

Trek Group

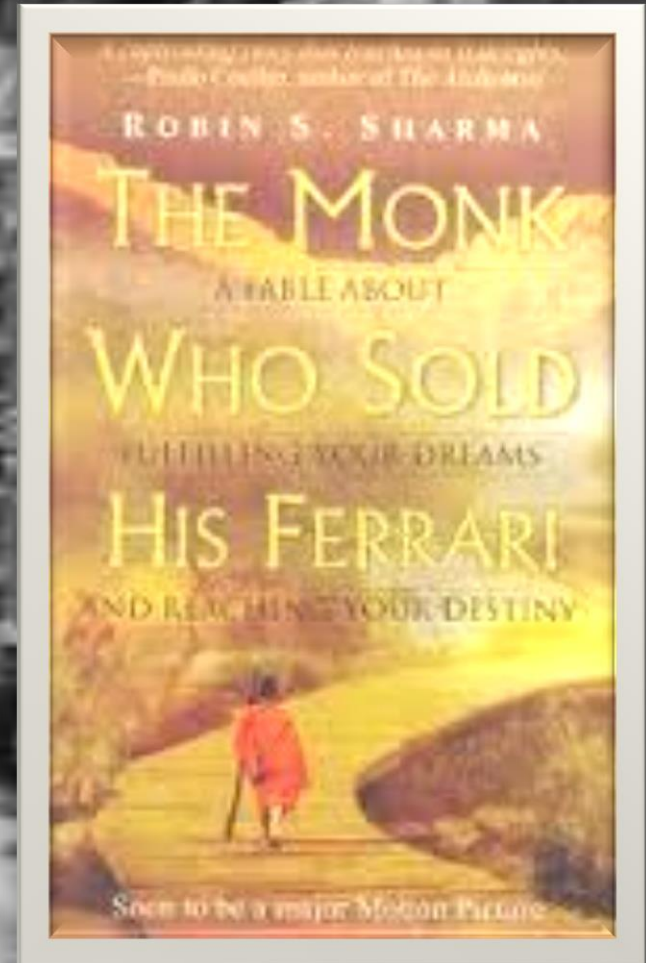
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The Young Monks



The Young Monks...

inspired from



Road to Nirvana.....



Vazaihattam to Sholur

- **Steep Climb (950 m to 2100 m)**
- **Open forests, grasslands, thick jungle, streams mountains, tea gardens**
- **Elephant Territory**



Sholur to Parson's Valley



Scenic
expanses
of Tea
gardens

Undulating
plains,
meadows

Tasted
Nilgiri Tea

Photographer's
Delight

Shooting
locations

Tourists'
paradise

Parson's Valley to Avalanchi

- Parson's Valley dam, Emerald Lake
- Thick forest, dry ground covering foliage, lush green lake fronts
- Walked through Tiger's territory
- Rejoiced meeting Group 7

Avalanchi to Porthimund

- Overlapped with the route from Parson's Valley to Avalanchi
- Observed Kurunji flower - Nilgiri Hills owe their name to it
- Shared happy moments with Trek Group 7

