



Bodh Mala – 9

Akhila Bhāratiya Saṁskṛti Jñāna Parīkṣā

For

(All India Culture Awareness Examination)

Conducted by

Vidya Bharati Sanskriti Shiksha Sansthan



Renowned Musician Sudhir Phadke

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Preface

In almost all countries of the world, it is considered necessary and important to include inputs relating to their religion, culture and nationalism in the educational curriculum and, thereby, develop an awareness about these subjects among the students. Unfortunately, however, in our sacred Bhāratvarṣa, there is no concern about our dhārmika and cultural ethos being made a part of the educational system. While studied attempts were made, during the foreign rule, to create an apathy, to our dharma and culture, in post independence Bhārata too, no effective steps have been taken to induct, in our students, sentiments of pride and feelings of glory about our dharma and culture. The present state of decay in our national life owes itself, among other things, to this indifference also.

There is talk today to bring about total transformation of our Bhāratīya system of education. Need is being felt to make education, value-oriented. Efforts are being made to evolve a knowledge based society with scientific temper. In order to achieve this objective, what we need to do in the first place, is to educate our students from an emotional point of view. What we need to do is to give a preeminent position to the subjects of our eternal dharma, culture, ethics and spirit of nationalism in our system of education. Our forefathers have made matchless contribution in the spheres of knowledge and sciences with the objective of proper evolution of human society. It is necessary that our students understand this and take legitimate pride and develop self-confidence on account of these contributions of our elders. It is with these feelings that we have developed this series of books. We are confident that our Vidyālayas (schools) will be positively benefited by it.

In the present booklet, different topics have been dealt with in a nutshell. While this series would prove useful for "Saṁskṛti Jñāna Parīkṣā" (Culture Awareness Examination), We request our community of Ācāryas (teachers), to give detailed inputs, with contextual background, on these subjects so that they are motivated to undertake an in depth study there of.

Secretary

Vidya Bharati Sanskrit Shiksha Sanstha

Acknowledgement

It is an age of technological avalanche, soul-less materialism and cut-throat careerism. Our generation, getting education in the so-called English medium public schools, remains deprived of our cultural heritage. Therefore a great need was being felt for preparing an English version of the series of *Sanskriti Bodhmālā*. We wish to convey our deep and sincere gratitude to Shri Pran Nath Pankaj ji, a Chandigarh-based renowned scholar of Hindu philosophy, culture and dharma for his tireless help in bringing out the English version of the series. We feel proud of his association with this work. I do convey my thanks to Shri G.S. Mudambadithaya, President, Karnataka unit of Vidya Bharati, who alongwith his team, prepared the English version of some of the books of this series initially for using them in the schools affiliated with Vidya Bharati in Karnataka, and later permitted us for the publication of the same for using them at national level. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not convey my gratitude to Dr. Himmat Singh Sinha, retired Chairman of Dept. of Philosophy, Kurukshetra University who has devoted his precious time to editing and proof- reading work of the English scripts.

Secretary,
Vidya Bharati Sanskriti Shiksha Sansthan,
Kurukshetra

Scheme of Transliteration

Except certain standardized expressions, Sanskrit words / terms, where expressed in Roman script, have been transliterated as per the following scheme.

Vowels (स्वर)

अ a, आ ā, इ i, ई ī, उ u, ऊ ū, ऋ r, ॠ ṛ, लृ l, ए e, ऐ ai, ओ o, औ au, अं ṁ, अः ḥ.

Consonants (व्यञ्जन)

क् k, ख kh, ग् g, घ् gh, ङ् ṅ, च् c, छ् ch, ज् j, झ् jh, ञ् ñ, ट् t, ठ् th, ड् d, ढ् dh, ण् ṇ, त् t, थ् th, द् d, ध् dh, न् n, प् p, फ् ph, ब् b, भ् bh, म् m, य् y, र् r, ल् l, व् v, श् ś, ष ṣ, स् s, ह् h, क्ष kṣ, त्र tr, ज्ञ jñ,

Each consonant has to be followed by the appropriate vowel, as required, to make the sound complete; hence क (क्+अ) would be ka. Similarly का (क्+आ) = kā, कि (क्+इ) = ki, की (क्+ई) = kī, कु (क्+उ) = ku, कू (क्+ऊ) = kū, कृ = (क्+ऋ) = kṛ and so on.

Explanatory Note (व्याख्यात्मक विवरण)

'C' का उच्चारण आम भाषा में 'स' जैसे cell या 'क' जैसे Club होता है परन्तु इस अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पद्धति में इसका उच्चारण केवल 'च' होगा, वहां 'च' के लिए ch नहीं लिखा जाएगा जैसे caraṇa (चरण) 'छ' के लिए ch लिखा जाएगा, जैसे chātra (छात्र) यदि च् लिखना हो तो cch, जैसे गच्छति = gacchati. ś = श, ṣ = ष और s = स यह अन्तर भी अपने आचार्यों को स्पष्ट सीखना पड़ेगा अन्यथा 'श' के लिए वे sh लिखेंगे। ज्ञ के लिए Jñ तो आसानी से समझ आ जाता है, ऋ के लिए r (जैसे ṛṣi). इस पद्धति का प्रयोग केवल संस्कृत शब्दावली के अनुवाद पर लागू होता है हिन्दी, हिन्दुस्तानी, उर्दू पर लागू नहीं होता।

अकारान्त अ, (क्+अ) = क और हलन्त का भेद भी संस्कृत शब्दों पर ही लागू होता है जिसे स्पष्ट समझना पड़ेगा। इसके पालन से उच्चारण दोष नहीं रहेगा।

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Gangadas.

Blueprint of the question paper

राष्ट्रगीत - वन्दे मातरम्

वन्दे मातरम्!

