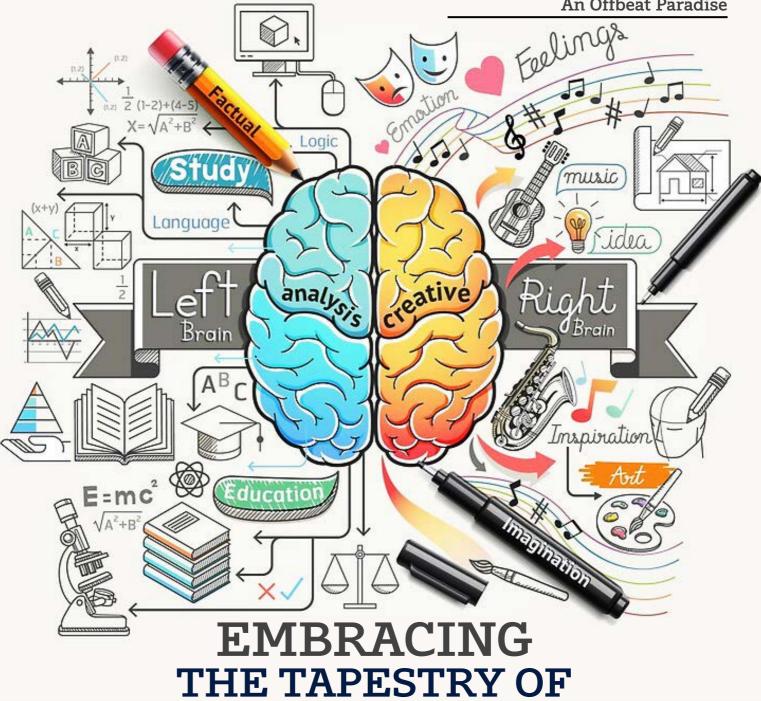
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Editorial Lead

Greetings, dear readers,

As the sun-kissed days of summer gently transition into the warm embrace of August, we find ourselves immersed in the pages of another exhilarating edition of Schoolastic News. With hearts full of pride and anticipation, we invite you to embark on a journey through the corridors of intellect, imagination, and inspiration, guided by the voices and visions of the brilliant young minds who grace our magazine's canvas.

At the heart of our mission lies a deep-seated commitment to spotlighting the remarkable abilities and perspectives of students from coast to coast. The August edition served as a testament to this, showcasing an array of articles that radiated with the passion and creativity that define our youthful contributors. This month, we continue this tradition, weaving together a tapestry of insight, contemplation, and innovation that mirrors the vibrant mosaic of student life.

In these pages, you will encounter a constellation of captivating narratives, each one a star in its own right. We extend our gratitude to Ms. Pooja Pareek, Principal of Springdales School, Jaipur, whose words illuminate the power of "Nurturing Critical Thinking and Discussion Skills". Lt. Col. Rituraj, a luminary in the world of Defence Sevices, graces us with his wisdom, offering a profound exploration of "The Indian Army as a Catalyst for Nation Building: Strengthening Unity and Development". Through their contributions, we are reminded of the multifaceted nature of education, a realm where intellectual growth harmonizes with personal well-being.

As we marvel at the boundless potential encapsulated within these pages, we pause to express our heartfelt appreciation to you, our cherished readers, for embarking on this shared odyssey. Your unwavering support fuels the engine of creativity that propels Schoolastic News forward, and we are deeply grateful for your presence within our vibrant community.

As you delve into the stories, essays, and musings within these pages, you may find yourself emboldened to embrace the limitless possibilities that education affords. May you be inspired to tread uncharted territories of thought, to dance along the delicate edge between curiosity and understanding, and to cultivate a lifelong love for learning.

With hearts aflutter and minds ablaze, we invite you to indulge in the August edition of Schoolastic News, where the symphony of youthful expression resonates, and the pursuit of knowledge knows no bounds.

Happy reading, and may your August be filled with the joy of discovery!

Happy reading!

Bhavna Sharma Editorial Lead info@fairgaze.com

INDIAN LANDSCAPES RANN OF KUTCH: PRESENT - DAY EXTENSIVE MARSHLAND

IT IS A REMARKABLE REGION LOCATED IN THE WESTERN PART OF INDIA.

he Rann of Kutch is a vast and unique seasonal salt marsh that spans two countries: India and Pakistan. On the Indian side, it is primarily situated in Gujarat, while on the Pakistani side, it extends into the southeastern portion of Sindh province.

The Rann of Kutch is characterized by its distinct landscape, transforming dramatically throughout the year. During the monsoon season, it experiences heavy rainfall, leading to flooding and the formation of a shallow saltwater marsh. However, in the dry season, the water evaporates, leaving behind a vast expanse of dazzling white salt desert. This transformation from marshland to salt desert and vice versa is a mesmerizing natural phenomenon.

