

**UNITED FERNS  
OF NILGIRIS**



*Lazy Crazy Lagelu!*

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# LEADING THE TEAM

*Harisha*





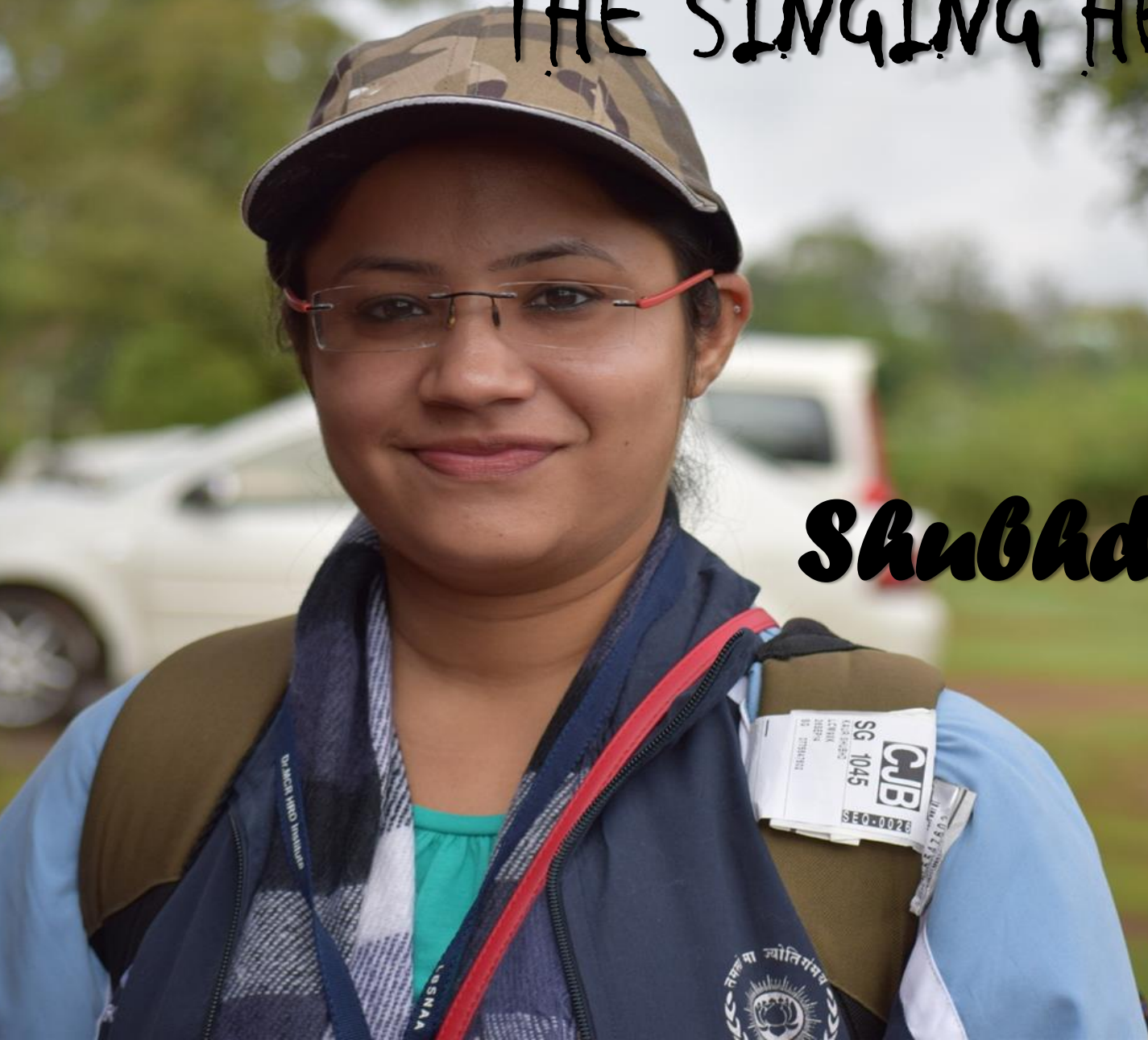
LOVE FOR ANIMALS > LOVE FOR  
HUMANS

*Mini*



# THE SINGING HEALER

**Shubdeep**







**Deepak**

**SHAAAYER OF  
BHOJPURI LAND**



# HARYANVI HURRICANE

**Deepika**



# THE SILENT YET EFFECTIVE A.G.L

**Sunil**





A young woman with dark hair, wearing a teal shirt and a white flower lei, is smiling in a tea plantation. The background shows rows of tea bushes and a few trees.

