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Evaluation Scheme for State Level Camp (SLC)

Annexure-B

Indian Knowledge Systems Abstract

Junior Group (Class VI, VII & VIII)

Indian civilization had developed sophisticated water conservation systems that existed in antiquity. This is evident, in water scarcity regions of the country. Unique designs of step wells, canals, tanks, lakes, bunds, etc. were used to ensure water supply throughout the year. Vibrant remnants can still be seen in some ancient sites in India. Harvesting water, and storing and distributing water were dealt with in different ways involving different engineering techniques. It was an integrated system wherein the water bodies were interconnected through underground canals and stormwater drains. Historical step wells stand as testimony of architectural marvels, management, and utility of water. Indians were master architects in rainwater harvesting. Recharging of aquifers by digging water holes using community service led to reviving major mountain rivers. Indians were cutting forests and using water and at the same time undertaking afforestation and water conservation practices. Tribal communities use traditional knowledge to conserve forests and consequently water. However, the colonial disenfranchising of the common man had pushed Bharat into a water crisis. Nowhere in world history has such passionate reverence for a natural resource been observed.

Senior Group (Class IX, X & XI)

Indian knowledge system goes beyond the present Indian geographical area and encompasses expertise in engineering, architecture, mathematics, astronomy, medicine, philosophy, education system, etc. It has survived invasions and colonization. Temple architecture is one of the glaring pieces of evidence that exhibits the depth of the Indian knowledge system. Temples were not just the places of worship, they were the seats of art, music, dance, and philosophy. Most of the ancient Indian literature is in Sanskrit, a handicap faced by many. Scholars from different fields are now making efforts to bring ancient wisdom to the mainstream by deciphering and explaining the vast literature that is available in Sanskrit. Sanskrit has preserved Indian traditional knowledge through centuries without any contortion. Scriptures were preserved through oral tradition in the heart of the people and later by palm leaf inscriptions. Natya Shastra's text was not limited to dance, it also included Shilpa Shastra, music, poetry, and many other kinds of art forms. Unlike other world civilizations, ancient Indian knowledge is in practice in its original form even today. The Gurukul system ensured that a pupil received an overall knowledge of all disciplines. In India, religion was complimentary to science not contradictory.