

A photograph of a hillside village with colorful houses and lush greenery. The houses are built on a steep slope, and the scene is set against a backdrop of mountains and a clear sky. The text "EXPERIENCES OF 'MUNNAR MAVERICKS'" is overlaid on the image in a blue, hand-drawn font.

# EXPERIENCES OF "MUNNAR MAVERICKS"

# THAT'S HOW WE STARTED.mp4



# The Mavericks

1. Sahil Ratusaria
2. Dhawal Srivastava
3. Galif Aftabul Mamood
4. Vipul Kumar
5. Ankit Goyal
6. Anuj Yadav
7. Vivek Ranjan Pandey
8. Brijendra Gautam
9. Saurabh Pandey
10. Prasant Kumar
11. Mohnish Kumar Sinha
12. Sunny Bothra
13. Sagar Maheshwari
14. Ayush Tiwari



# Introduction of the Members.mp4



# OBJECTIVES

1. Spirit of adventure
2. To promote Espirit-de-corps and camaraderie among fellow probationers
3. To improve self-esteem, feeling for friends, know/understand each other better and make lasting friendships
4. To appreciate the pristine glory of nature.
5. Learn to endure in hard circumstances and limited resources

# OBJECTIVES

6. Realizing one's own potential of mental and physical capabilities
7. Helps in team building and understanding the group dynamics in difficult circumstances
8. Opportunity for relaxing amidst the natural and healthy surroundings

# YOUTH HOSTEL ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

- First Hostel at Tara Devi (near Shimla) in 1945.
- Associate Member of International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF).
- Visions of this institution are:
  1. To promote travel, tourism & adventure spirit among the youth of India.
  2. To provide safe, affordable and clean accommodation to millions of youth of limited means.

# **YOUTH HOSTEL** **ASSOCIATION OF INDIA**

3. Organizing adventure and educational events and to develop understanding among youth about social & development issues.

- Dedicated Sub-Committees of Youth

Hostels Association of India :

- Adventure Promotion Committee
- Hostel Development Committee
- Environment Protection Committee



# YOUTH HOSTEL ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

[yhai breifing.mp4](#)



# Route



# FLORA AND FAUNA

- Munnar Hills, forming part of Anaimalai Hills of the Western Ghats, are a picturesque and cool hill station in South India. It is located amidst mist-covered mountain ranges and forests at the foot hills of Anamudi, the highest peak of the Western Ghats (2,695 m).
- The region is home to four nationally significant National Parks and two Wildlife Sanctuaries, including the Eravikulam National Park, for wildlife conservation.
- This biodiversity rich area offers a lot to explore the mountains, the streams, the waterfalls, the valleys, the wildlife sanctuaries, the flora and fauna, and more

# FLORA AND FAUNA

- Munnar Hills have very enormous diversity in angiosperms and other lower groups of plants. The vegetation in the hills is a summation of Montane Grasslands and Shola Forests.
- The Grasslands cover the plateau and descending slopes above 2000 m. More than three hundred species have been recorded from the grasslands, out of which 51 are endemic to the Montane Grasslands of the Western Ghats.
- Major grass species - *Andropogon lividus*, *Arundinella*, *Digitaria* (Finger-grasses, crabgrass), *Sehima nervosum*. Numerous species of balsams (Touch-me-not) and ground orchids also beautify the grasslands

# FLORA AND FAUNA



# FLORA AND FAUNA



# FLORAL DIVERSITY

- The dominant shrubs present on the slopes include *Strobilanthus*, *Ageratina adenophora*, *Gaultheria fragrantissima* and *Hypericum mysorensense*.
- In Kerala we have approximately **40 species of *Strobilanthes***, of which the Eravikulam National Park alone holds **20 species** with the richest species diversity and abundance in Peninsular India.
- The most famous of all these is *Strobilanthes Kunthiana* commonly known as Neelakurinji that blossoms only once in 12 years. It blossomed last year in 2018.



