

ENDEAVOURS
MARINE SUMMER
PROGRAMME 2026

MARINE ECOLOGY & RESEARCH

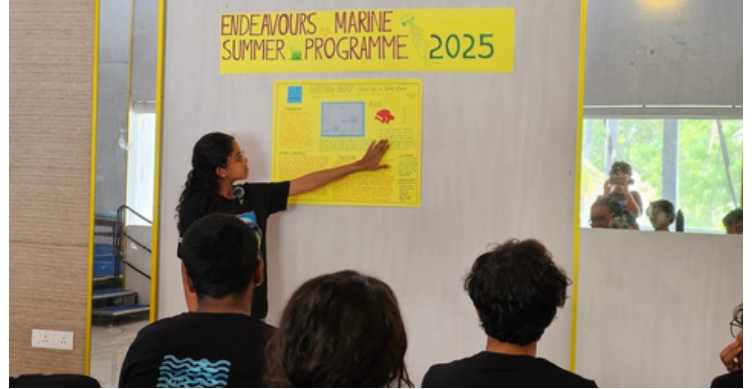
PALK BAY, RAMESWARAM, TAMIL NADU

COHORT 1

June 14th -20th, 2026 (Priority for Grade 9 to 12)

COHORT 2

July 5th - 12th, 2026 (Priority for UG students)



OVERVIEW

The ENDEAVOURS MARINE SUMMER PROGRAMME 2026, with a focus on marine ecology & research, is designed in collaboration with Dakshin Foundation as part of our combined vision towards marine environmental education and outreach.

The programme aims to enable students to broaden their understanding of the basics of conservation research through live interactive discussions, field visits and a personal project. EMSP 2026 is an opportunity for young people on the cusp of their careers to engage with professionals and their practice before having to choose academic and/or career paths in marine ecology, conservation and research. Participants interact directly with professionals in the field of conservation research to gain insights into the foundational aspects of environmental conservation and ecological monitoring. They will also engage with the researchers on holistic community support interventions and policy-making that help protect both the environment as well as the interests of some of the most marginalised communities in the country.

MODULES

- **Underwater Wild:** The ecology of marine ecosystems and their components
- **Fish for the Future:** Marine conservation philosophies and practice
- **From Theory to Practice:** Interpretation of research for conservation outcomes
- **Walk the Talk:** Personal research project focusing on marine ecology or conservation

WHO SHOULD APPLY

The programme is best suited for students who are in grades 9 to 12 and are exploring profile-building opportunities or are currently pursuing undergraduate studies in a related field and are interested in environment conservation and research.



WATCH EMSP RECAP VIDEO

FIELD VISITS & ACTIVITIES

The programme includes several outdoor activities such as kayaking, snorkeling, as well as field visits to fish landing sites, fish-freezing units, inter-tidal zones and seagrass meadows, seaweed farming sites, mangrove forests, etc.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

All participants will design and complete a research project based on the programme modules on a topic of their personal interest. The research findings will be presented at the end of the programme in a presentation and evaluated by the team of mentors.

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

All participants who successfully complete the programme including their research project will be given a personal Recommendation Letter by a programme mentor, along with a Certificate of Participation.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The programme has been co-created with Dakshin Foundation to enable participants to develop three core areas of knowledge and skills:

1.CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

Natural ecosystems and biodiversity, inter-dependencies within and between marine ecosystems, philosophies of conservation and conservation practices, sampling methods, systems thinking, human environment relationships, communities and natural resources.

2.RESEARCH-SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Reading and writing strategies, developing questions and identifying appropriate research methods.

3.PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Iterative work-flow, time-management, effective communication, collaboration, convergent and divergent thinking, strategies for decision-making, personal goal-setting and reflection.

PROGRAMME TEAM

MENTORS



Dr. Titus Immanuel
Marine Biologist
Dakshin Foundation

Titus Immanuel is a Marine Biologist specializing in coral reef ecosystems. His current research in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands focuses on the vulnerability and resilience of reefs to human disturbance and climate change, the behavioural responses of reef fish to human presence, and an integrated assessment of reef fish populations and behaviour. Titus has previously worked on biodiversity documentation, reef health monitoring, and sponge diversity in these islands, as well as long-term coral reef monitoring programmes in the Lakshadweep Islands.



Tanmay Wagh
Marine Biologist,
Dakshin Foundation

Tanmay Wagh is a doctoral researcher and member of Dakshin Foundation's Sustainable Fisheries program. He has been based out of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands since 2013, where he has been part of various projects on coral reefs, mangroves, seagrasses and dugongs, elasmobranch fisheries and leatherback turtles. His broad research interests lie in understanding the relationship between conservation, exploitation and sustainable use of marine resources, particularly in coral reef ecosystems.



Chaitanya Arjunwadkar
Marine Biologist,
Dakshin Foundation

Chaitanya Arjunwadkar is a Senior Programme Associate and member of Dakshin Foundation's Long-Term Ecological Observatories Programme (LTEO). He is based out of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, where his work involves monitoring coral reef plots in Mahatma Gandhi National Park. He is specifically interested in coral reef ecosystem function delivery, sediment dynamics, epilithic algal matrix, coral reef phase-shifts, and resilience-based management.

