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Three new sanctuaries to come up in TN

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Chennai: Three new sanctuaries, one for birds at Nanjarayan tank in Tirupur, another for elephants at Krishnagiri and a third for slender lorises in Dindigul, would be created in Tamil Nadu this year, said forest minister K Ramachandran in the assembly on Monday.

A sanctuary for slender loris, an endangered species endemic to South India and Sri Lanka would be set up in Dindigul and Karur to improve its habitat and increase the tree cover for its existence. While the bird sanctuary has been allocated ₹7.5cr, the two other sanctuaries got ₹5cr each.

“The Nanjarayan tank in Tirupur will become the 17th bird sanctuary in Tamil Nadu and it extends across 125.86 hectares. Based on several

studies, the lake is found to be an important breeding place for migratory birds and is home to 130 bird species apart from reptiles, fishes, amphibians, and plant species,” Supriya Sahu, secretary for environment and forests department told TOI. She added that a conservation centre would also be set up near the lake for research and training activities.

The south Cauvery wildlife sanctuary would extend across 478sqkm and cover the reserve forests of Anchetty, Urigam and Jawalagiri ranges of Hosur division. The area is contiguous with the Cauvery north wildlife sanctuary and has become an important habitat for the elephants.