# Neelakurinji



# FLORAL DIVERSITY

- The forest types recognized in the hill region includes mainly shola forests. Pampadum Shola National Park is an area near Munnar where you can spot Shola forest. It is the smallest national park in Kerala.
- The National Park offers a wide range of habitat types to the flora and fauna. **22 Species of trees, 74 species of herbs and shrubs, 16 species of climbers.**
- The common tree species in the shola are *Michaelia nilagirica*, *Elaeocarpus recurvatus*, *Microtropis ramiflora*, *Actinodaphne bourdellonii*, and *Symplocos pendula*. The edges of the shola are marked by the Snow Rose Trees like *Rhododendron arboretum* var. *nilagiricum* which is endemic to the sholas of the Southern Western Ghats. These are rosy reddish flowers on the dark green leaves.

# FLORAL DIVERSITY

- The shola trees are covered with diverse types of lichens, balsams, orchids, mosses and climbers. The Tree Fern species (**Cyathea nilgiriensis** and **Cyathea crinita**) are rare, endemic ferns in the shola forests. They give Munnar a feeling of the 'fossil ecosystem' of prehistoric time (Paleozoic Era).
- Attractions at Pampadum Shola include mountains covered with a thick growth of stately trees, eucalyptus and also barren hillocks.
- The national park with its unique richness of uncontaminated "humus", has been an interest of studies recently.
- After the forest range there are grandis (a variety of eucalyptus) that threatens the ecology of the area due to its dehydrating and quick-spreading character.