**BLUFF-MASTER**

***Preeti***



# BEST UTILISER OF RESOURCES



**Ambernath**



**"GUJARATI"**

**TREASURER**

**Rahul**





# THE IRON MAN



**Vikrant**



# THE POWERPUFF GIRL

*Mamu*





A man with a mustache, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt with thin white horizontal stripes and a red collar, stands in a lush green forest. He is holding a rifle with a wooden stock and a black barrel, pointing it upwards with his right hand. The background features a large, mossy rock formation and dense foliage. To the left, the front of a yellow vehicle with a pink balloon is visible. To the right, there is a small table with a blue cloth and some items on it.

**Krishna**

**BINDAAS  
BIG  
BROTHER**





# NILGIRI'S MOST WANTED

***Keertihi***



# HIDE & SEEK

Arun





SHY & SWEET

**Anindya**



A man with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a red polo shirt and dark sunglasses, is smiling at the camera. He is standing in a wooded area with many green trees and bushes in the background. To his right, in the background, another person is partially visible, wearing a light blue shirt and dark pants, holding a camera or phone up to take a picture.

**Rony**

**MAIN CHEEZ BADI HOON  
MAST-MAST**



A woman with long dark hair and sunglasses stands in the foreground, looking towards the camera. She is wearing a dark, long-sleeved top. Behind her is a lush green hillside with a small town or village built into it. The houses are mostly white with some colorful roofs. Power lines and poles are visible across the scene. The overall atmosphere is bright and sunny.

**PAPARAZZI!!!!**

**Supriya**



# THE NETWORK GURU

**Srijan**





**Day 1 – 28<sup>th</sup> Sep –**  
**“Uff, Puff, Ouch, Phew..!!”**



**Day 2 – 29<sup>th</sup> Sept**  
**“The Cakewalk”**



**Day 3 – 30<sup>th</sup> Sept**  
**“The never ending 8 km”**



**Day 4 – 1<sup>st</sup> Oct**  
**“The Reverse Gear”**



**Day 6 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct**  
**“Jungle mein  
rehne do yaar”**





# FLORA

- Ferns – Pteridophytes -Alternation of Generation  
– Endurance - Team Emblem
- Pines and spruces – Gymnosperms
- Rhododendrons
- Amusing Botanical names – *Zizyphus jujuba*,  
*Musa paradisiaca*, *Butea frondosa*
- Mushrooms – Gills, Cap, Annulus, Stalk
- *Strobilanthes kunthiana* – Western catchment -  
Endemic



# FERNS





# PINES AND SPRUCES





# FLAMBOYANT FUNGI

*Amanita muscaria*





# RHODODENDRON





# EXOTIC FLORA

- Exotic
- Thorn tree - Wattle – *Acacia*
- Scotch Broom - *Cytisus scoparius*
- Blue Gum tree – *Eucalyptus* - a bluish smog-like mist





# WATTLE – *G. Acacia*





# SCOTCH BROOM - *Cytisus scoparius*





# BLUE GUM TREE – G. *Eucalyptus*





# FAUNA

- The majestic spotted stag - Bamboo forest - Vazhaithottam to Sholur
- The 'She' elephants – Vazhaithottam to Sholur
- The Buffalo herd – Porthimund to Pandiyar
- The funny rabbit – Avalanche..!



# THE MAGNIFICENT STAG

(*Axis axis*)





# THE “SHE” ELEPHANT (*Elephas maximus indicus*)





# THE WILD WATER BUFFALOES (*Bubalus arnee*)

















# NARROW MISSES

- Pug marks of leopards ( *Panthera pardus fusca*)
- Rolled down grass patches – probably tiger (*Panthera tigris*) – Pandiyar
- Ploughed down grass – probably wild boars with hoof marks – Porthimund-Pandiyar
- Footprints of wild dogs – Avalanche en route
- Giant squirrel (*Ratufa indica*)– evaded photo - Avalanche