Important Factor Of Present-Day Extensive Marshland

Ecological Diversity: The Rann of Kutch is a unique and fragile ecosystem that supports a diverse range of flora and fauna. During the monsoon season, the marshland becomes a vital habitat for numerous migratory birds, including flamingos, pelicans, and cranes. The region's ecological diversity contributes to its recognition as an important conservation area.

Biodiversity Hotspot: The Rann of Kutch is considered a biodiversity hotspot due to the presence of several endangered and vulnerable species. The Wild Ass Sanctuary, located in the Little Rann of Kutch, is home to the endangered Indian wild ass, which plays a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance of the region.

Tourism Attraction: The striking and ever-changing landscape of the Rann of



Kutch makes it a popular tourist destination. Tourists visit to witness the mesmerizing transformation from a marshland to a white salt desert during the dry season, creating a visually stunning spectacle. The Rann Utsav, a cultural festival organized by the Gujarat government, further promotes tourism and showcases the local culture and traditions.

Cultural Heritage: The Rann of Kutch has a rich cultural heritage, with various indigenous communities residing in the region for centuries. These communities have their unique art, craft, music, and dance forms, which are an essential part of the local identity. The cultural exchange between these communities adds to the diversity and charm of the area.

Salt Production: The Rann of Kutch has been a significant source of salt production for generations. The salt pans and salt mounds are exploited during the dry season, contributing to the regional economy and providing livelihoods to local salt workers.

Geological Interest: The marshland's geological features, including salt flats and mudflats, make it an interesting area for geological studies and research. Scientists study the region to understand the unique formation processes and their implications for the wider ecosystem.

Vulnerability to Climate Change: The Rann of Kutch, like many other coastal and wetland areas, is susceptible to the impacts of climate change. Rising sea levels, changing weather patterns, and increased human activities can pose threats to the delicate ecosystem and the communities reliant on it.

By: Dev Darshan Class - 8 Savitri Prabha Public School, Bihar Edited by: Thirukumaran Veleyudham

INDIAN LANDSCAPES

BHITARKANIKA MANGROVES: NATURE'S PRISTINE ECOSYSTEM IN ODISHA

BHITARKANIKA MANGROVES STAND AS A BREATHTAKING TESTAMENT TO THE NATURAL WONDERS OF THE WORLD.



overing a vast area of nearly 650 square kilometers, Bhitarkanika is a mesmerizing amalgamation of lush mangrove forests. serene waterways, and diverse wildlife. Designated as a national park and a Ramsar Wetland of international importance, this ecologically rich region has earned its place as a paradise for enthusiasts nature and wildlife aficionados alike.

Unique Ecological Marvel

Bhitarkanika is a unique ecological marvel, boasting one of the most complex and diverse mangrove ecosystems globally, second only to the Sunderbans. The mangrove forests, comprising various species of trees adapted to saline coastal environments, serve as a vital buffer against coastal erosion and natural calamities like cyclones and tsunamis.

The area is characterized by a network of meandering creeks, estuaries, and mudflats, creating a labyrinthine watercourse system that acts as a natural nursery for numerous aquatic and terrestrial species. The diverse habitat, influenced by the confluence of freshwater and seawater, provides a conducive environment for various plant and animal species to thrive.

Flora and Fauna Diversity

Bhitarkanika Mangroves harbor an impressive array of flora and fauna, making it a biodiversity hotspot in India. The mangrove vegetation includes species like the Sundari, Gewa, Dhania, and Khola. Besides the mangroves, the region also features salt-tolerant plants, tidal grasslands, and reed beds, further enriching its ecological significance.

One of the major attractions of Bhitarkanika is its rich avian population. The wetlands provide a perfect habitat for migratory birds during the winter months, attracting thousands of species like the white ibis, painted stork, kingfishers, and the elusive, whitebellied sea eagle. Additionally, the region is also home to various species of reptiles, including saltwater crocodiles, estuarine crocodiles, and Indian pythons.

Conservation Efforts

Recognizing the ecological significance and fragility of the Bhitarkanika Mangroves, the Indian government declared it a national park in 1998. This status accords the highest level of protection, ensuring the preservation of its unique ecosystem and wildlife.

The conservation efforts also extend to safeguarding the nesting grounds of the Olive Ridley Sea turtles that flock to the nearby Gahirmatha Beach for their annual mass nesting event, known as the arribada. Authorities have implemented strict measures to protect the turtles during this critical phase of their life cycle.

Tourism and Sustainable Development

Bhitarkanika Mangroves have emerged as a popular ecotourism destination, attracting visitors from around the globe. The park offers various ecofriendly activities, such as boat rides, trekking, bird watching, and wildlife safaris, allowing tourists to experience the pristine beauty of nature while ensuring minimal disturbance to the fragile ecosystem.

