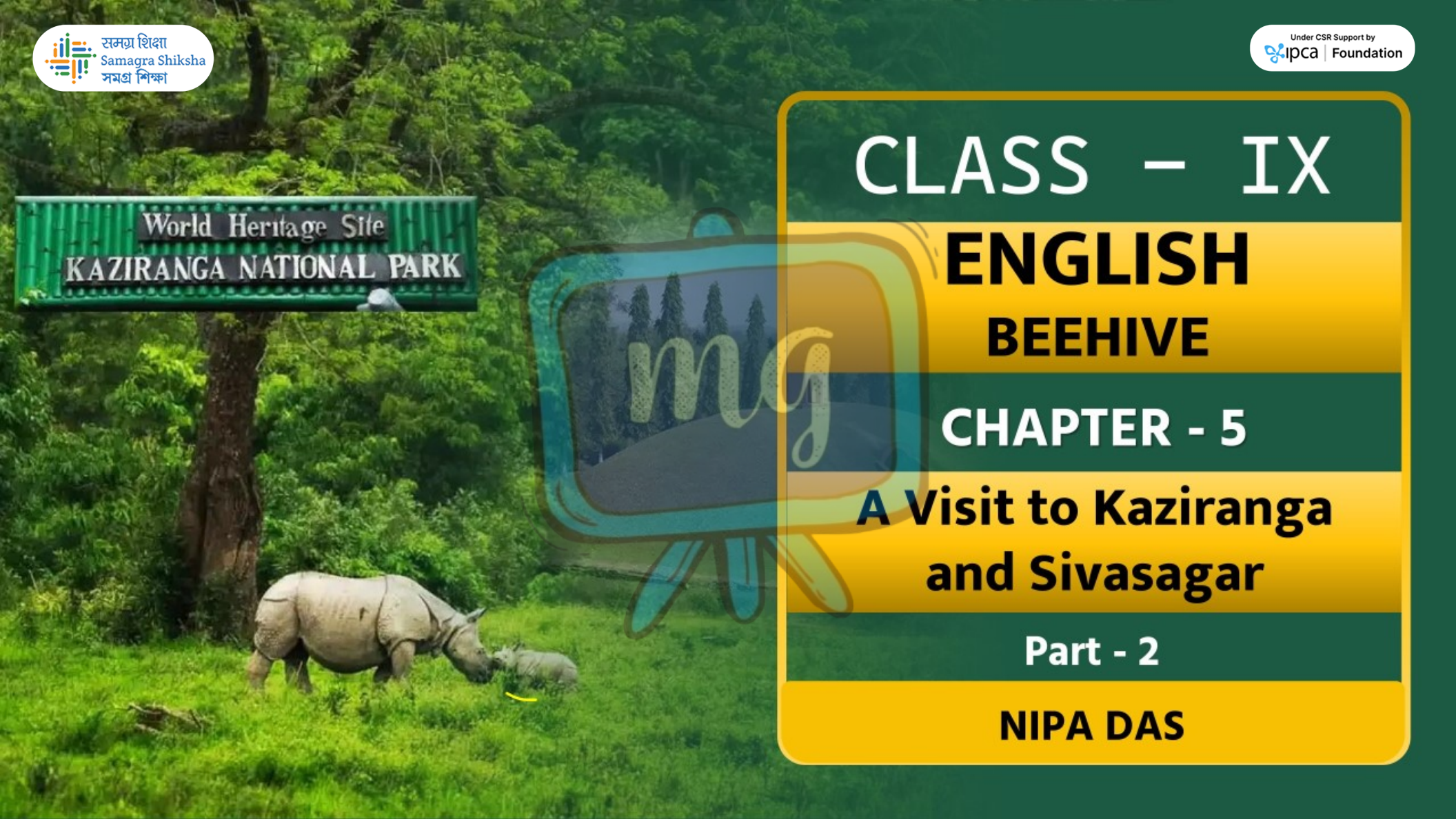


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CLASS – IX

ENGLISH

BEEHIVE

CHAPTER - 5

A Visit to Kaziranga and Sivasagar

Part - 2

NIPA DAS



"How old is this park, ma?"