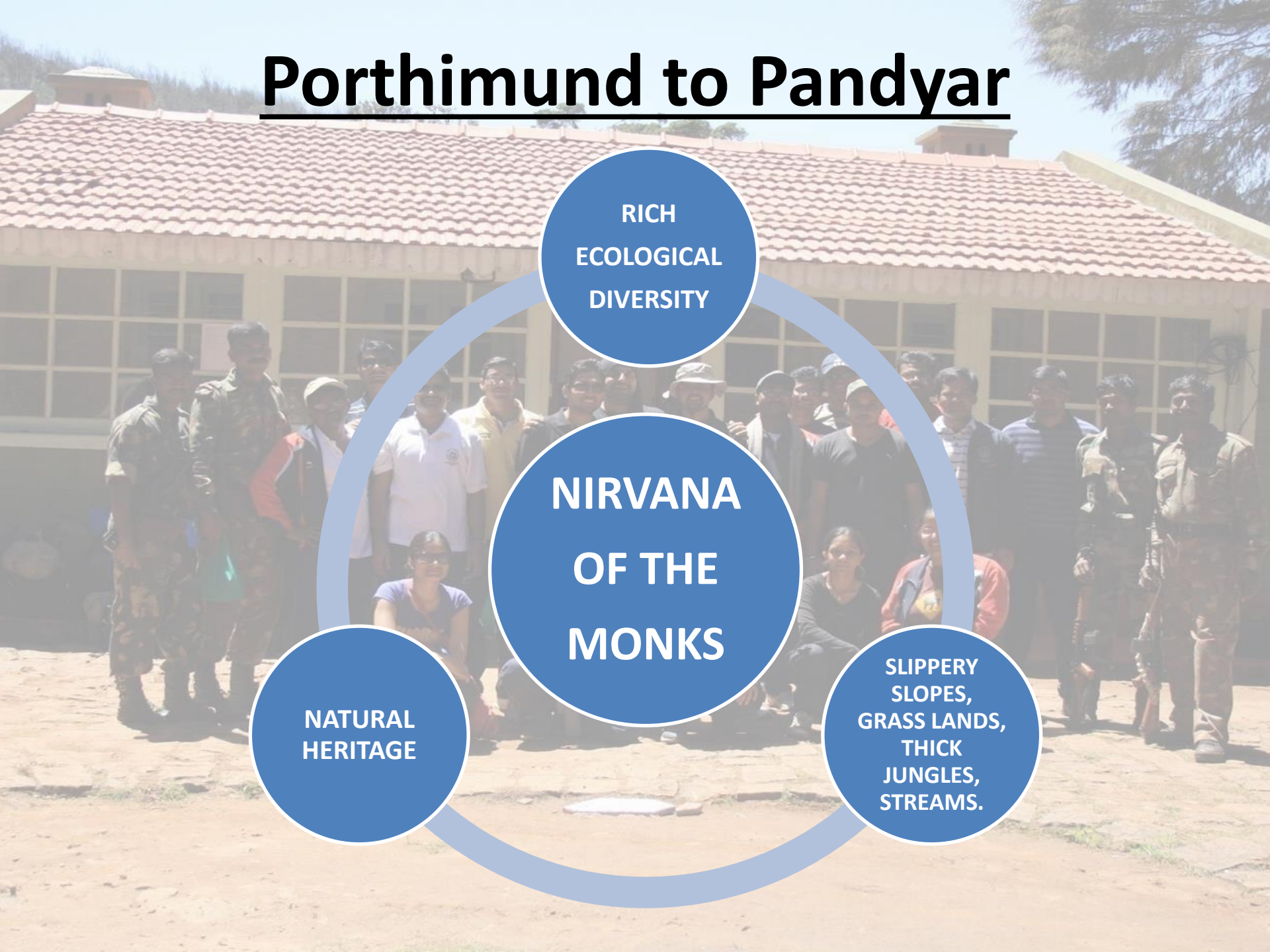
Porthimund to Pandyar

RICH
ECOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY

NIRVANA
OF THE
MONKS

NATURAL
HERITAGE

SLIPPERY
SLOPES,
GRASS LANDS,
THICK
JUNGLES,
STREAMS.



Climatic Conditions

- **Temperate climate at high altitudes**
- **High Rainfall**
- **Lateritic soil - poor in Nitrogen , Calcium and other micronutrients but rich in Humus.**
- **Good for tea plantation because of adequate drainage**