Local communities are also involved in sustainable tourism practices, which not only contribute to their livelihoods but also foster a sense of responsibility toward conserving the natural heritage of the region.

Conclusion

The Bhitarkanika Mangroves in Odisha, India, embody the harmony between nature and human existence. With its enchanting landscapes, diverse wildlife, and ecological importance, this pristine region stands as a beacon of hope for the conservation of natural wonders in a rapidly developing world. As we continue to appreciate and protect the unique biodiversity of Bhitarkanika, we ensure that future generations can revel in the splendor of this unparalleled treasure of nature.

By: Kritika Sharma Class - 11 Welham Girls School, Dehradun Edited by: Thirukumaran Veleyudham

INDIAN PORTS

MUNDRA PORT: INDIA'S PIONEERING PRIVATELY OWNED MARITIME MARVEL

MUNDRA PORT STANDS TALL AS A TESTAMENT TO INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT.

stablished and managed by the Adani Group, Mundra Port has etched its name in history as the largest privately owned port in India. With remarkable infrastructure, a strategic location, and a visionary approach, Mundra Port has become a key player in India's maritime trade and a symbol of progress and innovation in the shipping industry.

Infrastructure and Facilities

Mundra Port boasts state-of-the-art infrastructure and cutting-edge facilities that have contributed to its unparalleled success. The port's geographical advantage, with its proximity to the Gulf countries, Europe, Africa, and other major international trade routes, has made it a preferred choice for numerous multinational corporations and traders.

The port is equipped with multiple specialized terminals, including container terminals, dry bulk terminals, liquid cargo terminals, and a dedicated terminal for handling automobiles. These modern terminals, coupled with deep drafts, enable the efficient handling of a diverse range of cargoes, making Mundra Port an ideal port of call for a wide array of vessels.

Additionally, the port has well-developed rail and road connectivity, which further enhances its logistical capabilities and allows for seamless transportation of goods to various parts of India and beyond.

Economic Impact and Trade Facilitation

Mundra Port has been a catalyst for economic growth in the region and the country as a whole. It has facilitated seamless trade, boosted India's export potential, and attracted foreign investment, contributing significantly to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The port's unparalleled efficiency has been instrumental in reducing turnaround times for ships, which, in turn, has saved shipping costs and improved supply chain dynamics for various industries. Additionally, Mundra Port's strategic location has made it an essential hub for transshipment activities, benefiting not only India but also neighboring countries in the Indian subcontinent.

Employment Opportunities and Social Welfare

Mundra Port's growth has had a cascading effect on the socio-economic landscape of the region. The port has generated numerous direct and indirect employment opportunities, benefitting local communities and boosting their standard of living.

The Adani Group's commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has led to the implementation of several community development programs, including education, healthcare, and infrastructure projects, that have impacted positively the lives of



thousands of people in the vicinity of the port.

Conclusion

Mundra Port has earned its place as the largest privately owned port in India due to the visionary leadership of the Adani Group and its commitment to excellence, innovation, and sustainability. It serves as a shining example of India's capabilities in the maritime sector and has significantly contributed to the nation's economic growth and development.

As it continues to evolve and adapt to changing global trade dynamics, Mundra Port will undoubtedly remain a beacon of success, setting new benchmarks for the shipping industry and cementing its position as a driving force in India's maritime landscape.

By: **Pukit Khanna** Class - 10 Vedas International School, Sohna, Haryana Edited by: Thirukumaran Veleyudham

INDIAN PORTS

KAMARAJAR PORT: INDIA'S PIONEERING CORPORATE MAJOR PORT

KAMARAJAR PORT IS INDIA'S FIRST MAJOR PORT THAT IS REGISTERED AS A COMPANY.



amarajar Port traces its roots back to the year 2001, when the Government of India conceived the idea of developing a modern port to cater to the increasing maritime trade demands in the region. Recognizing the need for a port facility near the city of Chennai, the Ennore Port project took shape under the administrative control of the Chennai Port Trust. However, in 1999, the government decided to transform the port into a corporate entity to facilitate its efficient management and operation.

Corporate Structure and Formation

In April 2001, Ennore Port Limited (EPL) was incorporated as a company under the Companies Act of 1956. This groundbreaking move marked the first instance of a major port in India being registered as a corporate entity. The new corporate structure allowed for greater autonomy, flexibility, and commercial orientation in the port's operations. It paved the way for streamlined decision-making processes, enhanced efficiency, and the attraction of private investments.

Renaming as Kamarajar Port

In 2011, the Ennore Port was

rechristened as Kamarajar Port Limited in honor of the late Shri K. Kamaraj, a distinguished leader and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The name change aimed to pay tribute to his invaluable contributions to the state's development and his visionary leadership in shaping its educational and social sectors.