सुजलां सुफलां मलयज-शीतलाम्,

शस्य श्यामलां मातरम्! वन्दे मातरम् ॥1॥

शुभ्र-ज्योत्स्ना-पुलकित-यामिनीम्।

फुल्ल-कुसुमित-द्रुमदल-शोभिनीम्।

सुहासिनीं, सुमधुर-भाषिणीम्।

सुखदां, वरदां, मातरम्! वन्दे मातरम् ॥2॥

कोटि-कोटि-कंठ कल-कल-निनाद-कराले,

कोटि-कोटि-भुजैर्धृत-खर-करवाले,

अबला केनो माँ एतो बले।

बहुबल-धारिणीं, नमामि तारिणीम्,

रिपुदल-वारिणीं मातरम्! वन्दे मातरम् ॥3॥

तुमि विद्या तुमि धर्म,

तुमि हृदि तुमि मर्म,

त्वं ही प्राणा शरीरे।

बाहुते तुमि मा शक्ति,

हृदये तुमि मा भक्ति,

तोमारई प्रतिमा गडि मन्दिरे-मन्दिरे। वन्दे मातरम् ॥4॥

त्वं हि दुर्गा दशप्रहरण-धारिणी,

कमला कमल-दल-विहारिणी,

वाणी विद्यादायिनी, नमामि त्वाम्

नमामि कमलां अमलां अतुलाम्,

सुजलां सुफलां, मातरम्! वन्दे मातरम् ॥5॥

श्यामलां सरलां सुस्मितां भूषिताम्,

धरणीं भरिणीं मातरम्! वन्दे मातरम् ॥6॥

Invocation to *Saraswatī*, the Goddess of Learning

या कुन्देन्दुतुषारहारधवला या शुभ्रवस्त्रावृता।
या वीणावरदण्डमण्डितकरा या श्वेतपदमासना।
या ब्रह्माऽच्युतशंकरप्रभृतिभिर्देवैः सदा वन्दिता॥
सा मां पातु सरस्वती भगवती निःशेषजाड्यापहा॥1॥

Meaning : May Goddess *Saraswatī*, the destroyer of slothfulness and ignorance, protect us. She is fair complexioned like the hues of jasmine flower, frost and necklace of pearls. She is wrapped in white garments. In her hands, *vīṇā* (lute) and *danḍa* (staff) are gracefully held. She is seated on a white lotus. *Brahmā*, *Acyuta* (Viṣṇu), *Śiva* and other gods always pay obeisance to her.

शुक्लां ब्रह्मविचारसारपरमाम् आद्यां जगद् व्यापिनीम्।
वीणापुस्तकधारिणीमभयदां जाड्यान्धकरापहाम्॥
हस्ते स्फाटिकमालिकां विदधतीं पद्मासने संस्थिताम्।
वन्दे तां परमेश्वरीं भगवतीं बुद्धिप्रदां शारदाम्॥2॥

Meaning : I salute *Śāradā* (*Saraswatī*), the Supreme Goddess, and the bestower of knowledge. She is of white complexion; She is the embodiment of the highest spiritual learning and represents its essence. She is the foremost among all forms of divine energy and is omnipresent. In her hands, she carries *vīṇā* (lute), *pustaka* (book) and rosary of crystal beads (*sphāṭika mālā*); she is remover of the darkness of ignorance and occupies the lotus-seat.

प्रार्थना

हे हंस वाहिनी ज्ञानदायिनी, अम्ब विमल मति दे।
जग सिरमौर बनायें भारत, वह बल विक्रम दे।
अम्ब विमल मति दे॥
साहस शील हृदय में भर दे, जीवन त्याग तपोमय कर दे,
संयम सत्य स्नेह का वर दे, स्वाभिमान भर दे॥1॥

लव, कुश, ध्रुव, प्रह्लाद बनें हम, मानवता का त्रास हरें हम,
सीता, सावित्री, दुर्गा माँ, फिर घर-घर भर दे॥2॥
हे हंसवाहिनी, ज्ञानदायिनी, अम्ब विमल मति दे॥

Prayer

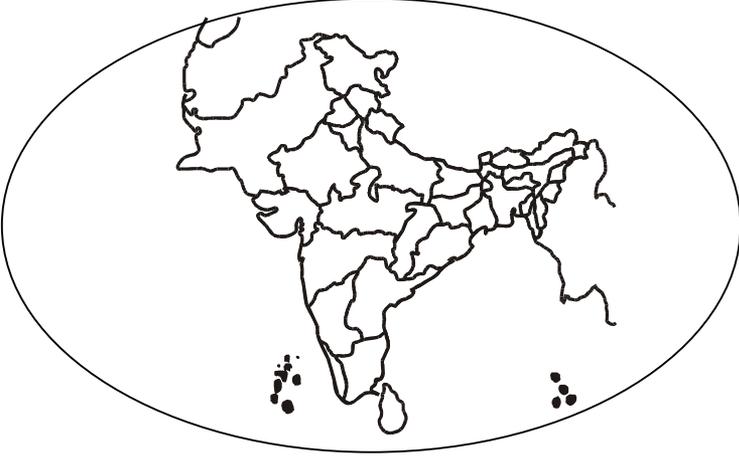
O Mother! you ride *Haṁsa* (swan) and are the bestower of wisdom. Give us unblemished intellect. Give us the valour and power so that we may make *Bhārata*, the crest-jewel of the world.

O Mother! fill our hearts with courage and character, make our lives the symbols of renunciation and austerity. Give us the boons of self-restraint, truthfulness, and love and fill us with pride in ourselves.

May we become like *Lava*, *Kuśa*, *Dhruva* and *Prahlāda*. May we liberate humankind from fear. O Mother! may our families be full of *Śītās*, *Sāvitrīs* and *Durgās* once again.

O Mother! The rider of *Haṁsa* (Swan), bestower of knowledge, give us unblemished intellect.