# INSEPARABLE – HILLS & WATER

(Paani apna raasta dhoondh leta hai)

- Receives rains from both monsoons -  
Watersheds – valleys where they meet
- Canada Dam – Avalanche – water supply
- Emerald Dam – Avalanche - water supply
- Parson's Valley Dam - water supply
- Porthimund dam – Power generation – 2 x  
0.35 MW Kaplan turbines
- Pykara Dam – Power generation to Ooty





# ECONOMY OF THE HILLS



# ECONOMY OF THE HILLS

- Tea plantations – Conditions for tea plant -  
>1500 mm rain, well drained soil, <25° C
- Tea Factories
- Coffee plantations - berries
- Spices, essential oils, medicinal plants
- Horticulture – not agriculture
- Carrot, Broccoli, Potato, Beans cultivation -  
terrace cultivation
- Tourism
- Handicrafts, homemade chocolates











# HILL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- Udhagamandalam, Darjeeling and Karbi-Anglong
- Special Funding from Planned expenditure
- Umbrella programme - Projects like constructing checkdams, mini and micro hydel projects, horticulture, physical infrastructure development, preventing plastic usage

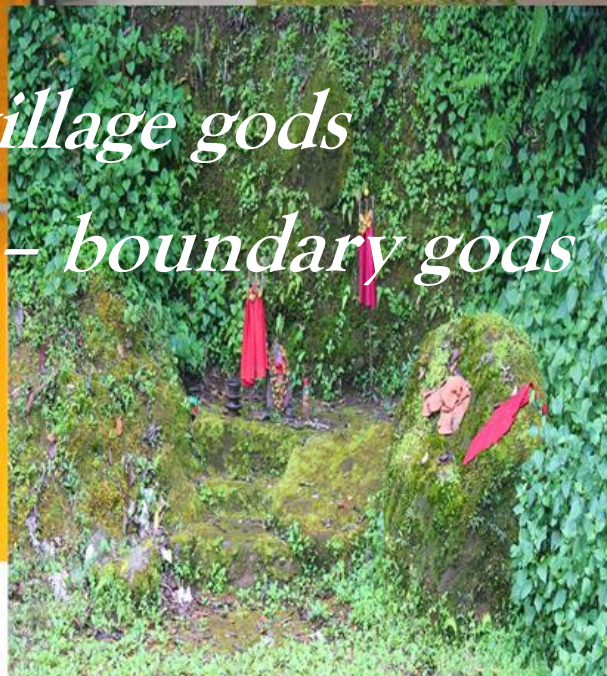




# *CULTURAL INSIGHTS*

## TAMIZHAGATTHU KAAVAL DEIVANGAL

- *Guardian spirits or local village gods*
- *Also called ellaichaamigal – boundary gods*



## LOCAL DEITIES



# MAARIAMMAN

## - Bokkapuram

- *Maari* - considered as a curative force for smallpox, chicken pox etc
- *Maari* in Tamil means rain. Since the rainfall cooled the otherwise hot area and protected people from summer sicknesses like viral infections, people started worshipping the rain goddess as *Maari Amman*





# MUNIAPPAN – AVALANCHE to PORTHIMUND



Incidentally, Our leading STF person - Our Guardian angel was also Mr.Muniappan





# AIYANAAR

- Usually flanked by gigantic and colorful statues of him and his companions riding horses
- A major guardian deity of the villages





*Our Journey...*



# Fighting Against Odds

- Difficult terrain
- Unpredictable weather
- Heavy Luggage
- Leeches
- Empty bottles
- Blisters and Back aches
- Thorns
- Slippery Ground
- Wild animals





