

# YOUNG Explorer

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## Rediscovering India!

*"If there is one place on the face of this Earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when Man began the dream of existence, it is India."*

- French Philosopher, Romain Rolland

...India, one of the old civilisations in the world is an enchanting mosaic of cultures and traditions. Be it the Vedas, the architectural marvels of our temples, and numerous facets of our treasure trove, India has contributed immensely to world culture. This wonderful heritage is an integral part of our country and it needs to be preserved and nurtured for posterity. This is imperative because we need to leave behind a legacy, to rejuvenate the lives of our future generation by invoking in them the spirit of our glorious civilisation.

The most prominent testimonies of our heritage are the magnificent monuments that grace the length and breadth of the country. These monuments range through a span of centuries and are supreme examples of India's architectural excellence. The splendour of the Taj Mahal, the magnificence of the Konark temple or the aura of India Gate – each of these monuments have a story to tell. But then how many school and college goers know about them? This is indeed ironical for a country that has over 50 structures inscribed on the World Heritage List!

The sad fact today is that children are more aware about the culture of other countries and are oblivious to the wealth of their own country. They would prefer knowing about the Eiffel Tower rather than the Qutab Minar, thereby losing touch with the enduring charm of their own historical legacy. It is therefore of paramount importance to synchronise these children with the beautiful melody

of our Indian heritage. Only this would take them further and make them aware about the need to preserve and protect their monuments and culture. As Dr K B Kushal, Regional Director, DAV Group of Schools opines, "Heritage learning nourishes a sense of continuity and connectedness with our historical and cultural experiences. So the awareness of heritage will enable the students to understand their cultural contributions in a better perspective."

The best way to establish a link between children and our glorious past is through the medium of education. Echoing the same thoughts is Isha Vaidya, a class VII student of Rustomjee Intl. Dahisar, "Making us understand our monuments, our culture and the myriad facets of our country through the medium of education will build a bridge between us and our ancestors. I am sure children will definitely like to have a subject like Heritage as a part of our regular school curriculum. It need not be a written or oral exam, but maybe something based on projects or study tours."

In this context and with the aim of sensitising the present generation to the glory of 'Enchanting India', the Union culture ministry has proposed to implement a programme to educate students in nearly 12,000 senior secondary schools and 5,000 colleges across the country. The objective is to make a concerted effort where scientists, archaeologists, anthropologists, city planners and local governments come together and work towards preserving the sanctity and glory of our monuments. These initiatives will certainly kindle the aspirations of our youngsters towards safeguarding our rich cultural heritage and thereby work towards presenting a majestic kaleidoscopic view of Incredible India to the world!

CAN WE EVER IMAGINE MUMBAI WITHOUT THE GATEWAY OF INDIA OR AGRA WITHOUT THE TAJ MAHAL? INDIA'S HERITAGE STRUCTURES ARE MAGNANIMOUS MANIFESTATIONS OF THE TRUE SPIRIT OF OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY, ASSERTS **SHOBHAA TAWDE**