1. Bhārata (India) : Our Motherland



Every particle of Bhārata is sacred. Its glorious culture has made our country immortal. The threads of oneness and of national integration of Bhārata are contained in abundance in her history, its geographical position, dharma, philosophy and its culture. Come, let us acquaint ourselves with some of the historical and religious centres of our great land.

जीवन पुष्प चढ़ा चरणों में, मांगे मातृभूमि से यह वर।
तेरा वैभव अमर रहे माँ, हम दिन चार रहें न रहें॥

(Offering the flower of life in the feet of motherland, we may ask for this boon, 'May your glory be immortalized, notwithstanding whether we may live for a short time or not.')

Some great cities of pilgrimage of North and North-Western Bhārata :

1. **Vaiṣṇo Devī** : Vaiṣṇo Devī is a place about 70 kilometers from Jammu.

2. **Shri Mahāvīrajī** : Famous jain pilgrimage centre, in Savāmādhopur district in Rajasthan.

3. **Kuruksetra** : It is a holy place related to vedic age. Kuruksetra is the place where during the disastrous Mahābhārata war, message of Bhagavad Gīta was delivered to Arjuna. It is a holy place relating to vedic age. It is in Haryana state.

4. **Rṣikeśa** : Located in the northeast of Haridvāra tīrtha. Herefrom Gangā descends from mountains to plains.

Places of interest on the Eastern and North-Eastern Bharata.

1. **Kolkātā** : Kolkātā is the capital of West Bengal. It has given us many great men like Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Subhas Chandra Bose, Swāmī Vivekānand, Rabindranāth Thākur, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Dr. Shyamaprasad Mukherjee and many others.

2. **Guwāhātī (Gohati)** : Guwāhātī is the biggest city of Assam. It is the holy place where Lord Śiva performed penance and is śakti pītha of Kāmākhya Devi. Daul Govind temple and the memorial Art field of great man Shri Shankar Deva are also famous places here.

3. **Dispur** : It is the capital of Assam.

4. **Haphlong** : It is a very important city in the district Kachar of Assam name Dima Hasao. There is a big residential school run by Vidyābhāratī in which practical-training based education is imparted.

5. **Bhuvaneśwara** : Bhuvaneśwara is the capital of Odissa and is a city of innumerable temples.

A few important places in Madhya Pradeśa

1. **Pancamarhi** : This place has Jaṭāśankara cave temple.

2. **Omkareśwara** : The famous Amleśwara Jyotirlinga is here.

3. **Mahākaleśwara** : Famous jyotirlinga located in Ujjain. The famous Kumbha Mela called Simhastha is held here every twelve years.

4. **Khajurāho**: Located in Chatarapur district of Madhya Pradesh it is famous temple complex built by Chandel family of kings. It is a place where thought provoking architecture showing the journey from gross worldliness to spirituality is located.

5. **Amarkantaka** : This is the place of origin the Narmadā, and Sonabhadra. It is the place where Lord Śankara performed penance.

6. **Citrakūta** : This is the place where Ṛṣi Atri, Saṁ Anusūya did their penance. Śrī Rāma along with Śītā and Lakṣamaṇa spent twelve years of forest-dwelling here.

Our States

(A) Karnataka

The name Karnataka has been derived from "Karu Nadu", meaning "magnificent raised land."

The capital of the state is Bangaluru. Karnataka is surrounded by Andhra Pradesh in the east, Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the south, the Sindhu sagar on the west and Maharastra on the north. This state occupies first position in the cultivation of CoCoa and mahuā. In Karnataka we grow rice, ragi, maize, coconut, cotton, groundnut and tobacco mainly. It is the land of

sandalwood teak wood and Bamboo. The language of the state is Kannada.

Science and Technology Institutes : Among the major Institutes of Karnataka are Hindustan Aeronautics, Bharata Electronics Ltd, Indian Telephone Institute. ITI Ltd, Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd, Bharata Earth Movers Ltd., and many others. It has prestigious science research institutes such as the Indian Institute of Science, Raman Research Institute, as well as gold mine of Kolar.

Other Important Places :

1. **Basava Kalyāna :** Basava Kalyāna was the centre for the social and religious reformist activities of Basaveśvara, King Bijjala's Chief Minister. There are a number of holy shrines here which include Gaṇeśa temple, Triratna lake, Siddheśvara temple, Dhanalinga, Rudramuni caves and Sadānanda Swami Mutt.

2. **Dhārwāda :** Like Rome this city is situated on seven hillocks. It is the headquarter of Karnatak University.

3. **Vijayanagar :** Vijayanagar was called Kiṣkindhā during the period of Rāmāyana. The holy temple of Virupākṣa, the R̥ṣyamūka and the Hemakūta hills are places of great beauty. It remained the capital of kingdom of Vijayanagar.

4. **Śivagangā :** Śivagangā is known as Dakṣina Kāśī and it is situated in Mysūra district. The Brahmā and Candikeśvar idols are of great attraction to tourists.

5. **Śringerī :** There is an important Mutt (seat) of Ādi Śankarācārya in Śringerī. Situated on the river Tunga it was founded by first Śankarācārya.

6. **Śravaṇa Belagolā :** It is a very famous place of pilgrimage of Jains. It is about 75 kms from Mysūra.

There is the 59' high monolithic statue of Gomateśvara Bāhubalī.

7. Mysūru : It is world famous for the Brindāvana Gardens and Krishna Sagar Dam. Mysūru is a city of gardens. There is the famous Cāmundā Temple of the family deity of the royal family of Mysūre, on the top of a hill Chāmundī. There is also a huge (16') stone statue of Nandi.

8. Wild Life Sanctuary : There are sanctuaries in Bandipur Nagarahole and Dandeli

9. Jog Falls, River Aihole and Pattad Kallu, Badami and Tungbhadra dam are placesworth visiting.

Great Men of Karnataka

1. Madhvācārya : Madhvācārya who founded Dvaita philosophy. With his great scholarship and scriptural authority, he proved that the world is not unreal.