Infrastructure and Connectivity

Kamaraiar Port boasts state-of-the-art infrastructure and world-class facilities. catering to a wide range of cargo and maritime activities. It spans over 2,800 acres and includes dedicated terminals for handling various types of cargo, including coal, iron ore, petroleum, and containers. The port's strategic location near the industrialized regions of Tamil Nadu and its well-connected road and rail networks provide seamless connectivity for the efficient transportation of goods.

Significance and Achievements

As India's first major corporate port, Kamarajar Port has played a pivotal role in facilitating trade and economic growth in the region. Its corporate structure has enabled the port to adapt quickly to market dynamics, foster private sector participation, and attract investments. The port has established itself as a key gateway for handling coal imports, thereby supporting the energy needs of neighboring industries.

Under the corporate model, Kamarajar Port has witnessed remarkable growth in terms of cargo handling capacity and operational efficiency. It has implemented advanced technologies and efficient practices to optimize port operations, reduce turnaround time, and enhance satisfaction. The customer port's environmental commitment to sustainability is evident through its initiatives such as rainwater harvesting, green belt development, and the utilization of solar power.

Conclusion

Kamarajar Port stands as a pioneering example of India's endeavor to modernize its port sector by embracing corporate governance principles. As the first major port registered as a company, it has revolutionized the maritime trade landscape in the country. Through its infrastructure, connectivity, and progressive approach, Kamarajar Port has set new benchmarks in operational efficiency, customer service, and environmental sustainability. It continues to play a crucial role in India's economic growth and global trade integration, serving as a shining beacon of success in the country's port sector.

By: Monika Rout Class - 11 Burnpur Riverside School, West Bengal Edited by: Thirukumaran Veleyudham



NURTURING CRITICAL THINKING AND DISCUSSION SKILLS

BY: MS. POOJA PAREEK, PRINCIPAL - SPRINGDALES SCHOOL, JAIPUR

s the principal of a K12 school Springdales School, Jaipur, where we prepare students for future endeavors, fighting competitions in this competitive world parallelly, wanting them to be good citizens, also expecting them to be successful, I firmly believe that one of our primary responsibilities is to prepare our students for the challenges and opportunities they will encounter in the real world. In our increasingly complex and polarized society, the ability to think critically and engage in thoughtful discussions is more important than ever. It is with this understanding that we have made centering thinking and discussion skills a priority.

To foster critical thinking, we have integrated deeper learning strategies into our curriculum. Our teachers design challenging tasks that require students to go beyond rote memorization and engage in higher-order thinking. Through project-based learning, our students tackle real-world problems, conducting analyzing research. data. and collaborating with their peers to find innovative solutions. This approach not only enhances their critical thinking abilities but also nurtures their creativity and problem-solving skills.

Equally important is the development of effective discussion skills. I believe that respectful and open dialogue is the cornerstone of a thriving learning community. Our teachers facilitate classroom discussions that encourage students to actively listen, consider multiple perspectives, and constructively challenge ideas. We emphasize the importance of intellectual humility and teach our students the art of asking probing questions that deepen their understanding and provoke thoughtful discussions.

Furthermore, we integrate civic engagement into our curriculum to provide students with opportunities to apply their critical thinking and discussion skills in real-world contexts. Through service-learning projects and community partnerships, our students analyze societal issues, engage in meaningful dialogue, and develop empathy and a sense of social responsibility. By actively participating in their communities, our students become agents of positive change, equipped with the skills and mindset to make informed decisions, and contribute to a better society.

Civic engagement is a crucial component of centering thinking and discussion skills. By encouraging students to actively participate in their communities and engage in real-world problemsolving, schools can help students develop a sense of agency and empower them to make a positive impact on society. Project-based learning, which involves students working on authentic, meaningful projects that address realworld issues, is an effective way to foster civic engagement and develop critical thinking skills.

Another important subtopic in centering thinking and discussion skills is the development of deliberation skills. Deliberation involves the ability to consider multiple perspectives, weigh evidence, and make informed decisions. By creating a classroom environment that values open dialogue and respectful disagreement, students can learn to engage in thoughtful discussions that challenge their own beliefs and broaden their understanding of complex issues.

Performance assessment is another aspect that can support the development of centering thinking and discussion skills. Traditional assessments often focus on rote memorization and regurgitation of information, which does not adequately measure students' ability think critically or engage in to meaningful discussions. Performance assessments, on the other hand, provide with opportunities students to demonstrate their understanding through real-world tasks, such as presentations, debates, or research projects.

Creativity is also an essential component of centering thinking and discussion skills. By encouraging students to think outside the box, explore alternative solutions, and express their ideas in creative ways, schools can foster innovation and enhance students' ability to think critically and communicate effectively. Incorporating arts and design thinking into the curriculum can help cultivate creativity and provide students with diverse avenues for expressing their thoughts.

