

Save the Sangai

SALAM RAJESH In collaboration with Kalpavriksh/ National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan



The Sangai deer is found only in Manipur and at the last count there were only 162 left in the Keibul Lamjao National Park.



An animal found only in Manipur is the Sangai. Its common English name is Manipur Brow-antlered Deer and the scientific name, *Cervus eldi eldi McClelland*. It lives in the marshy wetland in Keibul Lamjao. Its habitat is located in the southern parts of the Loktak Lake, which is the largest freshwater lake in Eastern India. It is also one of the seven Ramsar sites of international importance. The habitat of the Sangai is now protected as the Keibul Lamjao National Park.

The Sangai is the State animal of Manipur, and is projected as the social and the cultural identity of the State. In order to protect the animal from poachers, people living around the Keibul Lamjao National Park have formed local clubs and non-governmental organisations and together they form a collective body known as the Environmental Social Reformation and Sangai Protection Forum, in short called as ESRSPF. Units of the ESRSPF are spread out all across the lake area.

The Sangai Forum was formed to protect the Sangai and other wildlife like hog deer, wild boar, Indian otter, civet cat, box turtle, and migratory water birds who have their home in the National Park. Although banned by law, hunting of the Sangai and other wildlife continues. Then again people hunt the deer for its meat. The Loktak Hydroelectric Power Project too has become a threat to the Sangai habitat. A constant high water level is

maintained in the lake and this has led to many changes, one of which is the rise in the water level in the Keibul Lamjao National Park during the rainy season.

Manipur experiences heavy rains during the monsoon season. So, the Sangai's home is constantly threatened. What happens during the rainy season is that the deer seeks shelter in isolated dry patches in the National Park and poachers lie in wait for such opportunity. Many times the deer drown.

One of the duties of the Sangai Forum volunteers is to keep a watch for signs of danger. They organise search parties to locate deer that are in trouble inside the park. They also keep a lookout for the poachers and organise awareness campaigns in villages, stressing on the importance of the Sangai and the need to save it. The villagers are requested to report to the nearest Sangai Forum unit if they have any news of the deer in danger. Forum volunteers also work with Forest officers and forest guards to protect the deer.

In January 2003, Sangai Forum volunteers caught two poachers who had killed a Sangai. The poachers were handed over to the Moirang Police Station and a criminal case was filed against them.

It is reported that there are only around 162 Sangai deer left in Keibul Lamjao National Park — their last safe home in the wild. If the Sangais are not saved, they will soon be extinct. ❁

What can I do?

You can write an essay or a poem — "We care for the Sangai". Or send in a drawing featuring the Sangai. Of course, you may need to read and learn a little more about the Sangai.

You can also write a letter to the Editor. The letter can be an open letter to the Chief Minister of Manipur, or it may even be an appeal to the Forest Department. The best thing would be to tell friends about the Sangai. May be do a skit in school. ❁



Never say die

MADHAV GADGIL

*How happily doth the wallaby chomp on its spiny food
Full of wonder sheep and men have done it a world of good!*

Wallabies, or Junior Kangaroos, are amongst the most abundant of marsupial mammals. Ecologically, they play the same role as our sheep and cattle; and, like them, are able to digest cellulose from the toughest of grasses with the help of a special bacterial flora in their stomachs and small intestines. Wallabies thrived side by side with man for upwards of 45,000 years till the modern man with gun and greed reached Australia a few centuries ago. For these settlers, wallabies meant meat for their dogs and cats, and the competitors for the sheep, valued as providers of meat and wool for themselves. So they shot and continue to shoot wallabies in millions. Yet wallabies have held their own, for they are far better than sheep at withstanding heat and drought. Moreover, wallabies relish Spinifex, a tough spiny grass that sheep detest. As



Sanjeeva Nayaka

sheep graze, and eliminate more palatable species, Spinifex multiplies to the great delight of wallabies. So the harder the ranchers try to raise sheep, the more wallabies do they reap! ❁