"Actually, the history of Kaziranga as a protected area can be traced back to 1904. There is a long story behind it."

"Tell us the story, ma," said Trisha, who was always curious to know about places.

Protected area : সংৰক্ষিত অঞ্চল

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"Well, in 1904, Mary Curzon visited Kaziranga. She was the wife of Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy of India. She had heard that Kaziranga was famous for rhinos. But she could not find a single rhino there. She requested her husband to take measures immediately to protect the rhinos.

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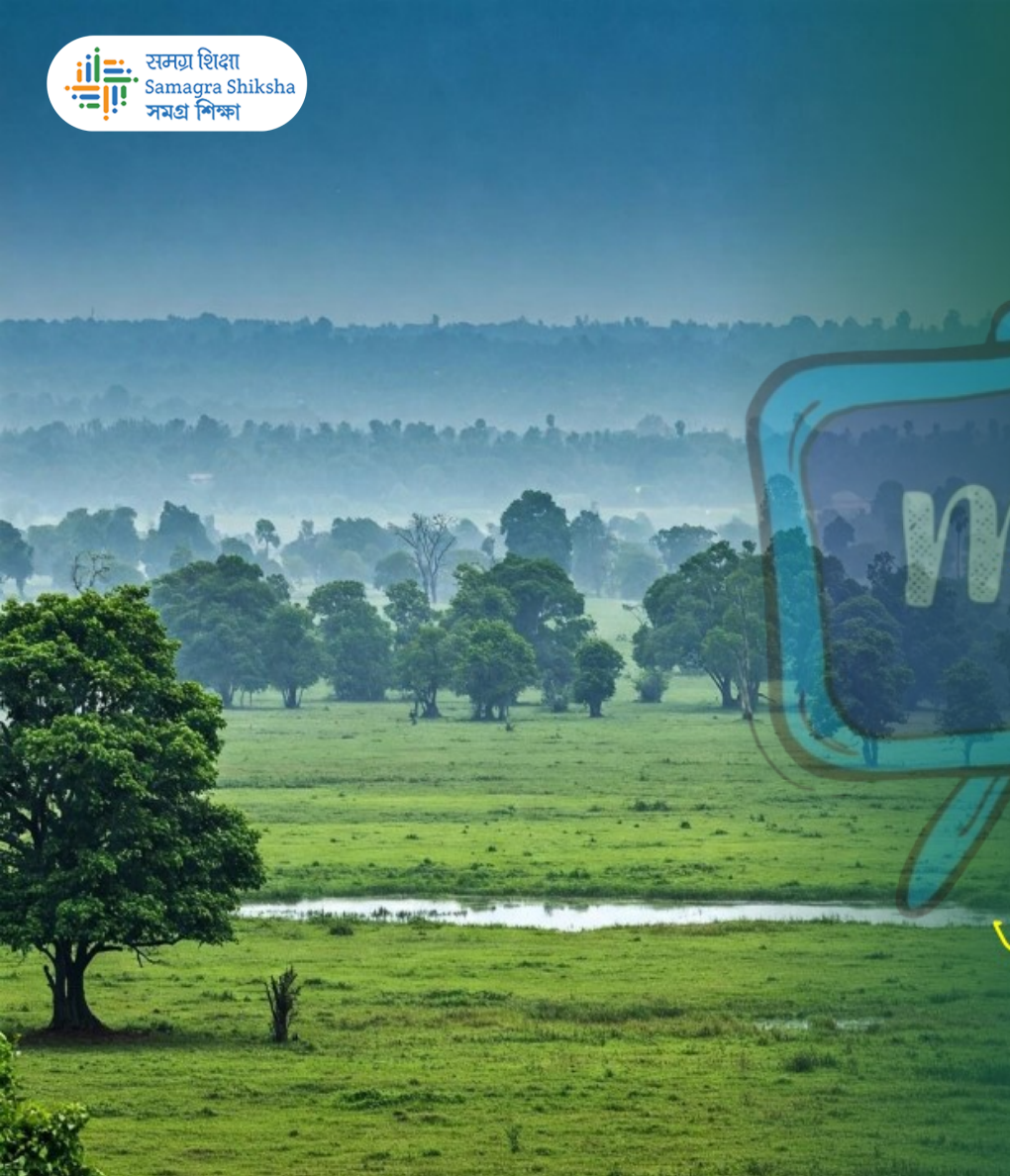


Soon after, in 1905, the Kaziranga Proposed Reserve Forest was created. Slowly, the park grew in size. In 1916, it was named Kaziranga Game Sanctuary. Visitors were allowed to enter the park. Hunting was strictly prohibited. Then in 1950 the name was again changed."

