

## The Andaman Study Tour: March '2023 - Group 1

The Orchid school has organised a study tour/excursion to the Andamans this year with a group of 28 students accompanied by the teachers. It has been conducted in sync with our holistic approach learning that has been a part of TOS approach from the beginning. The students experience real life learning lessons in actual situations and become engaged learners once they see the relevance.

Day 1: From Shaniwarwada to Cellular jail, the trip begins. (13<sup>th</sup> March)



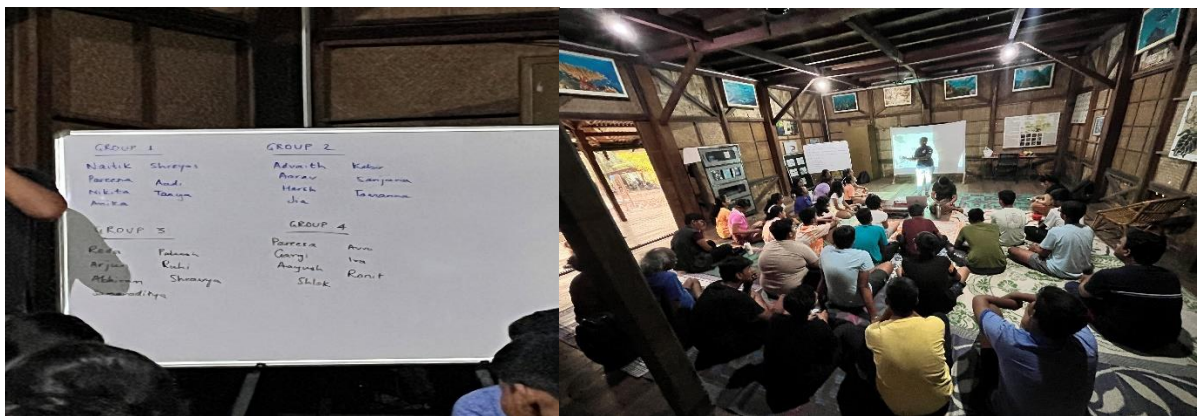
Next stop: Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair



On arrival at ANET: Andaman Nicobar Environment Team, Research and Education Centre.



After freshening up, various activities begin at the Centre. Students divided into 4 groups.



DAY-WISE ACTIVITIES -

14<sup>th</sup> Mar Mangrove Kayaking + Ross Island - light & sound show

15<sup>th</sup> Mar Diving (grp A) + Trek & Intertidal walk (grp B) + Beach sunset (all)

16<sup>th</sup> Mar Diving (grp B) + Trek & Intertidal walk (grp A) + cellular jail (all)

17<sup>th</sup> Mar Day @ ANET...

- ↳ Morning bird walk
- ↳ Traditional mat weaving
- ↳ Community cooking
- ↳ Careers in conservation + games
- ↳ Beach time

March 14, Day 2: Morning begins at 8 am with Bird watching activity near ANET. Students try and spot some unique species indigenous to the region. The rich avi-faunal diversity has always attracted ornithologists and bird watchers to these islands. Some endemic species include: Nicobar pigeon ,Green Imperial Pigeon, Nicobar Parakeet, Crested serpent eagle, White-bellied sea eagle, Edible-nest swiftlet, Emerald dove etc.



It's time for kayaking.



Off to see the betelnut, coconut and spices plantations. Expertise being shared and explained by Dinaz Maam.



Next stop to the Ross islands, named after marine surveyor, Daniel Ross. In December 2018, it was renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island. The historic ruins are a tourist attraction and that was seen in the light and sound show briefing about its colonial history.



Back to base at ANET.

Day 3, 15<sup>th</sup> March: Started with the much-awaited scuba diving with one batch and the inter tidal walk for the other. Unique and unforgettable experience of walking on the beach during low tide and getting a close-up view of the marine life in the tidal pools. Students were able to observe the aquatic biodiversity, learn about the local ecology and the importance of conserving the marine environment. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are home to a wide variety of marine life including colourful fish, corals, crabs, starfish and sea urchins.



A visit to Port Blair is incomplete without a trip to Port Blair's most popular and yet most serene tourist destination - Munda Pahar. The trek trail courses through thick vegetation, beaches and some parts of the Chidiya Tapu Biological Park laced with natural wonders.



Day 4, 16<sup>th</sup> March : Scuba diving for Group 2 and inter tidal walk for group 1 was organised. Here's a look at the students in full gear ready to take the plunge into the deep waters.