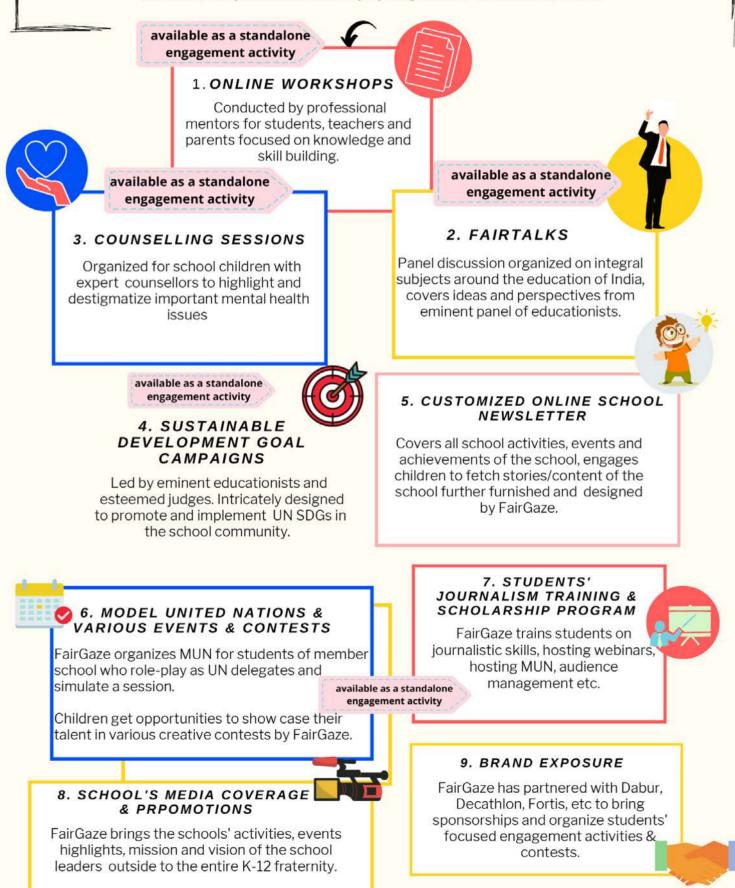
To effectively center thinking and discussion skills, schools need to create structures and expectations that support these goals. This can include providing dedicated time for discussion and reflection, creating safe spaces for students to share their ideas, and promoting a culture of intellectual curiosity and respectful dialogue.

In conclusion, centering thinking and discussion skills is a fundamental aspect of our educational approach.

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SCHOOLASTIC NEWS

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FairGaze in association with India is Us & EaseMy Trip (Gifting Partner) returns with its annual contest "India As I See," aiming to foster a sense of patriotism among students while unlocking their creative potential through activities such as painting and creative writing. The contest provides a national platform for students to showcase their work and creativity. To encourage students of all grades, the competition is divided into three categories based on the guidelines of the National Education Policy 2020.

For more details & registration visit: https://indiaasisee.fairgaze.com/







SCHOOLASTIC NEWS

FAIRGAZE PATRON SCHOOLS

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THE INDIAN ARMY AS A CATALYST FOR NATION BUILDING: STRENGTHENING UNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

MESS SECRETARY

S.NO.	RANK	NAME	FROM	TO
	LT COL LT COL	K J SINGH, SM SANJAY BHARGAVA ANURAG CHAUDHARY MOHIT KAPOOR RKO KAPUR DEEPIKA CHHETRI KANITA SWATT SHEKMAWAT RITURAJ	JAN 05 APR 07 JUN 09 MAY 11 APR 13 JUN 16 JULY 17 JUN 19 SEP 21	APR 07 JUN 09 MAY 11 APR 13 JUN 15 JUN 15 JUN 16 SEP 21

BY: LT COL RITURAJ

he Indian Army, with its rich and history unwavering dedication, has played a pivotal role in shaping the nation's destiny. Beyond its primary responsibility of defending the borders and ensuring national security, the Indian Army has consistently contributed to nationbuilding endeavors. From promoting unity and integration to spearheading development projects, the army has become an integral force in nurturing a strong and prosperous India. This article explores the significant role of the Indian Army in nation-building, highlighting its various initiatives and contributions.

Protecting Our Borders: The primary responsibility of Defence Forces is to protect our borders from external threats. They work tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of our country.

Preserving National Unity:

One of the key contributions of the Indian Army to nation-building is its role in preserving national unity. India, with its diverse linguistic, cultural, and religious identities, relies on the army to ensure peace and harmony across the nation. The army's commitment to upholding the values of inclusivity and secularism has helped maintain social cohesion and prevented conflicts from escalating. Through its presence in sensitive regions and deployment during communal tensions, the Indian Army acts as a unifying force, fostering a sense of national identity.

