

**KUMARI ARIVIAL PERAVAI
YOUNG SCIENTISTS PROGRAMME 2010-2011
WATER AND LIFE
STUDY CAMP
REPORT**

H.S. SRUTHI

LEADER

MAROON TEAM

We gathered at Udayagiri Fort on 28th November 2010 at 2 pm for the second study camp of Kumari Arivial Peravai, Young Scientists Programme 2010-2011. The Udayagiri fort is located at Puliyoorkurichi at a distance of 14 km from Nagercoil in Kanyakumari District.



We got an opportunity to walk around the campus where we could see the Tomb of De Lannoy. We went back to the history of the fort which is more than 300 years old



with massive, giant stone walls. The fort was the most important military barracks of the Travancore rulers, when Padmanabhapuram was their capital. It is built of massive granite blocks around an isolated, 260 feet (79 m) high enclosing an area of almost 90 acres. It is renovated about AD 1600. The fort is said to have been destroyed by the

King Raja Raja Chola. The fort is rebuilt during the reign of Marthanda Varma, Venad

King during 1741-44 under the supervision of Eustachius De Lannoy, a Flemish naval commander of the Dutch East India Company, who later served as the Chief of the Travancore Army. The Tombs of the Dutch Admiral Eustachius De Lannoy, and of his wife and son could be seen inside a partly ruined chapel in the fort. De Lannoy's



body was buried within the fort and a chapel was built at his burial site. De Lannoy's tomb in the fort is marked out by a stone cross planted on the top, with the inscription in both Tamil and Latin. His wife and son were buried by his side. Recently, officials of the Department of Archaeology found an underground tunnel within the fort. Presently, the

fort has been turned into a bio-diversity park by the Tamilnadu Forest Department, with



sites of historical importance, such as De Lannoy's tomb, remaining as protected archaeological sites under the Archaeological Department of India. The adjoining areas of the fort are home to deer, ducks, birds and over 100 varieties of trees.

We went through the adjoining forest and seen bamboo huts, aquarium where we could see the fishes like Cichild, Muse, Koicarp, etc. Mr. Mullanchery M. Velaian Organizer of Kumari Arivial Peravai, at the end of his welcome address informed us the agenda of the second study camp. After the team leader welcomed the members of the team, all the members submitted our reports. Then we were asked to collect the details of famous personalities who were succeeded against several hurdles and collect the paper cuttings of Science and Technology news. We could get lot of information from the presentation of the research topics allotted to us.



The presence of Mr. Sundara Raju IFS, District Forest Officer during the midst of the discussion in to our shelter made us proud. He gave useful information about water conservation and management. He told that one hectare of forest gives 20 lakh liter of water. In Poigai Dam there was limited amount of water. Water is stored below soil level. He said that in America, there is a river, Hutson which is badly polluted. The Government took severe action to clean the river. Our forefathers respected the rivers very much and even worshipped as Goddesses. In Mukkadal, around 2/3rd is reserve forest. To preserve the forest , Tamil Nadu Preservation of Private Forest Act was implemented on 1949 to prevent the indiscriminate destruction of private forests and interference with customary and prescriptive rights.

Capt. Bennat Singh, Consultant of our team was guiding us from the beginning with diverse and enormous information and advises regarding the future programs. Mr.



joy ,delighted and enlighten mind.

Mangavila D. Rajendran was the other important expert who shared his views with us. This programme was really useful for us to gain more knowledge and improve our skills. We left the venue by 4.30 PM in the dark, cloudy and drizzling pleasant evening with