

# KUMARI ARIVIAL PERAVAI COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD STUDY TOUR

(NEERODI TO VATTAKKOTAI)

17,18.01.2009

TEAM REPORT

BY

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On 17.01.2009 at 8'am we gathered together in Swamiyarmadam and then went to Marthandam College of Engineering and Technology in the college bus. The Sky team organized the programme. . The programme started with Tamil Thai Valthu by Sky team members. Prof. James Wilson, Vice Chairman of Marthandam Engineering College gave the welcome address. Mr. Mullanchery M. Velaian, Organizer of Kumari Arivial Peravai gave the introductory address. Prof. R. Thiyagaswamy, advisor of Kumari Peravai gave the Presidential Address Dr. Jayalal, Dr. Vijay Kumar & Shri.Sundara Raju I.F.S. gave their speech and they wished us to continue our journey. The buses left the college campus at 10oclock. First we went to Neerodi .Mrs. Esalda and her family members welcomed us Mrs. Esalda gave some information about Neerodi. The people of Neerodi are getting assistance from government for the Tsunami. Before 40 year the water level was about 75metres away from the sea shore. It was a heaven for the fisherman folk to play,

to sit and chat. Now the water level is just near to their dwelling places with little space to do their day to day activities. All of them agreed that this is only because of sea level rise due to climate change. In the month of January, July, August they got Ribbon fish. They use Saturn cloth and light for fishing. The people disposes of the waste materials in to the sea.



Mr. Joe Prakash gave some valuable information about tortoise. He also explained the species of sea turtles. They made their nest on sand. During night they lay eggs in the sand. The price on one egg is Rs. 14/-.

In Vallavilai there was a small meeting at Jude's Middle School. Shri. Nikolson, head master of the school welcomed and arranged tea. Here Mr. Yovan, fisherman explained about sea level raise and about 20m of the sea shore is eroded and surrounded with sea water. In the month of June & July they can harvest large quantity of fishes.

We were received at Nithiravilai by the members of the Patriot Sports Club under the leadership of Mr. Rajesh and they provided lunch to us. Mr. Velaian and Scientist Shri. S Ingersol appreciated the Patriot Sports Club. From 2'o clock onwards the Air Team organized the programme. Then we visited Parthibapuram and went to a historical temple. Kavingar Thanka Arasu welcomed and explained about the historical background of that place. The temple belongs to Archeological Department and is a national monument. It is 1400 years old. The temple was built by the King Karuna Thadakan. The King Aai ruled this place. The temple has 12 wells. In a war all the 12 wells got destroyed. Now the people were not permitted to built houses or building in this place. First this place was

under Kerala State. But after the separation of Kanyakumari from Kerala, the Parthibapuram joined Tamil Nadu. At 4'o clock, we visited St. Antony's Higher Secondary School in Enayam Puttan Thurai. Sr.Felinda welcomed us by children's dance and arranged tea for us. We met a fisher man there and collected some information. He complained that the government had not taken any steps to clean the place. As the people dispose the waste in to the sea shore is completely covered waste materials. The fisherman ventured into the sea up to 50 km for fishing.

Next we visited Annai Hospital at Karinkal. There Mrs. Gladis Lily welcomed us and arranged tea for us. Prof. James Wilson, scientist Shri. S.Ingersol, Shri.J.Joe Prakash, Captain Bal Benit and Mr. Velaian spoke few words Mrs. Gladis Lily and her suffering and achievements as an woman officer. The air team delivered the vote of thanks. Next, the earth team organized the program. At Coached and visited memorial building built in memory of those people who lost their life in Tsunami. 414 peoples were buried there. The fisherman exporting fishes like prawn, thymus, seer fish etc. We asked about the harbor. He told that it would be a great help for the people here, if government take steps to build a harbour. Later we came to Vivekananda Matric School in Mondaikadu. We were welcomed by Principal Shri S.Sreekumar. The students entertained us with many programs like songs, jokes, folk dance, classical dance, news etc. We had a debate also.

On 18-1-2009 morning 5'o clock onwards water team organized the program.Mr. Sathiskumar taught us yoga. At 8 'o clock we assembled in a place for a small meeting. In that meeting Mr. Manikandan, correspondent of Vivekananda Matric school,presented a memento to Mr.Velaian. We reached Kadiyapatinam at 8.45 AM. Scientist Shri. A. Benzhiga Rajan gave some useful information about this place. Here the river Valliyaru joins with Kadikapatinam Sea. One could

find silicon in Red soil and Thorium in Black soil. Silicon was used for coating and crude oil is used for perfume, costume. Up to 250m, the sea is rich with fish. Shark fish was less in number. The fishes like shad or Ribbon fish, thymus, netholi, sardine and seer fish are caught mainly.



At 9.20 am we were in Muttom. Muttom is a rocky place. Dr.Arulprakash & Dr.Arumugam explained about diseases. The rocks are million years old. The population between Kadikapattinam and Muttom is 15000. One could find numerous tortoises in the river Valliyaru and Periakadu. Then we

visited a light house. It was built in 1882. The light passes up to 25 Km radius. At Rajakamangalam Thurai one could find large numbers of sea turtles. The population is about 5000. We reached Periyacadu at 11 'o clock. Here we saw the breaking zone. It is used for 2 purposes.



First for ocean currents and control the Tides. In the month of August and September the waves were high. From Chotavilai beach and we visited a famous temple. Mr.RAGUVARAN AND FAMILY MEMBERS RECEVED us. we had a group discussion about the coastal areas of this place. Scientist Shri.A. Benzhigarajan helped the teams. After lunch and we continued our journey.



At 2 'o clock we reached Manakudi.Mr. Mangavillai Rajendran of All India Radio explained us about Manakudi. In 1991 the mangrove trees were planted here. This is a sanctuary for birds. He gave

informations about Jordhan river and Dead sea. He also explained about many forests. The mangrove trees are grown in a marshy lands. We could also see a bridge which was destroyed by Tsunami into three pieces. At 3 'o clock we went to Vattakotai. Advocate Rajadurai welcomed us. Mr. Ravi explained about this place. This palace was built in 1741 by the king Marthanda Varma. Now it is under the control of Archeological Department. It is spread over a area of 3 acres and 96 cent. We were very much astonished to witness the sun set at Kovalam beach. Then we came to Vivekananda Kendra. At Vivekananda Kendra the team leaders presented the reports. The guide teachers expressed their opinion about the two days camp. Later Miss. Saraswathi of Vivekananda Kendra distributed some seeds to the young scientist to be sown in their houses.

The meeting came to end with the vote of thanks and national Anthem by the fire team members. We departed Kanyakumari at 5.30pm with a sense of satisfaction and proud as we are one of the luckiest children in our district.

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