2. Harihara and Bukka Rāya : Harihara and Bukka Rāya founded the Vijayanagar empire on the bank of River Tungbhadrā with the blessings of and motivation from Sage Vidyāranya.

3. Basaveśvara : A statesman par excellence. A great social reformer and philosopher.

4. Sarvajña : Sarvajña was a revolutionary Poet and social reformer.

5. Saint Purandara Dāsa : His devotional songs are based on the essence of Upaniṣads and the concept of mokṣa.

6. Mokṣagundam Viśveśvarayyā : Sir M. Viśveśvarayyā was a renowned engineer, administrator and educationist. He was responsible for the construction

of Krishna Raj Sagar dam, Brindavan Gardens located at mysore.

Famous Festivals

Dusehra is the most important festival of Karnataka. This is the festival that symbolizes strength and valour. The Mysūru festival of Vijayadaśamī attracts people from different parts of the world. During ten days, people worship Devi and put dolls on show.

(B) Punjab

The Punjab formerly was called Pancanada meaning, the place of five rivers. The five rivers are the Rāvī – the Beās, the Satluja, the Jhelama and the Cenāba. In the Vedic period, two more rivers flowed through the Punjab and they were the Sindhu and the Sarasvatī. The state was then popularly known as Saptasindhu. Guru Nanak the first Guru of Sikh Sect kindled the light of religious awakening here in the sixteenth century. The tenth Guru of Sikhs, Guru Govind Singh founded the 'Khalsa' sect at Anandpur Saheb. The main language of the state is Punjabi.

From cultural point of view of Amritsara is the holiest place of pilgrimage. Famous places such as Jallianwallah Bagh, Durgiana Mandir are also here. There are also a number of famous places such as Sirhind (Fatehagarh Saheb), Chamkaur, Anandpur Saheb. The prominent centre of our Sindhu valley culture, Ropar and historic city Bhatinda are places of historical importance. Chandigarh and Patiala have extensive parks and rose gardens. Kapurthala is a famous centre from Archaeological point of view. Jallianwallah Bagh is a memorial of martyrs and is a place which evokes patriotism. Wagah (Police Post) is located at Border of Bhārata and Pakistan.

(C) Haryana

The glorious history of Haryānā starts from the vedic times. The Sarasvatī referred to in the Vedas flowed through this area. Vedas were revealed to sages on the bank of the Sarasvatī. The venue of the great Mahābhārata war between kauravas and Pāndavas was at kurukṣetra which is situated in this state. From 16th to 18th centuries, three decisive battles were fought on the field of Pānīpata which changed the course of the history of our country. After the first war of our Independence in 1857, the British rulers merged the state of Haryana with Punjab. The Modern Haryana came into existence on 1st November 1966, at the time of reorganization of states.

Industry : There are over forty two thousand small scale industries and three hundred and eighty large scale and medium size industries in this state. The major industries of the state are sugar, cement, paper, brass goods, bicycles, tractors, footwear, tyres and tubes, sanitary wares, vegetable oil and many others. The HMT Watch factory in Pinjore, Woolen Mills in Panipata and the huge Dairy Research Institute in Karnal are other famous industrial concerns in the state.

Cultural and Tourist Centres :

Cultural Centres : Kurukṣetra (the birth place of Gītā, Brahmasarovara, Śakti pīṭha). Pehovā (Pṛthodaka or Sarsvatī tīrtha). The Candī Mandir (Chandigarh) and the Manasā Devī Mandir (Panchakula), the Droṇācārya temple at (Gurugaon).

Tourist Centres : Suraj Kund, Sohna (Gurgaon), the gardens at Pinjore (Kalka). Morni Hills (Naraingarh).

The central office of Sanskr̥ti Bodha Pariyojanā conducted by Vidyā Bhāratī is also located at Kurukṣetra in this state.

Some Ancient Cities of Bhārata

1. **Takṣaśilā** : is in the West Punjab (now Pakistan) near Rawalpindi, where there was an ancient university. Thousands of famous scholars like Pānini, Jīvaka, Vararuci and Cāṇakya were associated with it.

2. **Gayā** : Gayā is an ancient city situated on the river Phālgū. The great temple of Viṣṇu pada is here. Baudhagayā, a place where Buddha got enlightenment is at a short distance from Gayā. Hindus offer pinḍas (rice balls) to their dead ancestors on the Phalgū river.

3. **Prayāga** : Prayāga situated on the confluence of the Gangā and the Yamunā is the holy Tīrtharāja. Kumbhamelā is held here once in twelve years, semi kumbha after every six years and Māghī fair is held every year.

4. **Pātaliputra** : Known today by the name of Patna, it is the capital of Bihar. It is said that clothes (pata) of Bhagavatī Satī fell here and a temple of Patandevī, is worshipped as Mahāśakti pītha.

5. **Vijayanagara** : Vijayanagara is on the bank of river Tungabhadra in Karnataka. Harihar and Bukkā, with the inspiration of sage Vidyāraṇya founded this empire.

6. **Indraprastha** : Referred to in Mahābhārata. It is present Delhi which was founded by the Pāṇḍavas.

7. **Somanātha** : located in Saurashtra (Gujrat), there is one of the Jyotirlingas. This temple was got renovated by Sardar Patel, the first Home Minister of Independent India.

