

# A report on our visit to Coorg.

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It was a fabulous morning on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, when we were about to leave to take part in a historical event, as addressed by our principal. The person responsible, for us to get such a golden opportunity was Mr. Bhaskar Krishnamurthy, a renowned explorer. We had assembled in the school premises of Sri Vani Education Centre, Rajajinagar early in the morning at about 5:45 a.m. And after inspiring words and bidding from our principal and parents, we the students of S.V.E.C, departed towards our destination, Coorg with Sripad sir Mr. Bhaskar and Gayatri mam accompanying us at about 6:20 a.m.

On our way, a visit to the famous bird sanctuary, Ranganathittu was arranged. After a long journey we reached it at about 9:37 a.m. We were lucky to get a boat ride too. There our boatman introduced the various species of birds to us. We saw the following birds:

Open Billed Starks	Painted Starks	Fruit bats	Egret
European Spoonbill	Little Cormorend	Cattle Egret	Pond Heron
Grey Pelican	Night Heron	White Eyebes	

Last but not the least “Masked crocs”.

Then we left the place to have our breakfast and after the energetic bite we continued towards our destination. It was indeed a long drive across Mysore, Mandaya, Maddur, Channapatna and Shrirangapatna. Then in the hot afternoon at around 1:20 p.m. we reached COOPS (Coorg Public School). Immediately we were served with a most delicious lunch. After relishing every bite of it we were shown into our rooms. There were 5 of us in our room where everything was comfortable. After refreshing ourselves we were summoned for our first expedition-“Aane Chowk” or the elephants training centre. The agenda was clearly explained by Mr. Bhaskar on our journey to the place.

We were heartily welcomed by an elephant. Then as instructed, in groups we caught hold of one mahout and his elephant and interviewed the hidden relationships between the two. The profession of a mahout is like a family heirloom passed on from generations to generations and is in no way an easy job to take care of the giants. The mahout’s children take up this job at a shockingly young age of 7-8 years. On the whole we deeply understood what it takes to be a mahout? What it takes is to be a mahout’ child? How it feels for those children to have an elephant as a pet?

Later we were more than lucky to get a chance to touch BALARAMA the elephant who carried the Ambary. Then we did a good turn by piling up the elephant’s dung. It was a most thrilling experience to do.

Then we returned to the school to listen about Bio-diversity of birds in Coorg by Dr. Narasimhan. Through him we learned that there were 314 species of birds in Coorg and the names of some of them. It was truly educative. Then after a light dinner we called the day off.

Next day the 21<sup>st</sup> of April was as interesting as the previous day. And in addition in it lay embedded the Historical event. After a breakfast at about 7:20.a.m. we left to Kaveri Nisargadhama at 8:15a.m. It too was a long way up and down the Ghats. When we reached there we all were entertained by an elephant ride. Then we enjoyed feeding the deer and took in the beauty of river Cauvery. Then we returned at 11:30.a.m. and were joined by our principals. Then after the lunch we heard a thought kindling speech by Mr.Kushallappa, Professor, Agriculture University, Bangalore. The after a coffee break we visited a coffee estate on Palibetta at about 3:45.p.m. It was really huge and we gained loads of knowledge regarding the entire process of growth, harvest, and synthesis of coffee as well as black and white pepper.

Then we came back to prepare ourselves for the most awaited event. After the dinner, we all sat tight in front of a huge screen on which the program was projected. All this 2-day event was conducted on the account of inauguration of a museum called the Daily Planets Museum, USA renovating an old one. As a consequence of it a 24-hour long program was held in which each hour was represented by a selected country. India was one among them and we felt proud to represent it.

The program began at 8:30.p.m. and lasted for an hour during which people from various parts interacted with us. They were Kim Novick from North Carolina, Carlous de la Rossa from Costarica, Greg Synder from North Carolina, Angelina Palmer and of course Mr.Bhaskar from India. It really turned out to be a great show and we enjoyed. Thousands or even more were watching us as we went about. After wonderful wordings from each the program came to an end at 9:30.p.m.

We left for Bangalore enjoying the ride and reached it at about 3 in the morning.

I whole heartedly thank our principal R.H.Vani mam, Sharda Prasad sir and Mr.Bhaskar who were responsible for me to have such a memorable experience. I also thank our Sripad sir and Gayathri mam who looked after us with care and concern.

-Thank you.

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