# Eucalyptus Cutting







**Rhododendron**



# Lichen



**West Indian Lantana**





**West Indian Lantana**



**West Indian Lantana**



**Blue Dawn Flower**



**Tea Plant Flower**



Day Lily



**Dahlia**



**Moss Rose**



**Garden Rose**



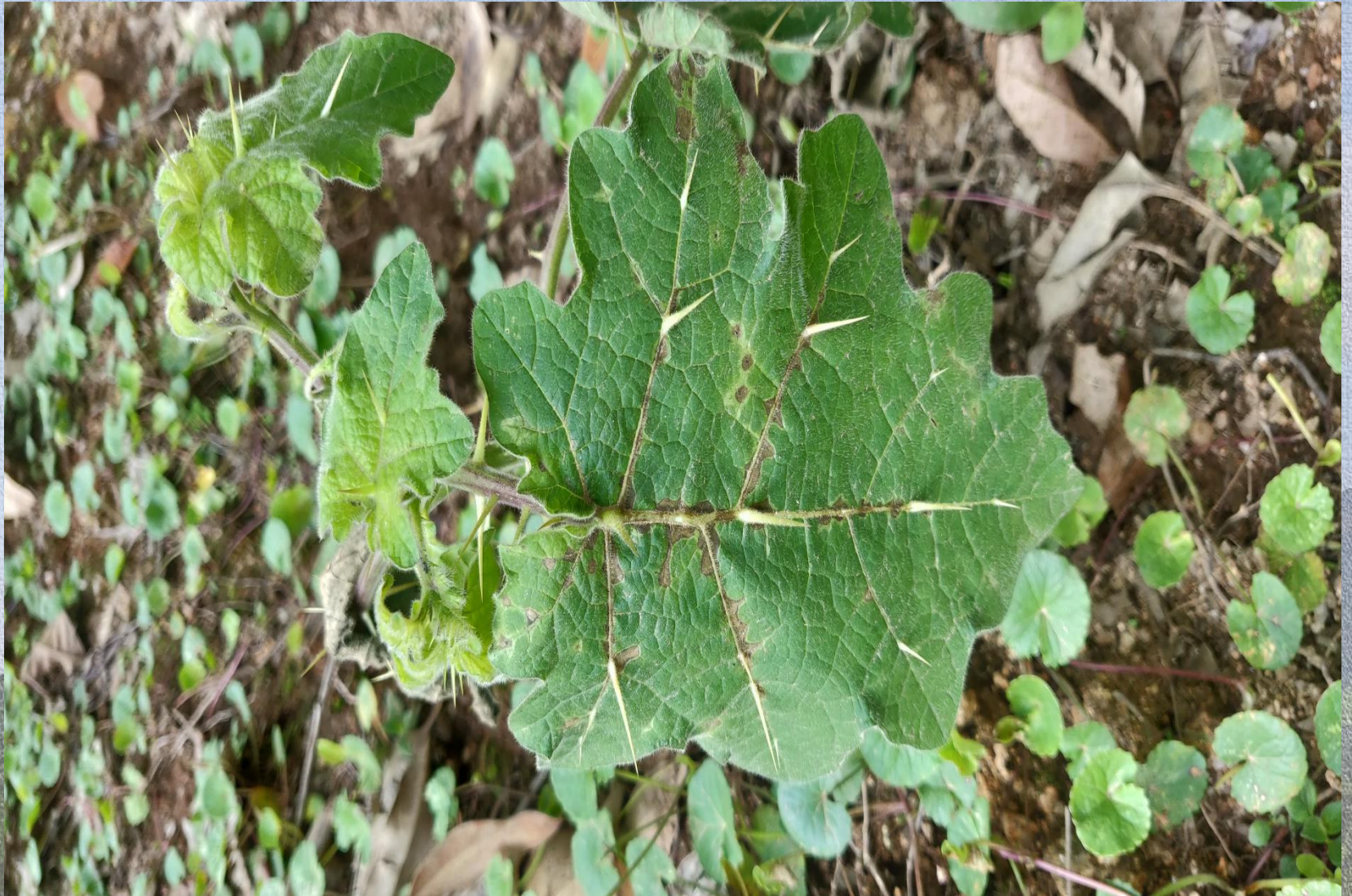


**Euphorbia Garden Plant**



# Scarlet Sage

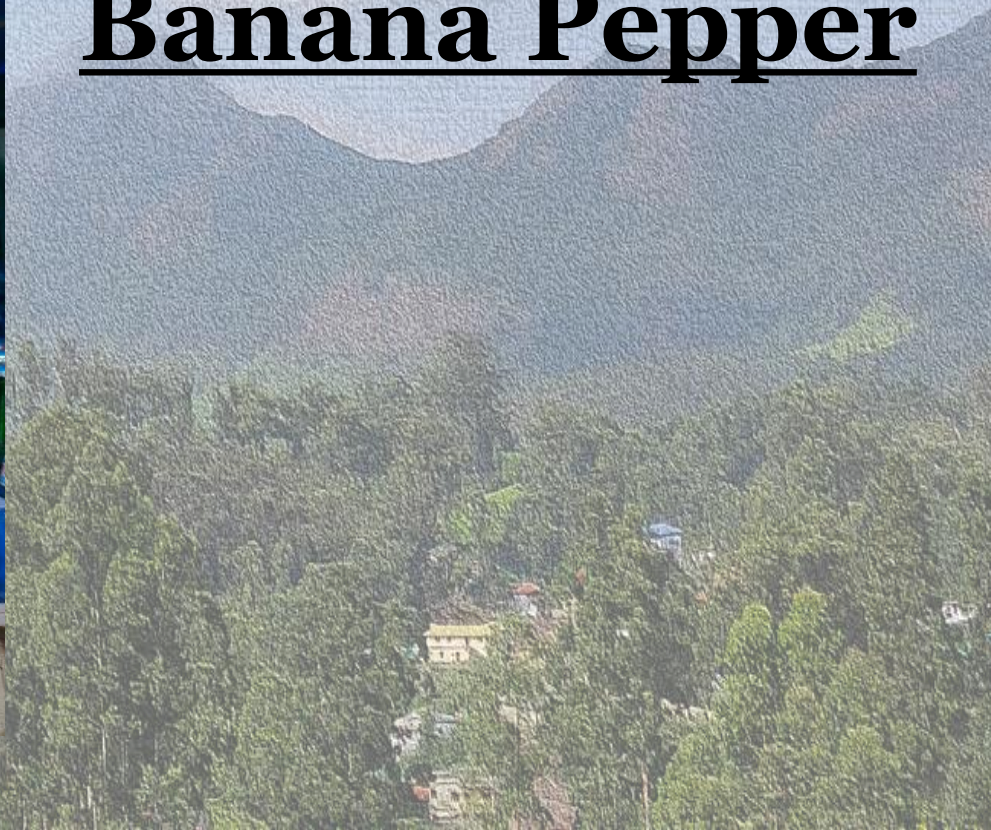




**Solarium Viarum**



# Banana Pepper





**Black Pepper**



**Solanum Pseudocapsicum**

# FAUNAL DIVERSITY

- The varied and numerous microclimates of the misty mountains behave as unique resort to many threatened and endemic species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fishes and invertebrates.
- There are more than 49 species of mammals recorded from the Munnar hills.
- The wild attractions of the area include many species like the Malabar Giant Squirrel which is a large-bodied herbivorous squirrel endemic to the Western Ghats. Nilgiri Marten, the only species of marten found in South India, is endemic omnivorous mammal occurring in these hills.
- Asiatic Elephants are very common in sholas, grasslands and other forest types.

# FAUNAL DIVERSITY

- Wild monkeys are friendly hosts in this hill station and include the Bonnet Macaques, Nilgiri Langur and Common Langur.
- The endemic bird fauna includes species like Black and Orange Flycatcher, Nilgiri Pipit, Nilgiri Verditer Flycatcher and Kerala Laughing Thrush. The endemic Nilgiri Wood-Pigeon is in 'vulnerable' category in IUCN's Red List.





**Cicada insect**



Bug



Bug



**Millipede**



**Moth**



**Crab**



**Monkey**



**Elephant**





**Giant Grizzled Squirrel**

# CHALLENGES

- Lack of experience in trekking
- Changing weather conditions.
- Intense travelling
- Quality of stay
- Water availability
- Network connectivity
- Tanning and Sun burns