Infrastructure Development:

The Indian Army has been actively involved in infrastructure development projects, particularly in remote and challenging areas. From constructing roads and bridges to establishing schools and hospitals, the army's engineering units have played a crucial role in improving connectivity and essential providing services to marginalized communities. These initiatives have not only facilitated economic growth but also promoted

social welfare, creating opportunities for development and progress.

Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Assistance:

In times of natural disasters and emergencies, the Indian Army has consistently risen to the occasion, providing immediate relief and support to affected regions. Whether it's rescuing people during floods. conducting medical camps in remote areas, or rebuilding communities after earthquakes, the army has showcased its commitment to serving the nation beyond its military duties. The army's expertise in logistics, rescue operations, and medical aid has saved countless lives and helped communities recover from the aftermath of disasters.

Peacekeeping Missions:

The Indian Army has actively United Nations participated in peacekeeping missions worldwide, demonstrating its commitment to global peace and stability. Indian troops have been deployed in conflict zones, where they have played a crucial role in maintaining peace, protecting civilians, and assisting in the process of nationbuilding in war-torn regions. Through these missions, the Indian Army has earned international recognition and strengthened diplomatic ties while upholding the values of peace and justice.

Skill Development and Education:

Recoanizina the importance of education and skill development in nation-building, the Indian Army has established numerous schools, colleges, and vocational training institutes across the country. These educational institutions not only cater to the children of army personnel but also provide quality education to children from neighboring communities. Additionally, the army conducts various skill development programs to empower the with employable vouth skills. contributing to the nation's human resource development. Defence Forces



through NCC also mold the youth of our nation to become responsible citizens and ultimately help in the development of our country.

Inspiring Patriotism: The Defence Services inspire patriotism among citizens by demonstrating unwavering love and commitment towards our country. They serve as role models, encouraging citizens to contribute to the development and progress of the nation.

Conclusion:

The Indian Army's contributions to nation-building go far beyond its traditional role of safeguarding borders. undertaking Βv promoting unity, infrastructure projects, providing relief, participating disaster in peacekeeping missions, and investing in education and skill development, the army has become a driving force behind India's progress. The Indian Army's commitment to nation-building exemplifies the spirit of service and sacrifice that underpins the nation's ethos. As India continues to evolve and aspire to greater heights, the Indian Army will remain a steadfast partner in building a strong, inclusive, and prosperous nation.

BILIGIRIRANGAN HILLS WHERE NATURE'S GRANDEUR UNFOLDS IN HARMONY

LOOK! NATURE IS OVERFLOWING WITH THE GRANDEUR OF GOD!

estled in the southern state of Karnataka. India, the Biligirirangan Hills, commonly known as BR Hills, is a picturesque haven that showcases the beauty and biodiversity of the Western Ghats. Spread across an area of approximately 540 square kilometers, this unique range of holds ecological hills immense significance, making it a popular destination for nature enthusiasts, wildlife lovers, and trekkers alike.

Geographical and Cultural Heritage:

The Biligirirangan Hills form a natural bridge between the Eastern and the Western Ghats, serving as an ecological corridor for numerous flora and fauna species. The name "Biligirirangan" is derived from two Kannada words: "Biligiri" meaning white rock, and "Rangan" referring to Lord Ranganatha, the presiding deity of the local temple situated amidst the hills. These hills hold spiritual significance for several local tribal communities who consider it sacred and refer to it as "Dodda Sampige".

Flora and Fauna Diversity:

One of the most striking features of Biligirirangan Hills is its rich biodiversity. The area is home to a wide range of plant species, including evergreen forests, grasslands, and patches of shola forests. The hills boast a vibrant collection of flowering plants, medicinal herbs, and rare orchids, making it a paradise for botany enthusiasts. Wildlife enthusiasts are equally captivated by the diverse fauna thriving within the hills. The Biligirirangan Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, declared in 1974, is a haven for various animal species, such as the Asian elephant, tiger, leopard, Indian bison (gaur), sambar deer, and many more. Birdwatchers can delight in the presence of over 200 avian species, including the elusive Malabar trogon, crested hawkeagle, and Indian pitta.

Conservation Efforts and Eco-Tourism:

Recognizing the ecological importance and biodiversity of Biligirirangan Hills, the Karnataka Forest Department and various environmental organizations are actively involved in conservation efforts. The area has been designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) and is also part of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve, ensuring its protection and sustainable management. Eco-tourism plays a pivotal role in promoting conservation and creating awareness among visitors about the delicate balance of nature. Guided treks, safaris, and nature walks are conducted with minimal impact on the environment, allowing tourists to experience the beauty of the hills while respecting the natural habitat of its inhabitants.