Patriotic Song

हे जन्म-भूमि भारत, हे कर्म भूमि भारत,

हे वन्दनीय भारत, अभिनन्दनीय भारत॥

जीवन सुमन चढ़ाकर आराधना करेंगे,
तेरी जन्म-जन्म भर हम वन्दना करेंगे। हम अर्चना करेंगे॥1॥
महिमा महान तू है, गौरव निधान तू है,
तू प्राण है हमारी, जननी समान तू है।
तेरे लिये जियेंगे, तेरे लिये मरेंगे,
तेरे लिए जन्म भर, हम साधना करेंगे। हम अर्चना करेंगे॥2॥

जिसका मुकुट हिमालय, जग जगमगा रहा है,
सागर जिसे रतन की, अंजुलि चढ़ा रहा है।
वह देश है हमारा, ललकार कर कहेंगे,
उस देश के बिना हम, जीवित नहीं रहेंगे। हम अर्चना करेंगे॥3॥

जो संस्कृति अभी तक दुर्जेय सी बनी है,
जिसका विशाल मन्दिर, आदर्श का धनी है।
उसकी विजय-ध्वजा ले, हम विश्व में चलेंगे,
संस्कृति सुरभि पवन बन, हर कुञ्ज में बहेंगे। हम अर्चना करेंगे॥4॥

शाश्वत स्वतन्त्रता का, जो दीप जल रहा है,
आलोक का पथिक जो, अविराम चल रहा है।
विश्वास है कि पल भर, रुकने उसे न देंगे,
उस ज्योति की शिखा को, ज्योतित सदा रखेंगे। हम अर्चना करेंगे॥5॥

2. Progeny of Bhārata – Hindu Society

The Progeny of the mother of heroes have kept the glorious culture of this great land indomitable by imbibing the lofty ideals in their deeds. Let all of us take inspiration from their lives and pledge to become like them. "This is the land of heroes, this is the land of jewels; where the life is not valued much, this is the land of such dauntless fighters."

Find answers to the following :

- a) The great devotee who ripped open his heart and showed Sītā and Rāma in it..... (Hanumāna)
- b) The progenator of mankind and the writer of famous Manusmṛti is (Manu)
- c) According to Buddhist sect, whose descendent was kapil. (Risi Gautam)
- d) The daughter-in-law of the Rana's family of Rajasthan Who was a great devotee of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa (Mīrā)
- e) The wife of Śrī Ramakrishna Paramahansa who helped him realise his life's mission (Mā Śāradā)
- f) The devoted wife who lived all her life with a cloth band on her eyes because her royal husband was blind..... (Gāndhārī).
- g) The self respecting lady who sacrificed her own son in order to save the life of prince Udaya Singh, (Pannā)
- h) The brave wife who offered her head to her husband who expected a tilakarm while he was on his way to a battle field (Queen Hāra)
- i) In order to save her chastity from Allhauddin, she jumped into the burning pyre along with 14000 women. That queen's name (Padminī)
- j) The emperor who drove the Śakas out of Bhārata (Vikramāditya)
- k) The great king who vanquished Mohammed Ghori sixteen times and pardoned him..... (Prithviraj Chauhan)

- l) A brother who sacrificed Royal comforts and served his elder brother for 14 years in forests
(Lakṣmaṇa)
- m) A great son who gave up his temptation of going abroad for studies when not permitted by his mother
(Āshutosh Mukherjee)

An Inspiring Episode

Trees of Guns

Kishensingh asked his son, who was working on the farmland, planting straws, "What are you doing?" "Growing trees" the son replied. "What kind of trees?" asked the father again. "Trees of guns", replied the son. On hearing the reply the father began to stare at his son.

Once Bhagat Singh was on his way to Lahore with his father. The father asked, "Bhagatsingh, What do you do?" In a natural tone Bhagatsingh replied, "I sell guns". "Why?" asked his father again. Bhagatsingh replied, "To drive the British out of our motherland". "What is your Dharma?" "Patriotism (Deśabhakati)" was the answer.

"What do you want to be after you grow up?" "Certainly, I'll not marry. I'll engage myself in driving out the British from this country."

This was Sardar Bhagat Singh who became a martyr and a source of inspiration for us.

'Say Victory to Bhārata Mātā'

After the ban on Raśtrīya Svayamsevaka Sangha was lifted public meetings were organised at different places. To revive the R.S.S. working Parama Pūjanīya Śri Guruji started his countrywide tour from Punjab. As soon as Guruji arrived at Sonipat railway station, the enthralled

and spirited people of Panjab started shouting loudly "Guruji kī Jai". At once Guruji stopped them and said, "Do not say jai to any individual or organisation. They are not immortal. Only our country is eternal. So, say victory to Bhārata Mātā, say may Bhārata Māta always triumph". Śrī Guruji did not like any sort of praise for him. It used to pain him. He was above any individual or organisation. He had developed unmoved national sentiments.

'Join the Men, then Country shall be United'

One day some college students paid visit to Sant Vinoba Bhave. Giving some pieces of paper, Vinobaji asked them (Before the paper was torn into pieces, it had the map of Bhārata on one side and another picture on the other.) : "Make the Map of Bhārata from these pieces." The students even after making unsuccessful attempts for quite a large time, could not make the desired map.

A young man sitting nearby was watching all this. Taking permission from Vinobaji he, within a very short time reconstructed the map. The young man told that on the one side of these pieces was the picture of a man and on the other side there was the map of India. He joined the picture of man and the map of India was automatically constructed.

Vinobaji, then said, "It is alright; if we want to unite the country, we shall have to join 'men' first. If men be joined together, country shall automatically be united, meaning thereby that by making man, the country shall be firmly built.

Our Nation Builders

1. **Vīrapāndya Kaṭṭbommana** : Vīrapāndya Kaṭṭbommana was born on 3rd January 1760. His father's name was

Jagavīra Kaṭṭabommana and Āramugattamala was his mother. His family name was Bommu and the family name of his father was Kaṭṭabomana. Therefore he became known by the name Vīrapāndeya Kattabommu.

On 2nd February 1790 the people accepted him as their king. He was very benevolent and respectful to the heros. In 1792 Vīrapāndya refused to pay revenue to East India Company. The company authorised S.R.Lushington to recover revenue from Bommu. On 7th September 1799, the wife and Son of Bommu were arrested by Vellarman. Leaving the battle field, Bommo reached Kolārapatti. The ruler of Kolar Raja Gopal had great respect for Bommu in his heart. But on 1st October 1799, he was made captive by English army men. On 16th October 1799, Bommu was hanged which he accepted gladly. Let us all become heroic and patriots like Bommu.