Reserve Forest : সংৰক্ষিত অঞ্চল

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"Why? Didn't they like the name?" asked Lohit.

"Actually 'game' also means animals hunted for sport and food. That would not be a nice name for a park where you want to conserve animals, would it?

Hunted : চিকাৰ কৰা

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So it was renamed Kaziranga Wild Life Sanctuary in 1950 by P. D. Stracey, the forest conservationist of that time. It was in 1974 only that Kaziranga was designated a National Park".

Trisha said, "Now, it would be more interesting to see the park."

Wild Life Sanctuary : বন্যপ্রাণী অভয়াৰণ্য

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The next morning, they entered the park on elephant back. The grasses were so tall that if they had not been on elephant back they would probably have got lost. But from the huge animal's back they were able to view the vast expanse of the park. There were marshes here and there.

Vast expanse : বিশাল অঞ্চল Marshes : জলাশয়

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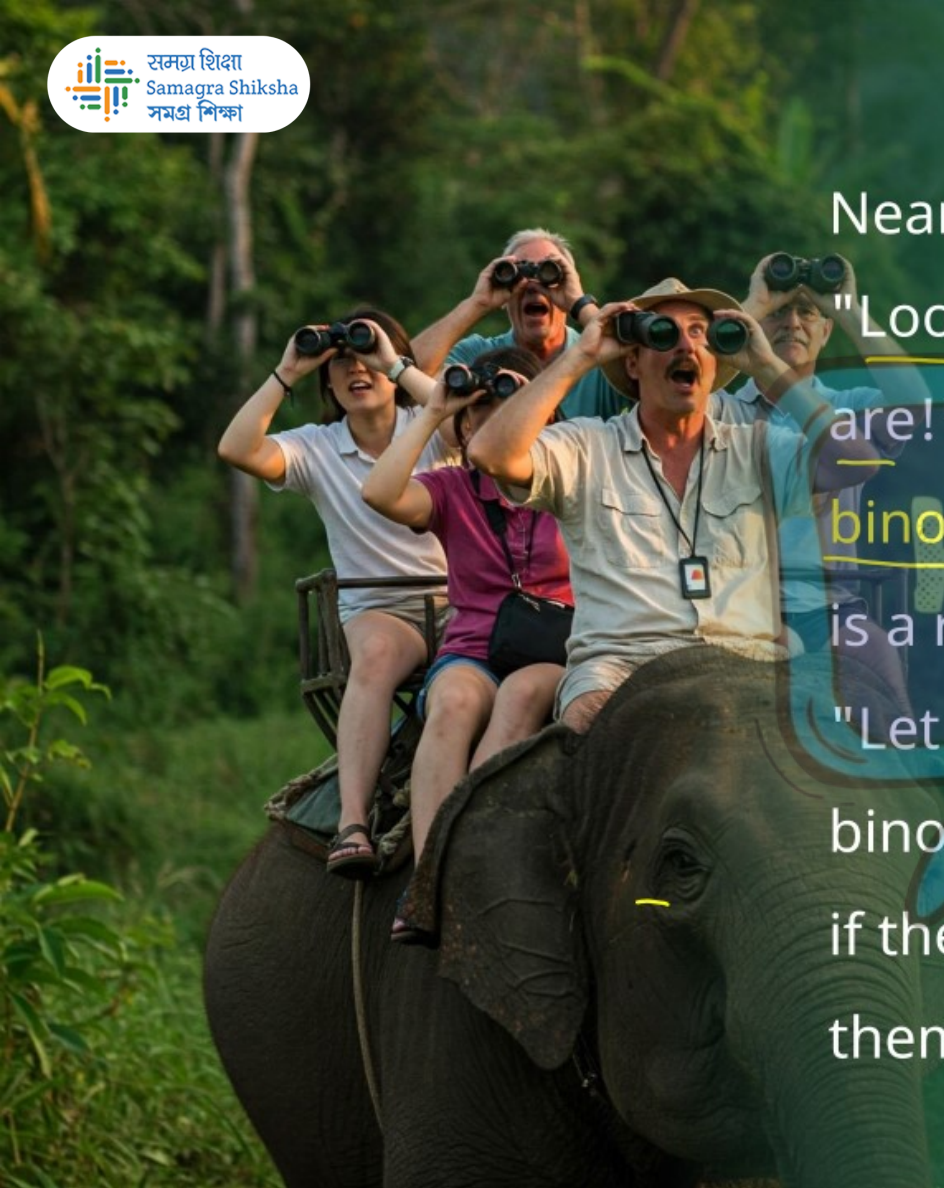


