அருளகம் Arulagan
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‘Arul’ Research Initiative for Species and Ecosystem (ARISE) Conservation Fellowship - 2026

🎉 Announcing the ARISE Fellows 2026!

As Arulagam celebrates 25 years of its commitment to nature conservation and community engagement, we are delighted to announce the seven selected fellows of the ARISE Conservation Fellowship 2026.

On the special occasion of **Mr. Arul's Memorial Day**, Arulagam is honoured and delighted to announce the selected fellows of the ARISE Conservation Fellowship 2026. This announcement is made in remembrance of Mr. Arul and in recognition of the enduring commitment to nature and conservation that inspires our work.

The fellowship aims to encourage young researchers to contribute to biodiversity conservation through innovative, field-based research across Tamil Nadu. ARISE fellowship is initiated by Arulagam with funding support from State Street.

🌱 About the ARISE Conservation Fellowship

The ARISE Conservation Fellowship is an initiative of Arulagam designed to support postgraduate students and emerging researchers in undertaking conservation-oriented research addressing critical ecological challenges across Tamil Nadu.

The fellowship provides financial support of up to ₹60,000 for a six-month research period, enabling young researchers to conduct field-based studies, investigate biodiversity, understand conservation challenges and develop locally relevant conservation solutions.

📊 Fellowship 2026 – Selection at a Glance

- 📩 27 research proposals received from across Tamil Nadu.
- 📋 15 proposals shortlisted for the presentation and evaluation round.
- 👩‍🔬 Presentation and evaluation of shortlisted proposals by the 12-member expert review panel.
- 🏆 7 fellows selected by Arulagam based on the final evaluation scores of expert review panel.

Proposals were evaluated based on their scientific objectives, research methodology, conservation relevance, feasibility, potential impact and community involvement.

🏆 **Meet the ARISE Conservation Fellowship 2026 Fellows**

S. No	ARISE Fellow	Institute	Project Tittle
1	Mr. Akash Debnath	Dr. M.G.R. Fisheries College and Research Institute, Ponneri, Chennai	Investigation on Seagrass and Associated Fish Larval Diversity in Pulicat Lake, Chozhamandal coast, India
2	Ms. Chermathangam	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli	Population Status, Distribution and Conservation Assessment of Endemic Coastal Sand-Dune Plants of Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari Districts, Tamil Nadu
3	Mr. Venkatesan	Jamal Mohamed College, Tiruchirappalli	Rapid Conservation Assessment of Endangered Epiphytic Orchids in Kolli Hills, Eastern Ghats, Tamil Nadu
4	Mr. Karan	Bharathiar University, Coimbatore	Assessment of Nightjar Diversity, Habitat Associations, Activity Patterns, and Conservation Threats, with Community Engagement for Conservation in the Foothills of Maruthamalai
5	Mr. Gokul	Periyar University, Salem	People and the Elvira Rat: Community Knowledge, Perceptions and Conservation Opportunities in the Shervaroyan Hills, Eastern Ghats
6	Mr. Nelson George Dawson	Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore	Distribution, Habitat Selection and Anthropogenic Threats to the Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*) Along the Tamiraparani River, Tamil Nadu
7	Mr. Sudharsan	Government Arts College, Ooty	Status, Distribution, and Conservation Assessment of Vultures in the Proposed Vulture Safe Zone (100 km²) of South India.

🔬 **Research for Conservation | Conservation for the Future**

The seven selected projects represent a diverse range of conservation priorities, encompassing coastal and marine ecosystems, threatened plants, endemic mammals, threatened birds, orchids and freshwater-associated wildlife.

Together, these initiatives aim to generate valuable ecological information, strengthen community participation, identify emerging conservation challenges and contribute to evidence-based conservation planning across Tamil Nadu.

By supporting young researchers and encouraging locally driven scientific investigations, Arulagam aims to nurture the next generation of conservation professionals and strengthen the connection between scientific research, local communities and biodiversity conservation.

💚 **Congratulations to All Seven Fellows!**

Arulagam congratulates all seven selected fellows and wishes them success in their research journey. We look forward to their contributions towards understanding, protecting and conserving Tamil Nadu's rich biodiversity.

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