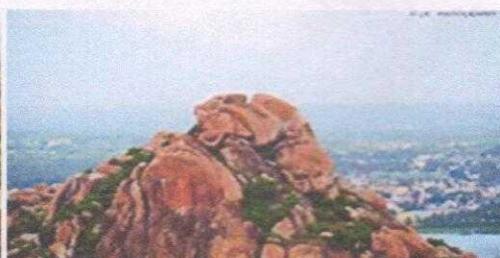
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Nearest places to visit in-and-around Pandavapura

Kunthi Betta

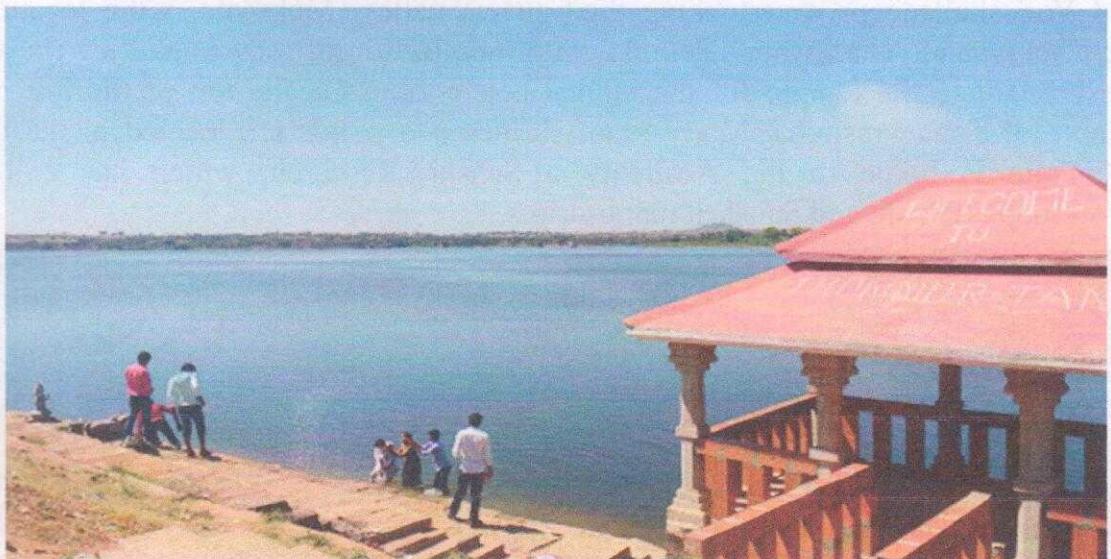
Nestled in the town of Pandavapura between two hills, Kunti Betta is a perfect place to get away from the helter skelter of the city. This place is surrounded by sugarcane fields, paddy fields and coconut trees that makes the place look beautiful and mesmerizing.

Kunti Betta is an off beat place that offers a lot of excitement for adventure seekers. The Thonnur Lake situated near Kunti Betta offers the scope to enjoy various water based adventure activities. Kunti Betta is a great place for trekkers to explore. The trek to the hilltop is a short one and is not very tough for the major part. But towards the summit the trek gets steeper. Novice trekkers may require anchored ropes to reach the top. The trek offers splendid views of the surrounding areas. An interesting thing about Kunti Betta is that night trekking is allowed here. This makes it a great destination for those adventure seekers who want to enjoy a nocturnal adventure.



Kerethonnuru

KereThonnur is a well-known tourist spot because of its green paddy fields, ancient temples and the twin lakes. Many Kannada films were shot in this village and the adjacent village of Shingapoore. Keretannur lake is famous



Melukote

Melukote in Pandavapura taluk of Mandya district, Karnataka, in southern India, is one of the sacred places in Karnataka. The place is also known as Thirunarayananapuram. It is built on rocky hills, known as Yadugiri, Yaadavagiri and Yadushailadeepa, overlooking the Cauvery valley. Melukote is the location of the Cheluvanarayana Swamy Temple, with a collection of crowns and jewels which are brought to the temple for the annual celebration. On the top of the hill is the temple of Yoganarasimha. Many more shrines and ponds are located in the town. Melukote is home to the Academy of Sanskrit Research, which has collected thousands of Vedic and Sanskrit manuscripts.