Forest types

Tropical Evergreen Forest



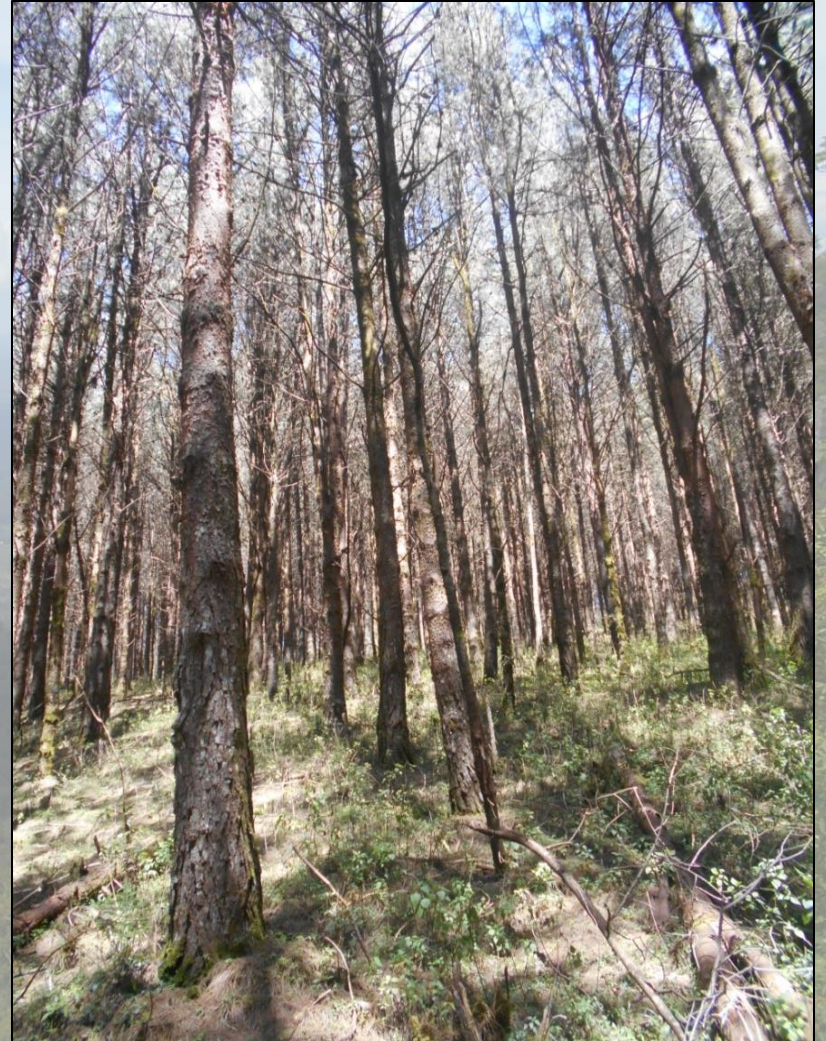
Tropical Rain Forest



Wattle Forest



Pine Forest



Nilgiri Flora

Important Plant species & Use

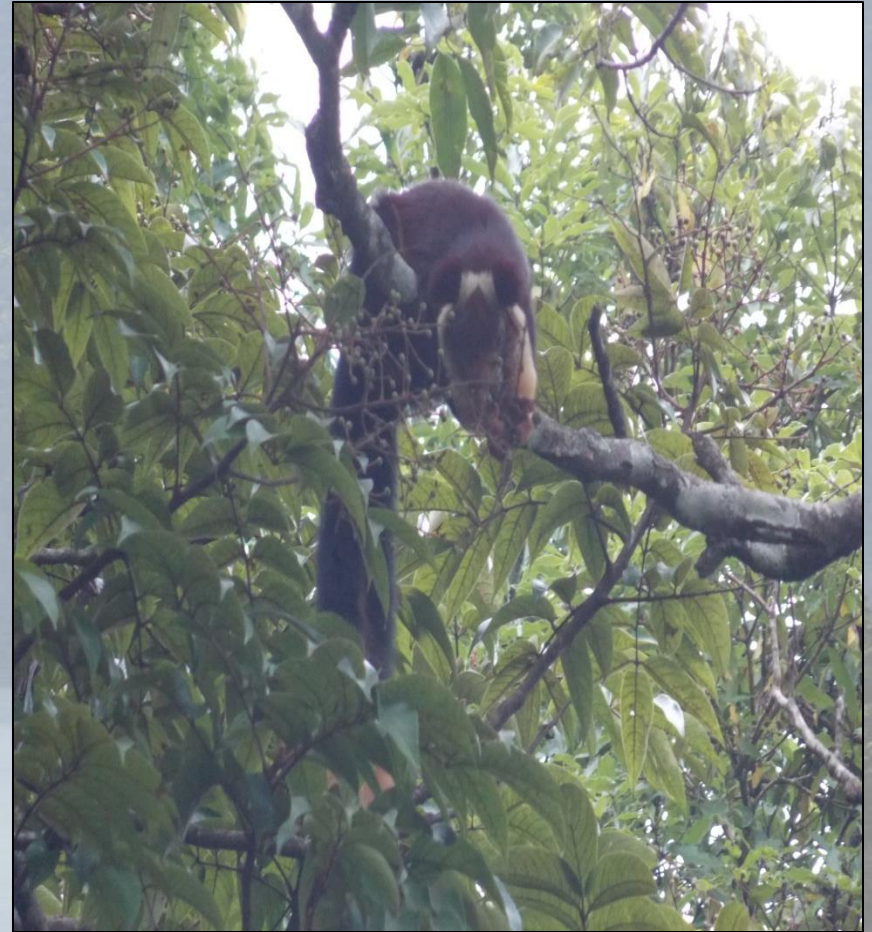
- Silver Oak → Furniture
- Arjun → Furniture
- Wattles → Gum Extraction
- Eucalyptus → Nilgiri oil
- Bamboo →
Basket, Mandap, Fencing
etc.
- Kurunji → Avenue purpose,
Blue Flowers