- 2. Shambhudhan Phungale** : Shri Shambhudhan was born on full moon day of Phālguna Vikrama era 1907, that is, 1850 A.D. in a small hilly village Laungkhor in Uttar Kachar district of Asam state. His father was Śrī Deprotedeva. Mother Śrīmatī Kasāyedī was a very religious and philanthropist lady. Shambhudhan was the eldest of all his five brothers, high stature, strong and very handsome. He did not like the whitemen to rule over Bhārata. He toured throughout Asam to spread awakening of freedom among the people and to organise an army of the revolutionary youths and imparted training to them in martial arts. These revolutionary activities of Shambhudhan worried the British rulers. A party of 25 policemen was deputed in January 1881 under the leadership of Major Boeid to arrest Shambhudhan at the site of the training camp

at Mywang. But that remained unsuccessful in its mission. After this event, hundreds of the youth of Asam joined the army of Shambhudhan. But on 12th February 1883, in the morning at the time of breakfast an Army Squad of Englishmen attacked him by deceit. His favourite weapons were hidden somewhere due to the conspiracy of British Intelligence. In the end he was seriously wounded and due to heavy injuries he became a martyr.

3. The Hindu View of Life

Hindus believe that the whole world is the abode of God. The universally inherent consciousness spread throughout in the purest form is the Paramātmā. He is also called Īsvara, Brahma and Saccidānanda. Brahma is of nature of knowledge. Three words of the Sat + Cit + Ānanda. make Saccidānanda –Sat means existing for ever, which is immutable & immortal. Cit means consciousness, bunch of lofty and divine qualities, Ananda means utmost happiness. Paramātmā is the embodiment of all the three qualities and hence He is called Saccidānanda. The gods and their incarnations in different forms of nature are venerable and worth worshipping as a part of this Saccidānanda.

Social Equality

The Hindu family system is the concrete example of social equality wherein every member of family works for the welfare of the others. Together they share joy and sorrow equally. If a son falls ill, mother spends sleepless nights without food, father is very much worried and brothers and sisters feel unhappy. Every one wishes for speedy recovery of the suffering member.

In our country there are a number of castes and sub-castes, sects and sub-sects and communities. Many languages and dialects are spoken and people are divided into different classes and varṇas. Even then sense of equality is seen among them all. Because of this speciality of ours the mutual enmity is absolutely absent among them and they dine together and participate in each other's festivities and ceremonial occasions.

Social equality means friendship and a feeling of oneness among ourselves. Our fairs and festivals like kumbh etc. are the best examples. At all the four holy shrines and at the other holy places spread throughout the country, people from all parts speaking different languages, belonging to different castes and creed gather at one place and take bath and perform worship. Our verses of Veda also declare the same unity.

सं गच्छध्वं सं वदध्वं सं यो मनोसि जानताम्
देवाभागं यथापूर्वं संजनानां उपासते॥

Meaning: Go together, talk together, think together and understand each other's minds. As gods lived together and helped each other, live the same way with large-heartedness and cooperation. In the verse “सं जनानां उपासते” there is a sense of equality and oneness of Atma in all.

“आत्मवत् सर्वभूतेषु” conveys that the same soul is present in others as in me. On the day of Makara Sankrānti family members belonging to all communities high or low, rich or poor put together a handful of pulse and rice to prepare Khichari (pongal) and eat together setting aside untouchability and that is social equality. Rāmanavamī is also such a festival. Śrī Rāma is a model of social equality for us, which reminds us of the loving behaviour of Rāma, when he showered his affection on

Gūha, the Sailor, Kevata, Śabarī, forest-dwelling monkeys and bears as well as other neglected people. Hindus believe in “हिन्दवः सोदराः सर्वे, न हिन्दू पतितो भवेत्” meaning that all Hindus are like real brothers and sisters and no Hindu ever becomes depraved as all Hindus are bound by the same soul.

Answer the following questions

1. Which is the first and foremost centre of social equality? (family)
2. Despite there being many divisions, communities, castes, sub-castes, languages and religions in our country where do we experience the utmost sentiment of social equality? (places of pilgrimage, festivals, fairs, occasion like Kumbha)
3. What is the meaning of the word 'social equality'? (friendship and feeling of oneness among all)
4. What sense do our Vedamantras convey? (Go together, talk together, think together and understand each other's mind)
5. What is meant by “आत्मवत् सर्वभूतेषु” ? (same Ātman as yours is present in all beings)
6. Name the two festivals which remind us of social equality? (Makara Sankrānti and Rāmanavamī)
7. Who is the best example of social equality? (Śrī Rāma)

Universal Brotherhood

Hindus have always been generous because they believe that only one Ātman (soul) is present in all beings and all are the various modes of Īsvara. That is why the Hindu society does not hate or dislike people who profess

many other religions like Muslim, Christians, Parsis and Jews. It gives those people an opportunity to live with them. The Hindu does not think that this is 'ours' and this is 'theirs' because the people who have such thoughts are called mean and narrow-minded. It is said,

अयं निजः परोवेति गणना लघुचेतसाम्,
उदार चरितानां तु वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्॥

means that the degenerated people think that it is ours, that is yours. For those who have generous thoughts the whole world is a family. Hindus think in the same way and accordingly they consider the people of the whole world as their brethren. Even Swamī Vivekananda at the Chicago religious conference fearlessly addressed the gathering, "My dear brothers and sisters of America". No other delegate among the hundreds present there did utter such touching words of brotherhood.

It is this feeling of brotherhood that since past thousands and lakhs of years every Hindu has this ambition in his heart and has been praying to God for the welfare of all the people thus,

“सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः।
सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चिद् दुःखभाग्भवेत्॥

(Let every one be happy, healthy, well-to-do. No one should suffer in the world.)

