

## **Anamudi Shola National Park**

## **Source: TH**

A road project through the **Anamudi Shola National Park** in **Kerala's Idukk**i district has been stalled, impacting access to tribal settlements.

## **Anamudi Shola National Park**

- Location & Geography: It is a biodiversity hotspot in the southern <u>Western Ghats</u> designated as a <u>National Park</u> in 2003, and forms part of the Anamalai sub-cluster, a <u>UNESCO World</u> <u>Heritage Site</u>.
  - It is surrounded by key protected areas such as:
    - Eravikulam National Park
    - Mathikettan Shola
    - Pampadum Shola
    - Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary
    - Kurinjimala Sanctuary
  - It is home to Anamudi (2,695 m) peak, (highest in South India), and is crucial for watershed conservation, forming the catchment area for rivers like the Pambar and Chinnar.

Vision

- **Biodiversity:** It supports **rich biodiversity** with high **endemism**.
  - The park is home to diverse forest types, including:
    - Southern Subtropical Hill Forests
    - Southern Montane Wet Temperate Forests
    - Moist Deciduous Forests
  - A unique feature of the park is its dense shola forests, characterized by stunted trees and an abundant growth of lichens, mosses, and climbers.
  - Fauna species: Leopard, Tiger, Indian Bison (Gaur), Nilgiri Tahr, Lion-tailed Macaque, Nilgiri Marten, Sloth Bear, Giant Grizzled Squirrel, and Hanuman Langur.
- Other National Parks in Kerala:
  - Eravikulam National Park
  - Mathikettan Shola National Park
  - Pambadum Shola National Park
  - Perivar National Park
  - Silent Valley National Park

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