Nilgiri Fauna

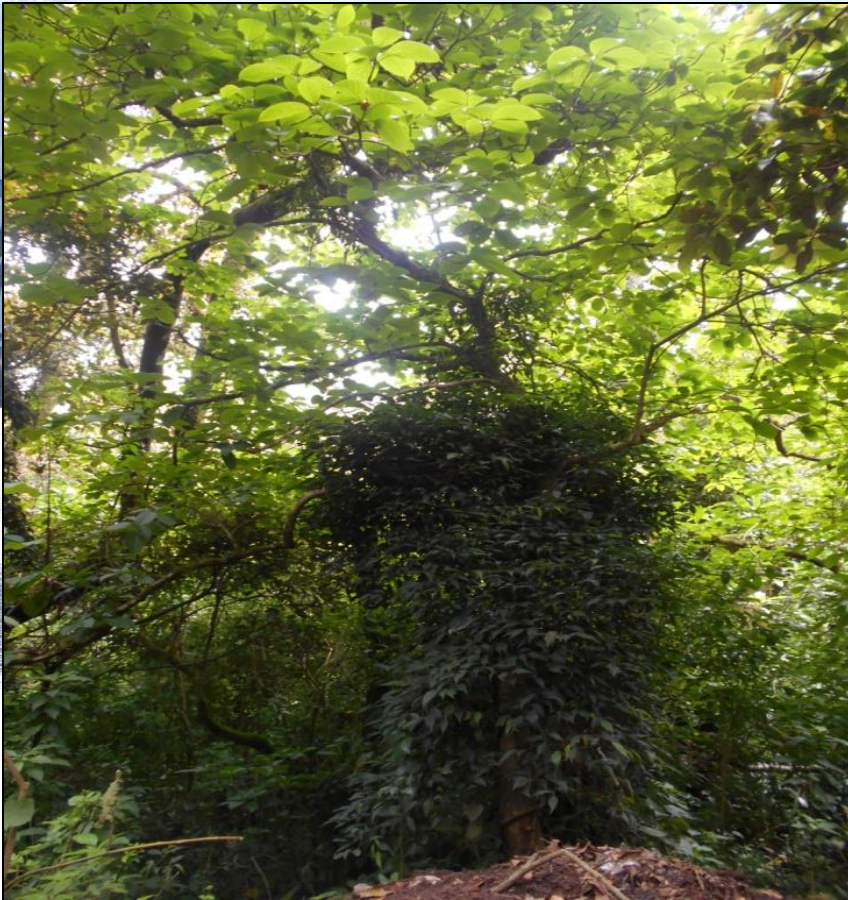
Important Animal species

- Nilgiri Tahr
- Nilgiri Languor
- Spotted Deer
- Peacock
- Brown Lizard
- Giant Squirrel
- Elephant & Makana Elephant