"Look, look," Lohit shouted excitedly, "there's a rhino. Oh, another small rhino! Can we go closer?"

"That's a mother rhino with her baby", the guide said. "She would not like anyone to go near her when she is with her baby. She is very protective towards her baby."

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Near a water body they saw some birds. "Look at those birds. How beautiful they are!" mother said. She took out the binocular to have a closer view. "Wow there is a rhino near the birds!"

"Let me see", Lohit said, taking the binocular from his mother. "Oh yes! But ma, if the rhino catches those birds, he will eat them up," Lohit said.

Binocular : দূৰবীণ

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Trisha laughed. "Silly boy! Don't you know that rhinos are herbivorous?"

"Herbivorous? Meaning?" Lohit asked.

"Meaning," his sister explained, "they eat only grasses."

"And they also eat leaves, fruits, water plants and branches of shrubs," added their mother. "They do not eat flesh."

Herbivorous : তৃণভোজী

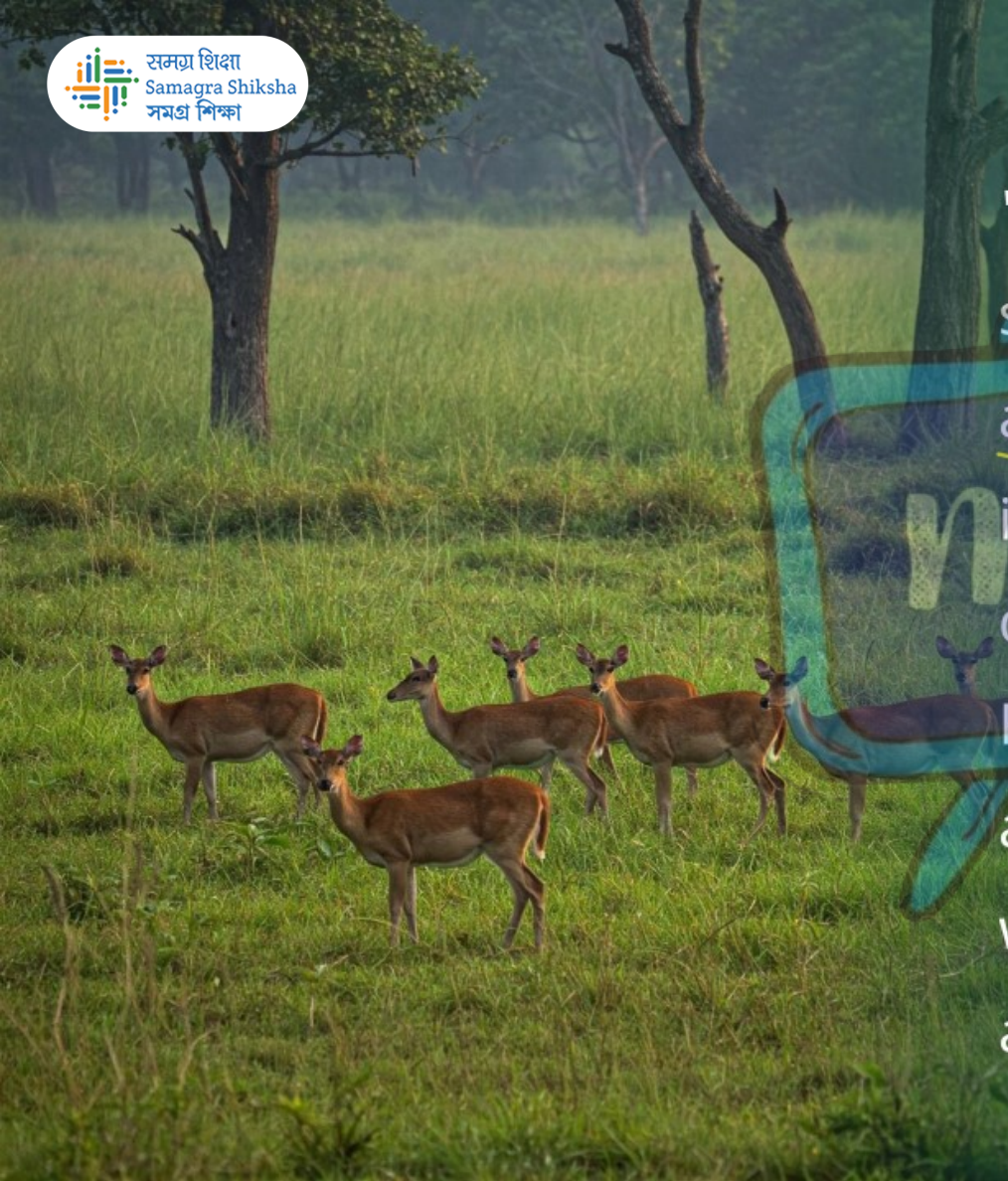


"Wow!" Trisha exclaimed, looking through the binocular. "There's another rhino in the water."

Lohit laughed. "Now who's silly? Rhinos cannot be in the water. They are so heavy that they will get drowned. You must have seen some big branches in the water."

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"In fact, rhinos are very good swimmers," father said. "In the afternoon when it is very hot, they get into the lakes and ponds to cool down."

Further in, they spotted a deer. It was an exciting trip for them and they were lucky to see quite a number of animals and birds in the park as they

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passed through the thickets of tall elephant grass and short grasses. They were delighted at the sight of the breathtaking array of flowers like water lilies, lotus and water hyacinth. Their mother had remarked, "The flora truly adds to the charm of the park."

