

WORDS OF VISIONARIES

Module: Thrilling Operations Feb 2, 2020



WORLD'S HIGHEST BATTLEFIELD

- Located in the eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas
- Middle of PoK and Chinese Occupied Kashmir

5,753 m
Above sea-level at its head

-50 °C
Lowest temperature

1,000 cm
Average winter snowfall

- The Indian Army has been controlling the area since occupying it in 1984

Dreamers & Innovators is a knowledge and skill-building platform for 21st century learners. We aspire, design and execute interactive learning experiences where global knowledge relevant to today and tomorrow is brought to young Dreamers. At D&I, 21st century skills are honed, confident communication is developed and independent, informed opinions are nourished.

January 2021 is hallmarked at D&I with the module: **Thrilling Missions**. This module focuses on the epic missions carried out by the forces of nations of global significance. In the third session, on the **Operation Meghdoot** we took the opportunity to study the pro-active steps taken by India in claiming the highest heavy-artillery base in the world...



BEYOND 1947

By Rohina Mehra

At the stroke of midnight on 15th August 1947 India rose to freedom after colonial subjugation for over two centuries. The road ahead has been filled with potholes. At the onset itself the Radcliffe Line though partitioned India but left a bloody aftermath and a fledgling democratic nation struck by poverty, engulfed in chaos. Furthermore, the amalgamation of princely states into one nation magnified by the aggression of our two immediate neighbours have posed many challenges. The Six wars and many conflicts that have followed are still sore points for our nation.

Operation Meghdoot in the year 1984 was indeed an act of valor by our forces to conquer and safeguard Siachen Glacier at a height of 21,000 feet and temperatures as low as -50 degree celsius.

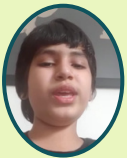


ON THE WEIGHING BALANCE

By Keith Gomes

Although the Indian Army marks many a feat with its surmounting of the Siachen challenge, including grounds of intelligence use, pro-active measures, obstructing Pakistan-China communication in the region, and even battling a trying mountaineering expedition, yet there is something amiss.

Since our presence in the region we have lost over 800 soldiers, not to bullets but to the impediments offered by the terrain. Furthermore, we spend an average of Rs. 5 crores per day in personnel management at the camp. Take a moment to ponder which side weighs more, our presence or our costs?



THE RADCLIFFE LINE

by Uday Nanda, 12yrs

'Before starting the any job you must first understand it deeper', are my thoughts about the Radcliffe line. The Radcliff line, unlike this, was drawn without in-depth knowledge of the task given.

The Radcliffe line was drawn by Sir Cyril Radcliffe. He had never actually visited India before, but still drew some lines on the map of India to form another country. Much thoughtful thinking was needed on this, like: as if there are less resources in one place while more in the other? What about the people who are in Pakistan and in India, would they be displaced?

Also, Kashmir was left out, which later became a contested zone where many wars were fought. The two nations later said it was theirs. It has now become POK separated by the line of control.



SAFEGUARD THE POST

by Anadya Mittal, 15yrs

Situated at a height of 5400 m above sea level, the Siachen glacier is a strategically important location for the nation. It equips the country controlling it with an elevated watchtower for the army which can prove to be a tactical advantage.

The glacier is also a point of commute for China and Pakistan and losing control over it would provide them with the opportunity to surround India from all four sides of its northern hemisphere, thus aiding them in overpowering India.

Losing control over the Siachen Glacier endangers the national security of the country hence making it imperative to safeguard it.



THE LINE THAT CREATED HISTORY

by Prisha Sheokand, 13 yrs

Neither an administrator nor a cartographer was the architect of the partitioned map of India and Pakistan. Sir Cyril Radcliffe, a British lawyer, who had never set foot in India was a man entrusted with the mammoth task of demarcating the borderline - 'Radcliffe line' - separating India and Pakistan in a short span of only five weeks.

His lack of familiarity and knowledge about the religious, cultural, social, economic and infrastructural conditions of the Punjab and Bengal province caused a mayhem following the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1947, synonymous with the death and the displacement of millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims.



A STRATEGICAL VITALITY

by Aryan Bansal, 13 yrs

Life at the Siachen Glacier can be tough. But our brave soldiers endure it all.

It could be an entry point into Kashmir for both the Chinese and the Pakistani troops, even though it is very difficult due to the weather conditions of extreme temperature ranging from -18 to -60 degrees . The Saltoro Ridge of the Siachin glacier serves as a divide that prevents direct linking of the PoK with China, stopping them to from developing geographical military linkages in the area.

Siachen also helps India keep a close watch on China 's activities as Beijing has vastly improved its infrastructure in this region. Also, for the people of Ladakh the Siachen glacier is the source of water and cutting down on troops from the glacier as well as the whole region will have detrimental effect on the whole region, in many possible ways.