Species Interaction

Ammensalism



Commensalism



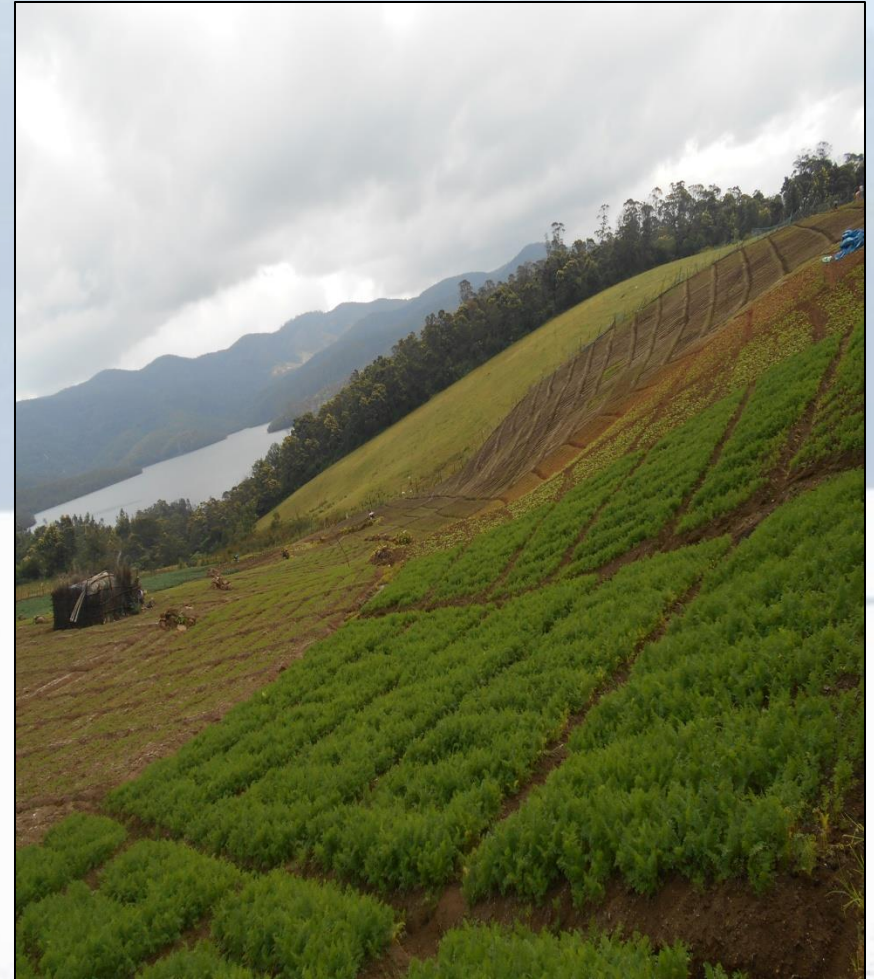
Tribals


- Faith and belief of local tribal -- Thanga Poo Ammal temple.
- Kurumbas, Irulas, Todas and Badagas
- Badaga people have traditional medicinal Knowledge.
- Effect of geographical location on language.
- Badagu language -- amalgamation of Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam.
- Main occupations– Agriculture, Forest dwelling.



Nilgiri Ecosystem

- Nilgiri ecosystem is not a simple forest ecosystem rather it is complex ecosystem.
- Agroecosystem – Vegetable growing
- Agri-silviculture system – Tea plantation with silver oak
- Grassland ecosystem
- Forest Ecosystem
- Pond Ecosystem- Mukurthi Dam, Parson valley dam.



A Buddhist monk with a shaved head, wearing traditional orange robes, is seated in a meditative posture on a light-colored ledge. He is looking slightly to his right with a calm expression. The background features a vast, hazy landscape of rolling hills and dense green forests under a bright, overcast sky. The text "Learnings and Take Aways..." is overlaid on the right side of the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Learnings
and
Take Aways...**

Involvement of Local Tribes

- Harmonious existence with nature
- Todas and Irulas recruited as Anti-Poaching Watchers by forest department
- Knowledge of terrain, animal movements....
- Jungle survival tactics



Spread of Education

- Local tribes sending children to school
- Children walk 2-3 km every day to schools



Deforestation

- Felling of trees
 - Clearing forests for agriculture
 - Ever increasing sprawl of tea estates
- 
- A photograph showing a yellow truck with a green cargo bed driving on a dirt road through a forest. Several people are standing near the truck. The foreground is dominated by a dense, green tea plantation, illustrating the transition from forest to agriculture.

Some Sweet Memories



Putting one's soul into it....

- Group Leader took the saying “ Getting into the Job” a bit too seriously
- Sleep Talking!!!



Chetak.....the epic story retold

- A tale of unmatched will power and determination



More about the monks....

Herma the herder...



Koi nahin aisa, Glucon-D jaisa



More about the monks....

The local guardian....



The faceless photographer....



More about the monks....

Arey bhai meri photo toh lena...

Yaar camera nikalna padega...



More about the monks....

Jab main chhota bachha tha...



Who moved my sheep...



More about the monks.....

Tirchhi Topi waale...



What do you "MEAN" ...



More about the monks...

Fir bhindi mein moongfali....



DFO with all her paraphernalia..



More about the monks...

Dr. Punnam, a supporter and motivator....

Bagh Bakri chai, hamesha rishtey banaye



More about the monks...

The Smiling Khazanchi....



The “ROCK”star



***“It is not the mountain we conquer,
but ourselves.”***

-Edmund Hillary