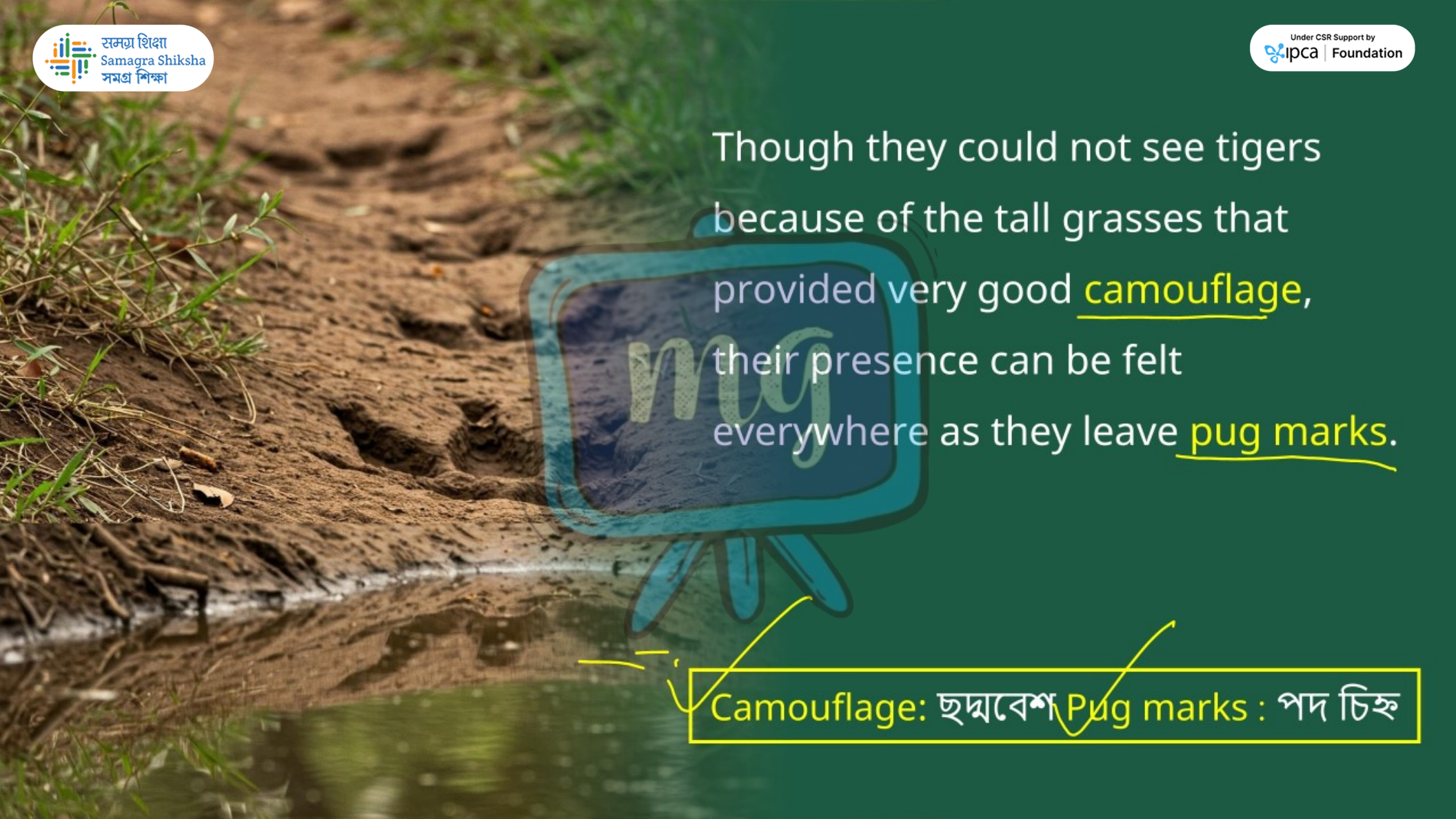
Water hyacinth : পানী মেটেকা

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They also learnt that apart from being home to two-thirds of the world's great one-horned rhinoceros, Kaziranga National Park has the highest density of tigers among the protected areas in the world and was declared a Tiger Reserve in 2006.



Though they could not see tigers because of the tall grasses that provided very good camouflage, their presence can be felt everywhere as they leave pug marks.