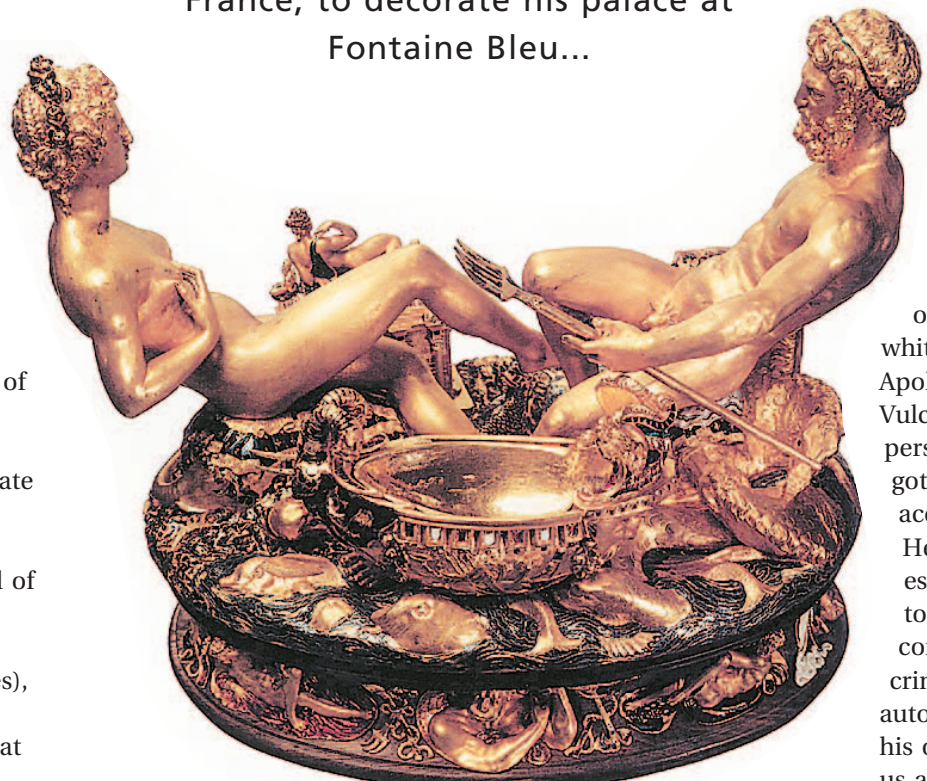
In the article "NRI bucks" published in the YW dated June 21 the illustration was by Sanjeeva Nayaka and not as mentioned.



Mannerist style

MALA MAHESH

Cellini worked for King Francis I of France, to decorate his palace at Fontaine Bleu...



Merging gold, enamel, wax and ebony...Salt Cellar.

Cellini was a student of Michelangelo. He was a genius in his work but led a controversial life. Born to musician parents in 1500, Cellini learnt music till the age of 15. After a duel, he was banished from Florence. Cellini was a skilful goldsmith and Pope Clement VII commissioned him to make candlesticks, medals and vases in gold and silver.

"Leda and Swan" was one of his famous gold medallions.

Cellini worked for King Francis I of France, to decorate his palace at Fontaine Bleu. Deeply influenced by Michelangelo and the school of Fontaine Bleu (artists who decorated the king's palace with paintings and sculptures), he produced a semicircular bronze relief (carving on a flat bronze surface) called the Nymph of the Fontaine Bleu. This relief was based on a legend of Fontaine Bleu, where a hunting dog found a stream and its goddess in a forest.

His other famous sculpture, merging gold, enamel, wax and

ebony, was the 'Saleria' or the Salt Cellar. The two main figures of this sculpture are Neptune the God of the sea and goddess of Earth. These

were in the Mannerist style. Mannerism came about at the final stages of Renaissance. Mannerist painters painted long figures in complicated poses

and used unusual colours.

Another influential ruler to appreciate Cellini's work was Cosimo I de Medici in Florence. Medici, an unpopular ruler in those times, commissioned Cellini to make a bust of him. Made in copper, it clearly showed the arrogance of the ruler.

Cellini made a huge bronze statue called the "Persues" in Florence for Medici. The statue was a message Medici wanted give his enemies. Cellini's pride for the Persues was evident in his autobiography. Very few works of Cellini have survived. Other important sculptures done by him were Jesus on a cross in black and white marble, marble statue of Apollo, silver works of Jupiter, Vulcan and Mars. Cellini as a person wasn't very popular. He got into several fights and was accused of theft and murder. He was even imprisoned and escaped many times. He had to use his powerful connections to pardon his crimes. He wrote an autobiography, full of praise for his own works but it also gave us an idea of the lives of the artists in those times.

Recently there was a theft in the Arts Museum in Vienna, Austria. Surprisingly the only piece stolen from its vast collection was Cellini's 'Salt Cellar'. ❁

Dereko's MindGame

Derek O'Brien

Mpower

A little maths, a little logic. Some exercise to empower your mind.