Universal brotherhood also conveys the same message. Every Hindu while chanting Śāntimantra says, "Let peace and happiness prevail not only in heaven, earth and water but prays for peace & well being in the entire universe. This has always been the way of Hindu life. “लोकाः समस्ता सुखिनो भवन्तु।”

(Let every one in this world be happy)

Fill in the blanks :

1. Hindu believes in only one in all.
Every living being is the part of (Soul, Īśvara)
2. No Hindu has a feeling in his mind that this is
....., that is (Mine, yours)
3. Which is the other word that means 'whole world is my
family' (Universal Brotherhood)
4. What does a Hindu pray to God for the welfare of the
universe? (Let every one be happy,
healthy and well-to-do and no one should suffer.)
5. What sense does our Śantimantra convey?
(of universal peace)

Bhārata is the Centre of World Culture

- A. a) For the first time, people of Bhārata, i.e. Āryans
settled in Īran. (Parsi Holy book - Zend Avestā)
- b) Parsis declared "We offer oblation to the greatness
of Āryas (Bhāratiya)". (Zend Avestā)
- c) The ancient name of Īran was Āryān or
Āryasthāna.
- B. a) One of our greatest epics Vālmīki Rāmāyana had
its influence on Greece, where Homer transformed
this epic, the name of which is..... (Epic Eliad)
- b) The influence of Vedas is clearly visible on the
philosophy of various Greece thinkers. These are
the Thinkers :—
(Herodotus, Yusevius, Zenophens, Aristo phanes
etc.)
- C. a) "The religion of the Egyptians was based on the
Bhāratiya traditions." (Plato and Pythagoras)

- b) Egyptian culture evolved out of the Bhāratiya culture. (Besis, Bridge and Jarnstration)
- c) The Chaldi literature is four thousand years older than Christ wheras R̥gveda is still older than that. A number of hymns from the R̥g Veda are in it in distorted form. "This proves Vedas are source books of Chaldi literature. Further, that the Assyrian civilization evolved on the basis of Indian civilization. (Chaldian literature.)
- D. The language of the original inhabitants of North America, evolved out of the ancient Indian languages. (Dr. Sapiar)

The points discussed above prove that the people of Bhārata are the oldest, a highly civilized and the noble (Ārya)' persons of the world. People from Bhārata travelled world-wide and lit the lamp of culture wherever they went.

The Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Assyrian and Mesopotamian cultures reached the pinnacle of glory and perished quickly. But it is the most ancient glorious (Ārya) culture of our land which survived even after millions of years. It is immortalized and eternal.

How old is our Bhārata which has illuminated the entire world. Even today our country is the glorious example of "different bodies but the same soul force".
(Shri Guruji)

Bhārata, the greatest Country of World

Bhārata is a vast country. The greatest country of Asia, Bhārata is superior most in the world. From the administrative point of view, it has a number of states. Each of its regions has its own special features, but this 'unity amidst diversity' is the unique feature of our culture.

Do you know that —

1. Bhārata is the richest country in the world from the point of variety of languages.
2. In our land, there are 544 dialects and 79 languages.
3. Even amidst such vast diversity, there is a unique unity as far as our line of thinking, our aspirations and expressions are concerned.
4. Saṁskṛita is the mother of all languages of Bhārata.
5. The official language of Bhārata is Hindi.

Our constitution has accepted 22 languages as our national languages. These are as under :-

1. Assamia (Assam)
2. Bangalā (Bengal)
3. Gujarātī (Gujarata)
4. Kannada (Karnataka)
5. Kashmirī (Kashmir)
6. Malayalam (Kerala)
7. Marathi (Maharashtra)
8. Uriya (Orissa)
9. Punjabi (Punjab)
10. Tamil (Tamil Nadu)
11. Telugu (Andhra Pradesh)
12. Sindhi (people who came from Sindh)
13. Urdu (Not of any state; its script is Persian)
14. Hindi (Language of nation; spoken in many other countries of world. It has about 200 Dialects)
15. Saṁskṛta (Mother of all the languages of India. All ancient texts are in Saṁskṛta. Saṁskṛta literature is very rich and most ancient)
16. Konkani (Goa)
17. Nepali
18. Manipuri (Manipur)
19. Bodo (Assam)
20. Dogri
21. Maithili (North Bihar)
22. Santhali (Jharkhand, Bihar, Chattisgarh and Odisa)

Some Ancient Games of Bhārata

1. **Bhramaṇa Kṛida (Revolving Game)** : The boys/girls hold hands of each other and turn round and round, swinging and sitting & standing a number of times.
2. **Bilwādi Prakṣepaṇa Kṛida (Throwing of Nuts)** : Two bilwa nuts or balls are thrown from the opposite

directions in a manner that they should collide with each other in the middle.

3. **Nṛpa Kṛīda (King's Game)** : One boy is named King and others become ministers etc. and a number of boys play this game.
4. **Fist fighting Kṛīda** : In this game two people hit each other with fists or they fight with wrestling. Jarāsandha and Bhīma did play this game and the latter killed the former.

Our Sacred Symbols

The Hindu mind is so generous that anybody by his śraddhā and will can accept it and he can be proud in calling himself a Hindu. Many of our sacred symbols convey the same thought —

1. **Lotus** : There is reference of lotus in our Purāṇas (mythologies) and legends. This flower pervades almost all aspects of Bhāratīya life and philosophy. Even today lotus is used in worshipping which has come to us as a sacred link with living culture. The flower represents the Hindu traditions and philosophy that have come to us from ancient culture.