# CHALLENGES- LACK OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD



# CHALLENGES-LACK OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD



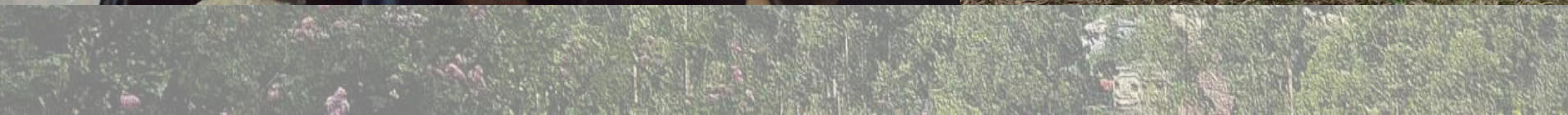
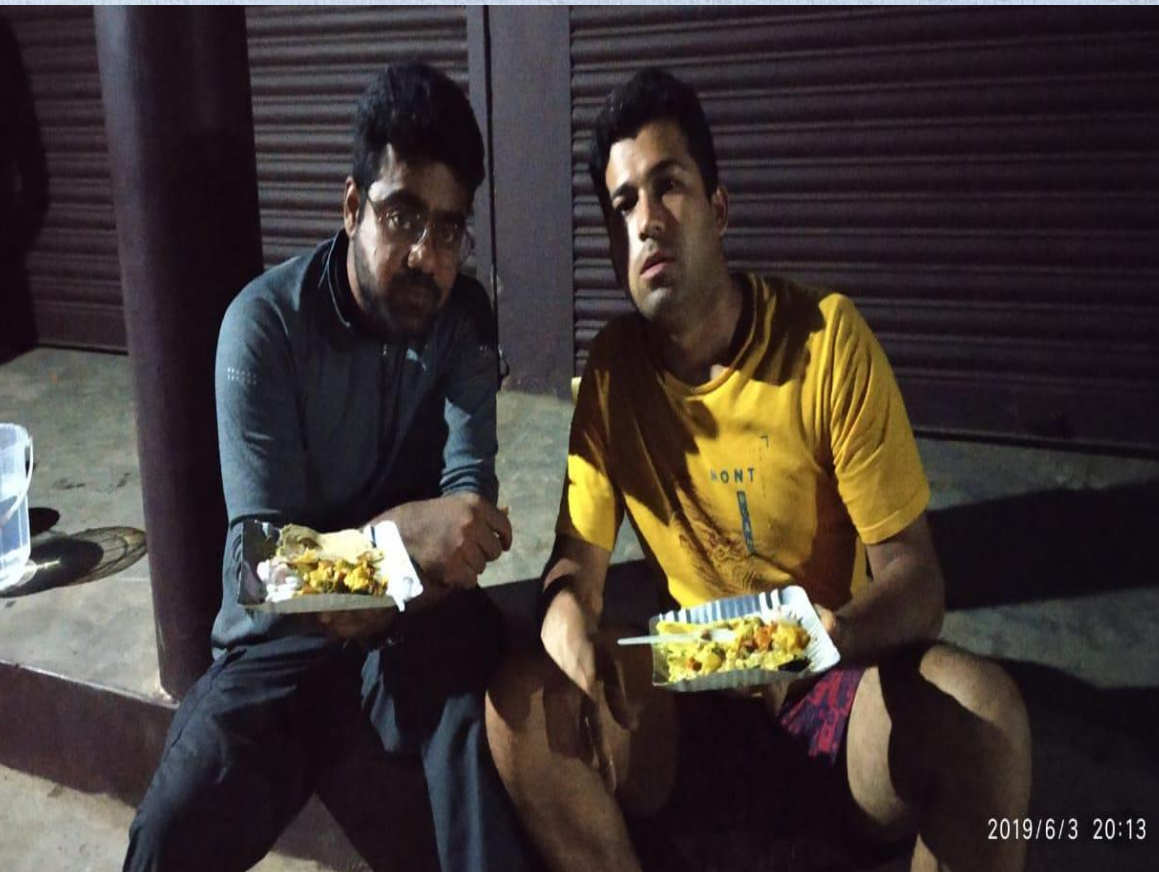
# CHALLENGES- LACK OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD



# CHALLENGES- LACK OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD



# CHALLENGES- LACK OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD



# CHALLENGES- LEECHES





# CHALLENGES- LEECHES



# CHALLENGES- LEECHES



# CHALLENGES-STEEP SLOPES AND HEAVY RUCKSACK



# CHALLENGES-STEEP SLOPES AND HEAVY RUCKSACK



# CHALLENGES

- Competency of Guide- We were “Lost” a few times
- Language Barrier:  
How far??? 1 Km....which actually meant 5-10 Km



# KEY LEARNINGS

- *Teamwork (Espirit-de-corps)*
- *Leadership*
- *Self-belief and Self-Esteem*
- *Spirit of Adventure*
- *Appreciating the beauty of Nature*
- *Survival in adverse conditions.*
- *Sensitisation towards nature.*
- *Behaviour of team members.*
- *Interaction with local people and their culture.*

# KEY LEARNINGS-TEAM WORK



# KEY LEARNINGS-TEAM WORK





# KEY LEARNINGS-TEAM WORK



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# KEY LEARNINGS-TEAM WORK



# KEY LEARNINGS- LEADERSHIP



**KEY LEARNINGS-**

**LEADERSHIP.mp4**

# KEY LEARNINGS- SELF-BELIEF AND SELF- ESTEEM



# KEY LEARNINGS- SELF-BELIEF AND SELF- ESTEEM



# KEY LEARNINGS- LOCAL PEOPLE AND CULTURE



# KEY LEARNINGS-SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE



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# PEOPLE



# PEOPLE



# PEOPLE



# *PEOPLE*



# PEOPLE



# PEOPLE



# PEOPLE



# PEOPLE





# KEY LEARNINGS- BEHAVIOUR OF TEAM MEMBERS.



# *Some memorable moments*

*Enjoying.mp4*  
*ki ghar kab aaoge.mp4*

**ESPRIT DE CORPS.mp4**

**THANK YOU**