

HERITAGE VALUE OF BHAVANISAGAR, A PART OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S HERITAGE CENTRES NAMELY, THE NILGIRIS BIOSPHERE RESERVE :-

Bhavanisagar forms part of the Sathyamangalam Reserve Forest. The Sathyamangalam RF was originally a part of the Nilgiris Eastern Slopes Reserve, which was declared as a Reserved Forest way back in 1886 (17.03.1886). The Sathyamangalam Reserve Forest spreads over an area of 1450 Sq. KM. Bhavanisagar Range falls within the jurisdiction of Sathyamangalam RF and it has 300 Sq. KM.

It borders the Erode District and Nilgiris District starts from 15th Km. There is a famous Tribal Settlement at Thengumarahatta in Nilgiris. It is located at a distance of 45 Kms. from Bhavanisagar. Mangalapatti, a small habitat, located at a distance of 15 KMs from Bhavanisagar is the point where actually the Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats meet.

The Sathyamangalam RF along with Thalavadi is the constituent of Eastern slope of the Western Ghats, wherein we could observe the distribution of forests in to five distinct patterns, based on the altitude. They are, Sub Tropical Shrub Jungle, High Tropical Savannah, Dry Deciduous Forest, Moist Deciduous Forest and High Altitude Semi-Evergreen Forest, in the ascending altitude order.

Thengumarahatta, in the foothills of the Nilgiris (located at a distance of 50 KM from Bhavanisagar) is one of the most famous preferred Breeding Grounds for the elephants in Western Ghats.

The adjoining Sathyamangalam Reserve Forest has been proposed to be declared as a Project Tiger Reserve by the Government of India in coming March - 2013. It is reported to have 70 tigers.

The area is very rich in flora and fauna. The common animals in these area are, Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Barking Deer, Musk Deer, Spotter Deer, Four Horned Deer, Armadillo, Porcupine, Gaur, Nilghai Tahr, Jackal, Spotted Hyenah, Sambar Deer, Wild Pig, Wild Dog, Common Langur, Bonnel Macaque, etc., All the four types of Vultures are spotted here.

Bhavanisagar is infact a recovery forest, means the lost habitat is slowly rejuvenating. It forms part of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO) and the rich biodiversity of western Ghats can be observed here.