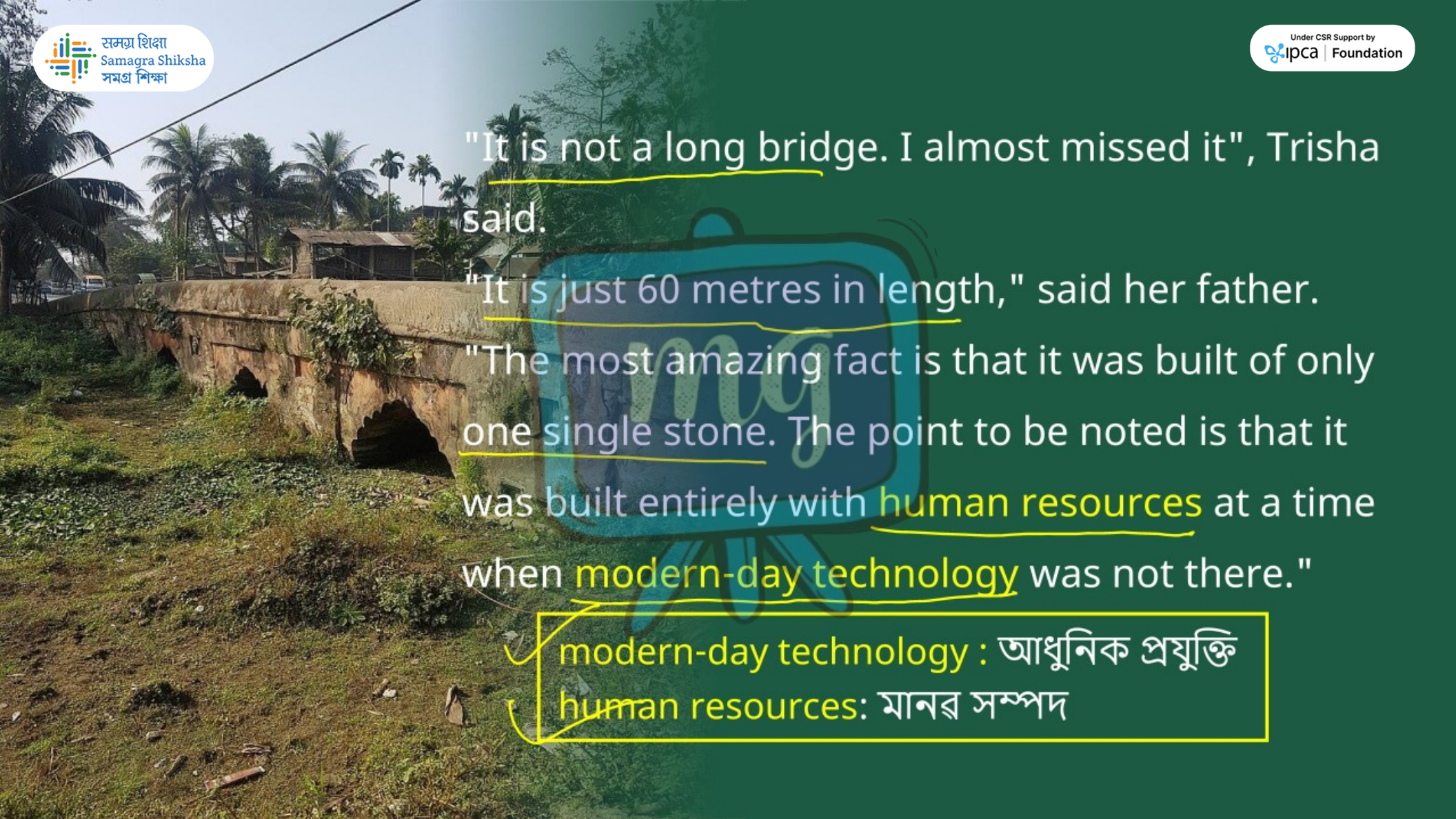
Camouflage: ছদ্মবেশ Pug marks : পদ চিহ্ন



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Late in the afternoon, they left for Sivasagar. On their way before reaching Sivasagar, they crossed a stone bridge. Their mother said, pointing at the bridge, "This is the Silor Saaku, the Namdang Stone Bridge."



"It is not a long bridge. I almost missed it", Trisha said.

"It is just 60 metres in length," said her father.

"The most amazing fact is that it was built of only one single stone. The point to be noted is that it was built entirely with human resources at a time when modern-day technology was not there."

modern-day technology : আধুনিক প্রযুক্তি
human resources: মানৱ সম্পদ

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"Who built it?"

"The Ahom king Rudra Singha in 1703."

Trisha always admired the way both her father and mother remembered facts and dates. It helped her understand the importance of the bridges, temples and monuments set against the time they were built.

Soon they reached Sivasagar.

Monuments : কৃতিস্তম্ভ



"Sagar is sea. But there is no sea here. Why is this town called Sivasagar?" Lohit questioned as they settled in their hotel room.

"I read somewhere that when the Ahom kings used to dig some special tanks, they named them adding sagar, like Sivasagar tank, Joysagar tank, Gaurisagar tank," Trisha said.



"Good girl!" Her father said.

"I wish there was really a sagar here!" Lohit said.

"Silly boy! How can you have a sea in the middle of the land?" Trisha said to her brother.

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1 When has kaziranga become a National Park?

A 1950

B 1665

C 1970

D 1974

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2 Who built the 'Silor Saaku' ?

A Naranarayan

B Rudra Singha

C Bhaskar Barma

D Gadadhar Singha