**Blister phodo andolan..! Aao milke  
blister phodenge..!!**





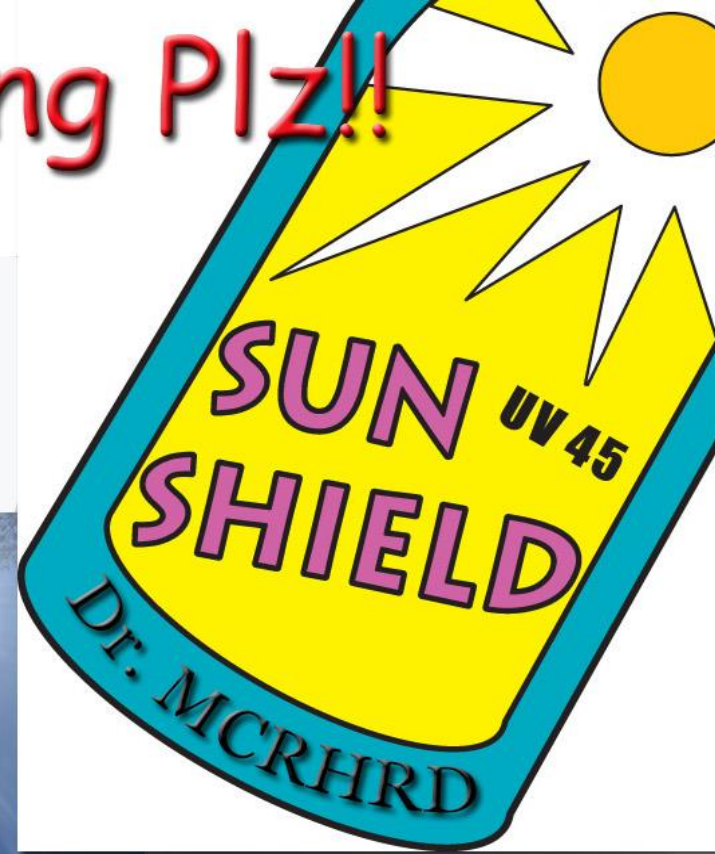


FUN AND FROLIC !!





# No tanning Plz!!







Looks tempting,  
but not edible!







*There is always time for  
a NAP!!*







**It's Gambling  
That binds us... ;-)**





**Post Trek Parties...**  
**Take the fatigue away.**







**Going As individuals,  
coming back as a TEAM!**





A dramatic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with large, dark clouds that are illuminated from below by the setting or rising sun, creating a warm, golden glow. In the foreground, the silhouettes of dark, dense trees and a mountain range are visible against the bright sky. A single bird is perched on a thin branch in the upper right corner, its silhouette clearly defined against the light. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

# ***LESSONS LEARNT***





**RELAX AND APPRECIATE LIFE**



# LEARN WHENEVER YOU CAN !





AND POSE BEYOND WHAT YOU CAN..!!





HELP AS MUCH AS YOU CAN..!!!





# BE IN SYNC WITH NATURE







# REDISCOVERING OURSELVES





A photograph of a dense forest with tall, thin trees. A fallen tree trunk leans diagonally across the frame from the upper right towards the center. The text "STAND TALL IN SPITE OF THE FALL" is overlaid in white, bold, serif font across the middle of the image.

**STAND TALL IN SPITE OF THE FALL**





BE THE WARMTH





**ENJOY  
EACH STEP**

**LIFE IS NOT A RACE**



**DARRR... KE AAGE JEET HAI...!!**





GOOD FRIENDS ARE HARD TO FIND ,  
HARDER TO LEAVE  
& IMPOSSIBLE TO FORGET...





# Take-aways from trek

- Learnt to enjoy everyone's company – Anindya Speare
- In life the sense of humour and comedy always exist – Mamu Milton
- Everyone is an asset in himself, we just need to realise – Vikrant Rockefeller
- Nothing is impossible – Rony Happydent
- Sharing is caring – Shubhdeep Socrates





# **Take-aways from trek**

- Don't be judgmental – Harisha Hemingway
- Learning can be so much fun – Keerthi Keats
- Together we can overcome all odds – Sunil Twain
- I fell in love with..... Nature ! – Amar Coelho
- Nature teaches us to shine naturally, like the sun after rains – Mini Darwin



# Take-aways from trek

- People may be from different cultures and linguistic backgrounds but qualities like sensitivity, humour and love for nature are the same – Rahul Dostoevsky
- The belief that life is without limits – Supriya Cervantes
- In nature lies abundant happiness and strengths – Preeti Parkinson
- The strength of the team is each individual; the strength of each member is the team – Deepi Shelley



# *Thank You..!*

- **MCRHRD Institute**
- **Udhagamandalam District Administration**
- **The People of Nilgiris**
- **Tamil Nadu Agricultural University**







*Thank You..!*







**Picture abhi baaki hai mere dost!**









*The end is just a beginning...*