FACILITATORS



Rose Mary Joseph
Experiential Educator,
Dakshin Endeavours



Suraj Somaiah
Programme Lead,
Dakshin Endeavours

ADVISORS



Dr. Naveen Namboothri
Founder Trustee &
Programme Head,
Dakshin Foundation



Aarthi Sridhar
Founder Trustee and
Programme Head,
Dakshin Foundation



Cohort of EMSP 2025



Cohort of EMSP 2024

PROGRAMME FEES

The fee for the programme is ₹ 75500 + 5% GST per participant

IMPORTANT DATES

Cohort 1: June 14th -20th, 2026 (Priority for Grade 9 to 12)

Cohort 2: July 5th - 12th, 2026 (Priority for undergraduates)

Application Deadline: May 5th, 2026 23:59 IST

Acceptance Confirmation: **May 10th, 2026 23:59 IST**

Programme Orientation: **May 30th, 2026 19:00 IST**

APPLY HERE: EMSP 2026 APPLICATION FORM

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

Upon acceptance of your application, applicants are required to complete their registration process by filling in the registration form and completing the payment in order for us to confirm your spot in the programme.

Payment may be made within 7 working days from your acceptance into the programme.

NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP

Students who require financial aid in order to participate in the programme may apply for partial scholarships ranging from 5% - 30%. Concessions cannot be guaranteed and shall be made on a need-basis and based on available scholarship funds. Decisions regarding scholarships will be final and binding.

Apply here: [EMSP Scholarship 2026](#)



INCLUSIONS:

1. Chaperoned transfer by overnight A/C sleeper bus: Bangalore-Rameswaram-Bangalore
2. Ground transportation throughout the programme by AC mini bus/cab
3. Shared A/C accommodation and meals in Rameswaram from Day 1 to Day 7
4. All activity costs, parking, taxes and entry fees as applicable
5. Programme Completion Certificate and Recommendation Letter, subject to satisfactory performance

EXCLUSIONS

1. Travel from home destination to Bangalore, if applicable
2. Alternative mode of transportation to and from Rameswaram
3. Accommodation and food expenses in Bangalore, if applicable
4. Personal expenses including expenses incurred due to illness or other emergencies.

Payment of programme fees is to be made only upon acceptance into the programme. No refunds shall be offered once application has been processed and payment has been completed. Please write to programmes@dakshinendeavours.org in case of refund in exceptional circumstances.

TRAVEL SCHEDULE

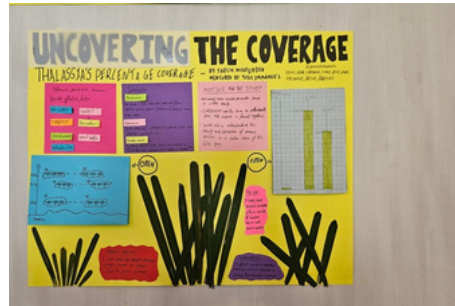
Mode of transport: Overnight A/C Sleeper Bus

Date and time of departure from Bangalore: Saturday, June 13th, 2026, 06.30 pm.

Date and time of departure from Rameswaram: June 20th, 2026, 06.30 pm (Arrival at Bangalore on Sunday, June 21st at approx. 07:00 am)

Those who wish to make alternative arrangements for travel to and from Rameswaram may report for the programme directly at the programme base latest by June 14th 10:00 am and can depart earliest by June 20th 12 pm. The nearest airport, Madurai Airport is a 2-hour drive from Rameswaram.

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ALUMNI SPEAK

“This programme changed my view of Marine biology in India and help me broaden my scope”

“The Dakshin Endeavours Marine Summer Programme was an opportunity for me to explore fields that interested me like marine biology and ecosystems, whilst providing me with new knowledge based on conducting field research, conservation, and fisheries. I did initially attend the course with expectations to learn about the ocean, but alongside this, I got to explore villages, traditional and modern fisheries, and mangroves. The Personal Project was the best part, as we were mentored by professionals who gave us an insight into how “real” research actually looks like. From developing our own methodologies, collecting data, analysing and presenting it, this helped me develop my research skills. Additionally, throughout the process I was constantly guided by other peers, who sought to complete their projects as well. In a nutshell, I practically did everything: research, field visits, attend workshops, and have fun with new friends.”

“This summer programme was my very first encounter with the dynamics and the world of Marine Sciences. The programme is structured just right for young students seeking first-hand experience, exposure or a doorway into research in marine science - or more broadly, into environmental and conservational sciences. The part I loved the most about the programme is that it ends with a one-on-one evaluation with a mentor. You get to sit with a mentor, discuss your areas of interest, and have a constructive feedback session. For me, that session—or rather, the entire experience—helped me discover something about myself, something I hadn’t even realized I had within me.”

“Dakshin Endeavour's Summer Programme was an unforgettable experience, that allowed us to navigate the fields of research and conservation. I enjoyed the focus on integrating ecology, research and wildlife conservation into future careers, and the opportunity to interact with experts. Not a moment passed when we were not engrossed in engaging activities. Starting the day with birding, ending it with herping, and sketching along the way was the cherry on top! For anyone interested in exploring potential career paths, understanding various aspects of conservation on field and connecting with like-minded people, this is an amazing opportunity to seize!”



INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

Dakshin Foundation is a not-for-profit, charitable, non-governmental organisation committed to environmental sustainability and social justice. With a mission to inform and advocate for conservation and natural resource management, while promoting and supporting sustainable livelihoods, social development and environmental justice, Dakshin adopts interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches in their research and interventions, drawing from the fields of ecology, conservation biology, sociology, economics, and law.



The program is offered by Dakshin Endeavours, a non-profit organisation that promotes conservation education, drawing from the fields of ecology and environmental sciences, as well as history and culture. As an experiential education partner for educational institutions, DE provides hands-on learning that supplements academic learning to aid in the development of a healthy spirit of inquiry in children.



PARTNER INSTITUTIONS:



AMERICAN
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
CHENNAI



VIDYASHILP
ACADEMY



JBCN
International School



THE ORCHID SCHOOL



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA



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