Towards the evening, a visit to the Cellular jail was organised. Also known as Kālā Pānī is a British colonial prison. Many notable independence activists like Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and Batukeshwar Dutt, were imprisoned here during the struggle for India's independence. Today, the complex serves as a national memorial monument.

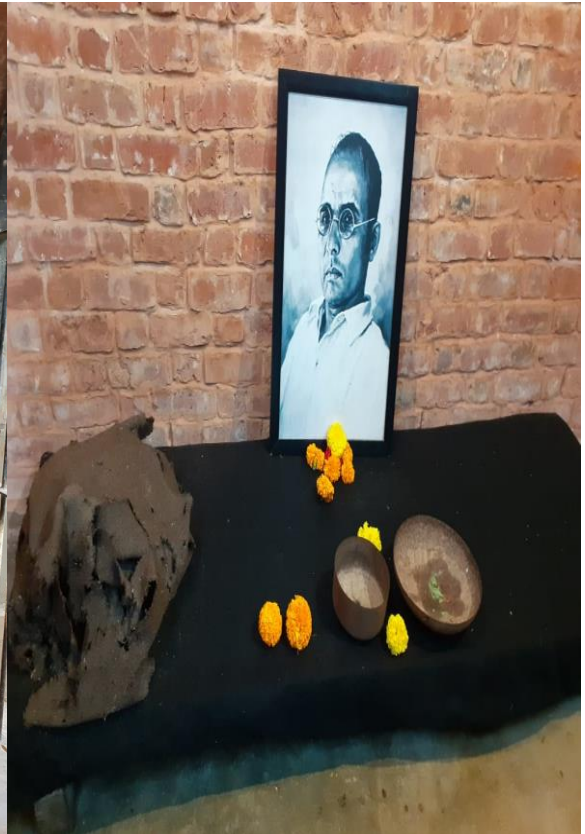




### समर्पण

स्वयं तथा स्वदेश की स्वतन्त्रता के लिए लड़ते लड़ते मरण का वरण करने वाले हे वीरों ! यह कृतज्ञ इतिहास तुम्हारी पावन स्मृति में ही समर्पित। स्वदेश के लिए युद्ध करने को सिद्ध हुए वीरों, तुम कौन थे ? तुम्हारे नाम क्या थे ? साधना की उज्वल ज्योति तुम्हारे हृदय में प्रदीप्त हो उठने पर तुम्हारा नेतृत्व करनेवाला वह वीर कौन था, जिसने तुम्हें इस श्रमंकर रण की प्रेरणा दी थी ? हमारा कितना दुर्भाग्य है कि मानवता की सेवा के लिए अपने प्राणों को समर्पित करनेवालों, तुम्हारे नाम और तुम्हारी गाँव भी ह्यों विदित नहीं। तो फिर यह इतिहास खना तुम्हारी मुमनाम स्मृति को ही समर्पित। विजय तुम्हारे लक्षों से भले ही निकल गयी हो, किन्तु तुमने अपनी जान और सम्मान तथा यश पर तो आँव नहीं आने दी! तुम्हारा स्वतः भूतकाल की विलाजलि और अग्रणी वीरों के लिए संजीवनी सिद्ध हो। तुम्हारे परमम से अतीत की कीर्ति को वार वाद लमें और वह भविष्य की प्रेरणा तथा वैतन्य की निधि बने, यही आकांक्षा है।

वि. दासावरकर





Day 5 ,17<sup>th</sup> March: Day began with bird watching and beach walk followed by some quiz games on the information students gathered in the past days. The next interesting task was community cooking.



The afternoon was well utilised by a mat weaving activity and evening well spent on the beach to watch the early setting of the Sun as it was only 5.20 pm.



Final Day, 18<sup>th</sup> March : The day of departure was heart filled with happy memories already.

A big shout out to the ANET team for providing this exciting opportunity to the young minds for developing interests beyond academics and showcasing the real world for climate change initiatives. The students will not only cherish the trip for the fun times they had but also the many takeaways of being a more responsible citizen towards the climate.

This trip has further solidified our commitment to the theme of 'Climate Change' for this year.

To show their immense appreciation for all the efforts taken by the ANET gang, our students made this drawing that artistically depicts their entire stay. Asha di, a member of the team has displayed it at the staff dining area and sent her regards to The Orchid School for joining them.