Preservation of Tribal Culture:

The Biligirirangan Hills are populated by several indigenous tribal communities, such as the Soliga, Jenu Kuruba, and Betta Kuruba, have lived in harmony with nature for generations. These tribal communities possess invaluable traditional knowledge of the local flora and fauna, which is vital for the conservation and sustainable use of



natural resources. Efforts are made to respect and preserve their cultural heritage while empowering them with education and skill development opportunities. Responsible tourism practices ensure that visitors engage with the local communities in a mutually beneficial manner.

Conclusion:

Biligirirangan Hills, with its awe-inspiring landscapes, diverse wildlife, and rich cultural heritage, is a testament to the beauty and resilience of nature. As we continue to cherish and protect this pristine haven, we enable future generations to experience the grandeur of these hills in all its glory. The conservation efforts and sustainable tourism practices employed in this region serve as a model for preserving our natural treasures and living in harmony with the environment.

By: Geetanjali Shrinath Class - 10 St. John Paul Academy, Tamil Nadu Edited by: Muthu Navaneetha Krishna P

BIOSPHERE SESHACHALAM HILLS A SERENE ABODE OF NATURAL BEAUTY

AWAY FROM THE CITY NOISES, A PLACE SO SERENE.



Restled in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, India, the Seshachalam Hills, also known as the Tirumala Hills, is a majestic range that captivates with its picturesque landscapes and holds immense spiritual significance. Spread across an area of approximately 450 square kilometers, these hills are renowned for their lush greenery, diverse flora, and fauna, and being home to one of the most revered pilgrimage destinations in India, the sacred temple of Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala.

Geological and Cultural Heritage:

The Seshachalam Hills derive their name from "Seshadri" or "Seshachala," which means "hill of Lord Sesha" – the divine serpent deity of Hindu mythology who serves as the bed of Lord Vishnu. These hills hold a special place in the hearts of millions of devotees, making it one of the most visited pilgrimage sites in the world. The Tirumala Venkateswara Temple, perched on one of the peaks, attracts devotees from far and wide, transcending the bounds of caste, creed, and nationality.

Flora and Fauna Diversity:

The hills boast various flora and fauna, adding to their ecological significance. The forests surrounding the temple area are part of the Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve. It is home to various endemic and rare plant species. The region's vegetation includes a mix of tropical dry deciduous forests, scrub forests, and grasslands. Wildlife enthusiasts can explore the hills' bounty of biodiversity, including species like the Indian leopard, Indian giant squirrel, jungle cat, Indian pangolin, and several varieties of birds and reptiles. The forests serve as crucial habitats for these species, contributing to their conservation and environmental stability.

Conservation Efforts and Sustainable Practices:

Recognizing the ecological importance spiritual significance of the and Seshachalam Hills, authorities have implemented several conservation efforts to preserve the region's natural beauty and wildlife. Initiatives like afforestation drives, habitat restoration, and wildlife protection programs are undertaken to maintain the ecological balance of the area. In recent years, sustainable tourism practices have also gained momentum to ensure responsible pilgrimage and minimize the environmental impact of numerous visitors. Awareness campaigns on waste management, plastic-free initiatives, and responsible tourism guidelines to safeguard the hills' natural heritage fostered.

Conclusion:

The Seshachalam Hills, with their serene landscapes and spiritual aura, hold a special place in people's heart worldwide. As a haven of natural beauty and religious devotion, these hills represent the harmonious coexistence of nature and culture. By preserving their ecological integrity and practicing sustainable tourism, we can ensure that the Seshachalam Hills continue to enchant and inspire generations to come, both as a sanctuary of biodiversity and a pilgrimage destination of immense significance.

By: Harish Jain Class - 12 Gyan Ganga International School, MP Edited by: Muthu Navaneetha Krishna P

INDIAN HIGHWAYS

THE GOLDEN QUADRILATERAL: INDIA'S MONUMENTAL HIGHWAY NETWORK

ntroduction : The Golden Quadrilateral, an extensive highway network that traverses the length and breadth of India, stands as a remarkable testament to the nation's infrastructure prowess. This vast road system links the major metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata, creating an essential backbone for India's economic growth and connectivity. Conceptualized as a visionary project to transform the country's transportation landscape, the Golden Quadrilateral has had a profound impact on trade, commerce, and social development.

Genesis of the Project

The genesis of the Golden Quadrilateral project dates to the early 2000s when India's economy was surging and a need for efficient transportation infrastructure became evident. The then-Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, envisaged a network of high-quality highways that would significantly reduce travel time, facilitate smoother movement of goods, and promote regional development. This visionary project aimed to connect the four major metropolises and serve as a catalyst for economic growth across the country.

Benefits and Impact

- Economic Growth: The Golden Quadrilateral has played a pivotal role in driving economic growth and development. It has enhanced connectivity between major industrial and commercial hubs, allowing for the efficient movement of goods and services. This has led to the establishment of new industries and businesses along the highway corridors, contributing to job creation and increased economic activity.
- Trade and Commerce: The improved



road connectivity has facilitated the movement of goods across regions, reducing transportation costs and transit times. This has bolstered trade and commerce, enabling businesses to expand their reach and tap into larger markets.

