

## Auroville

Pitchandikulam Forest is found in the green belt of the Auroville International Township in coastal Tamil Nadu, South India. It is a peaceful sanctuary of self-generating forest where over 800 species of plants can be found in the grasslands, nursery and ethno medicinal forest.

### Pitchandikulam

Forest is part of the Medicinal Plant Conservation Network (created by FRLHT in Bangalore), which implements detailed programs of botanical and social documentation as well as conservation and planting initiatives. As part of this network Pitchandikulam Bio Resource Centre was established and provides an office and interpretation centre that is now the hub of coordination and administration for activities in the Kaliveli bioregion.

### Many of the TDEF

species have never been propagated in nurseries before. Treatments have been tested to develop standard methods of germination for many of the species grown in Pitchandikulam. Education and the use of medicinal plants in traditional, and particularly, primary health care is a significant element of Pitchandikulam's work and the ethno-medicinal forest provides a useful demonstration and education site, as well as helping to conserve the indigenous plants and local health traditions.