1 The petrol tank of my car was 5/6th full when I set out for a long drive. After I used 49 litres of petrol, the tank was only 1/4th full. What is the capacity of the tank?

2 What comes next in this sequence?
July June March May _____

3 Reading only once, count the 'F's in the following sentence.
"Finished frames are the outcome of years of scientific research combined with the experience of years."
○ 7
○ 6
○ 5

4 I have Rs135 in my wallet and still don't have the exact change for Rs100. Is this possible? _____

Bfriend

Words can do so much. Want to be friends with them?

1 Complete these words by inserting the same three letters in each.
a) SW _____
b) H _____ ER
c) F _____ URE

2 In each of these, all words except 'the' are replaced with words similar in meaning. Find the original words to get a popular phrase. For example, 'pursue the captain' would mean 'follow the leader'

- a) Sketch the border _____
- b) Acquire the tip _____
- c) Strike the street _____

3 Which of these words can not be made by rearranging these letters:
A A E L N P R T

- Paternal
- Parental
- Penitent

4 Find a word that can precede each of these to form a new word.

- a) Shed _____
- b) Proof _____
- c) Front _____

5 Which of these will not have a meaning if you replace the 'in' at the start with 'on'?

- Inset
- Include
- Incoming

6 What's the missing word?
Sever Era Radial Alien _____
Myth

- Enemy
- Dream
- Boost

winners ALL

Column 12 Date March 8, 2003
C Sushmita,
Std: VIII - Sec 'C',
St. Michael's Academy,
Adyar, Chennai - 20.
Email: shankarlakshmikantan@india.com

Column 13 Date March 22, 2003
Aswathi A. Iyer,
Std: VI - Sec 'R',
T.C.40/550, TPSRA-100, Mancaud P.O., Trivandrum.
Phone: 0471-2571711
Email-id: acchuiyer@yahoo.co.in

Column 14 Date April 5, 2003
Reuben Jacob Ninan,
Std: IV - Sec 'F',
C/O Dr. Ninan Jacob, C-54, VVP Nagar,
Pondichery - 605 009.
Email-id: bnninan@sify.com

Column 15 Date April 19, 2003
G. Premkumar
Std: IX - Sec 'B',
No. 281, Chandra Nagar Extn., Kootupatha, Palghat
Phone: 2572670

Every correct entry wins 25% discount on popular books

Grand Prize. Scholarship worth Rs 900 at Derek O'Brien's KQ School Advantage STEP ONE

Name _____
Class _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____

Send your answers to: chennai@kpsc.com or derek@mindgame Co Derek O'Brien & Associates, 3A Videsha House, 47 Ramanujam Street, T.Nagar, Chennai 17.



At the time when the British ruled India there were many Indian kingdoms. These were ruled by Indian rulers and were known as the "Princely states" or the "Native states". Each of these kingdoms had its own capital, flag, coins or currency, police and army. Pudukottai was the sole Tamil-speaking princely state, blessed with educated and enlightened kings of the Tondaiman family.

The Tondaiman rulers were famous for a unique circular copper coin that they minted. It is called the *Amman Kasu*. The obverse of the coin portrays Goddess Parvati or Brhadamba, seated wearing a short skirt. Brhadamba is the presiding goddess in the historic Shiva temple at Tirugokarnam in Pudukottai. The royal family worshipped in the temple and was also the venue of the coronation of the many of the rulers. The Tondaiman kings called themselves

From the deep south

S. SURESH

The Tondaiman rulers were famous for a unique circular copper coin they minted.



Pudukottai. This is one of the rarest instances in history where a single coin-type was both handmade and machine made.

During the *Navaratri* festival, the Tondaiman king gave the *Amman Kasu* along with a bag of rice and other gifts to

Toss of a Coin

'Bhadambadas' (servant of Goddess Brhadamba).

The reverse of the *Amman Kasu* bears the legend 'Sri Vijaya' (victory) in Telugu.

The first *Amman Kasu* was minted in the year 1738. In the initial years, the *Amman Kasu* was handcrafted at the Pudukottai mint. Later, the coin was machine made at London and shipped to

all those who visited his palace.

The *Amman Kasu* and other coins used in Pudukottai can be seen in the museum founded by the Tondaiman kings. The museum is now under the Tamil Nadu government and is located at Tirugokarnam, near the Brhadamba temple. ❁