- Tourism and Travel: The Golden Quadrilateral has transformed the travel experience for both domestic and international tourists. Reduced travel times have made it easier for travelers to explore multiple cities and cultural landmarks, boosting the tourism sector.
- Agricultural Development: The highway network has benefited the agricultural sector by enabling efficient transportation of agricultural produce from rural areas to urban markets. This has helped farmers access better prices for their products and reduce wastage.
- Urbanization and Infrastructure: The improved connectivity has spurred

urbanization along the highway corridors, leading to the development of new towns and cities. This, in turn, has necessitated the creation of essential infrastructure such as housing, schools, and healthcare facilities.

Conclusion

The Golden Quadrilateral stands as a monumental achievement in India's journey toward modernization and development. It exemplifies the power of visionary infrastructure projects in catalyzing economic growth, enhancing connectivity, and improving the overall quality of life for the population. As India continues to evolve as a global economic powerhouse, the Golden Quadrilateral remains a shining example of the nation's commitment to progress and prosperity.

By: Adya Srivastava Class - 8 Lotus Valley International School Edited by: Muthu Navaneetha Krishna P

INDIAN HIGHWAYS

THE INDIA-MYANMAR-THAILAND, TRILATERAL HIGHWAY

REGIONAL EXCHANGE CAN BE A SOURCE OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND OF ENHANCING GOOD GOVERNANCE.

he India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, also known as the IMT Highway, landmark is а infrastructure project that has been fostering regional connectivity and economic integration between India, Myanmar, and Thailand. This ambitious highway aims to bridge the geographical gaps and strengthen socio-economic ties among the three nations, opening up new opportunities for trade, tourism, and cultural exchanges.

Historical Background:

The idea of establishing a road link

between India, Myanmar, and Thailand was envisaged for decades, but it gained momentum in the early 2000s when the governments of the three countries recognized the potential benefits of enhancing connectivity. The project was noticed as a crucial step towards enhancing trade relations and people-to-people contacts in the region.

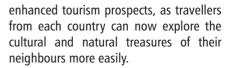
Development and Route:

Construction of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway began in 2002 and was executed in multiple

phases due to the complexity of the terrain and the involvement of multiple countries. The highway traverses past diverse landscapes, including dense forests, river valleys, and mountainous terrain, presenting engineering and logistical challenges. The completed highway begins from Moreh in Manipur, India, and enters Myanmar at Tamu. From there, it passes through various regions of Myanmar, such as Kalewa, Monywa, Mandalay, before reaching and Myawaddy on the Myanmar-Thailand border. After crossing the border, the highway continues into Thailand, eventually connecting to the Thai town of Mae Sot. The entire highway stretches over 1,360 kilometers, significantly reducing travel time and trade barriers between the three nations.

Economic and Trade Implications:

The India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway has opened up new economic corridors and trade opportunities for the participating countries. It has provided landlocked northeastern states of India, such as Manipur and Mizoram, an efficient and cost-effective route to access



Promotion of Cultural Ties:

The trilateral highway project has not only boosted economic prospects but has also contributed to the strengthening of cultural ties among the participating nations. The enhanced connectivity has led to a rise in cross-border exchanges, allowing people from different countries to interact, share experiences, and promote mutual understanding and



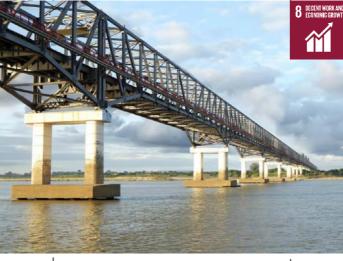
appreciation of each other's cultures.

Conclusion:

The India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway denotes regional cooperation and integration, fostering economic growth and cultural understanding between India, Myanmar, and Thailand. As the nation's continuing to work together and overcome challenges, this highway will undoubtedly pave the way for brighter and more а interconnected future for the entire region. By forging

and leveraging the stronger ties opportunities presented by this infrastructure marvel, the trilateral highway holds the potential to shape the economic landscape of South and Southeast Asia in the years to come.

By: Rajdeep Buyan Class - 12 Brooklyn Mission School, Assam Edited by: Muthu Navaneetha Krishna P



the markets of Southeast Asia. Likewise, for Myanmar and Thailand, this highway serves as a gateway to tap into the vast and growing Indian market. The improved road connectivity has facilitated the movement of goods and people, leading to an increase in bilateral trade and investments. Local industries in the northeastern states of India have benefited from access to raw materials from Myanmar and Thailand, and the region has witnessed a boost in the export of goods to Southeast Asian countries. Additionally, the highway has



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