2. **Light** : All holy activities of Hindus begin only after lighting the lamp. Light is the symbol of knowledge. So we say

“दीपज्योतिः परं ब्रह्म दीपज्योतिर्जनार्दनः।
दीपो हरतु मे पापानि सान्ध्यदीप! नमोस्तुते॥”

3. **Kalaśa** : Kalaśa (pitcher) is used in Hindu families on all occasions like wedding and celebrating some rituals etc. It is a pot, that is filled with water and mango leaves and a coconut is kept on it.

4. **ॐ(Aum)** : It represents the power and knowledge of God The Almighty. It is considered to be a symbolic form of ultimate reality. It is the combination of अ+उ+म = अ= the earth, उ= the space म= the heaven. ॐ also represents the three stages of the universe – origin, growth and demise.
5. **Śankha (Conch Shell)** : The sound of the conch is believed to be sacred. At the time of performing yajña, havana, worship and such holy occasions, the conch is blown. Blowing conch is a good exercise for lungs. The sound of the conch purifies the atmosphere wherever it spreads. It (the sound) destroys pathogens of contagious diseases.
6. **Disc** : It is believed that the disc is the weapon in the hands of Lord Viṣṇu that is used to destroys enemies. It is also believed that the disc destroy the sins.
7. **Svāstika** : It is said to be the symbol of Lord Ganeśa. It is considered to be beneficial, auspicious symbol on holy and sacred occasions that clears all hurdles in the way.
8. **Mace** : It is believed that the Mace is Lord Hanumānaji's weapon representing his brahmacarya (chastity), power and store of brightness. It is the destroyer of enemies, hurdles and any other evil elements. It is said that Lord Hanumānaji did not use this weapon anywhere and on any occasion.
9. **Arunaketu** : Saffron flag is called Arunaketu. This flag represents the Dharma and Culture. Its hoisting on temples and Mutts, at places of yajña and other religious places is considered very sacred. The saffron flag is the symbol of sacrifice and it reminds every Hindu of his cultural victory.

Food Hymn (invocation before eating)

Meals should be taken after settling on a mat or an *āsana* on a clean place. Hands and feet should be washed and mouth rinsed. One should be seated in a comfortable posture (*sukhāsana*) with a composed mind. Water ought to be kept by the side. After the food has been served, the following couplets and mantras should be recited collectively.

अन्न ग्रहण करने से पहले, विचार मन में करना है।
किस हेतु से इस शरीर का, रक्षण पोषण करना है।
हे परमेश्वर! एक प्रार्थना, नित्य तुम्हारे चरणों में।
लग जाये तन मन धन मेरा, मातृभूमि की सेवा में।

We ought to consider this, before we take food: Why do we need to protect and nurture this body? O! Almighty my constant prayer, with my obeisance to You, is that I may dedicate my body, mind and wealth to the service of my Motherland.

ब्रह्मार्पणं ब्रह्महविर्ब्रह्माग्नौ ब्रह्मणा हुतम्।
ब्रह्मैव तेन गन्तव्यं ब्रह्मकर्म समाधिना॥ (गीता; *Gītā* iv.24)

Brahman is the ladle, the oblation is Brahman. By Brahman it is offered into the fire that is Brahman. Brahman is that who attains and realises Brahman in his action.

ॐ सहनाववतु सह नौ भुनक्तु। सह वीर्यं करवावहै।
तेजस्विनावधीतमस्तु मा विद्विषावहै॥
ॐ शान्तिः! शान्तिः!! शान्तिः!!! (कठोपनिषद्, शान्ति पाठ)

(*Kaṭhōpaniṣad*: *śāntipāṭha*: Invocation)

May He protect us (the teacher and the disciple) both;
May we eat together (none may starve in the country);
May we work together with vigour (May we express

valour to protect our Nation). May our study make us illumined (so that, by dint of our collective austerities and learning, our Nation rises and shines); May there be no dislike between us. May peace prevail in our nation.

Om, peace, peace, peace

Ekātmatā Stotram (Ślokas from 15 to 20)

1. बुद्धा जिनेन्द्रा गोरक्षः पाणिनिश्च पतञ्जलिः।

शङ्करोमध्वनिम्बाकौ श्रीरामानुजवल्लभौ॥12॥

All incarnations of Buddha, all the Tīrthankaras, Guru Gorakṣanātha, Pāṇinī, Patanjali, Śankarācārya, Madhvācārya, Nimbarkācārya, Rāmānujācārya and Vallabhācārya.

2. झूलेलालोऽथ चैतन्यः तिरुवल्लुवरस्तथा।

नायन्मारालवाराश्च कम्बश्च बसवेश्वरः॥13॥

Jhulelāl, Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Tiruvalluvara, Nayanmāra and Ālāra traditions, Kamba and Basavesara

3. देवलो रविदासश्च कबीरो गुरुनानकः।

नरसिस्तुलसीदासो दशमेशो दृढव्रतः॥14॥

Maharsi devala, Saint Ravidāsa, Kabīr, Guru Nānak, Narasī Mehtā, Tulasīdāsa and man of firm resolve Guru Govind Singh

4. श्रीमत् शङ्करदेवश्च बंधू सायण-माधवौ।

ज्ञानेश्वरस्तुकारामो रामदासः पुरन्दरः॥15॥

Vaiṣṇava saint Śrīmat Śankarādeva of Assam, Sāyanācārya and Madhvācārya brothers, Saint Jñaneśvara, Tukarama, Samartha Guru Rāmadāsa and Purandaradāsa,

5. बिरसा सहजानन्दो रामानन्दस्तथा महान्।

वितरन्तु सदैवैते दैवीं सद्गुण-सम्पदम्॥16॥

8. Kārtika : Karvā cautha (Karka Caturdaśī), Ahoey Ashtmi, Hanuman Jyanti (Pauranic), Dhan Teras (Dhanvantari Tryodaśī) Dīpāvalī (Festival of Light), Govardhan Pooja, Bhaiyādūja, Chhat Pooja in Kartika, Dev Uthan Ekedashi (Hari Probodhini), Gangā snāna, Guru Nanak Manifestation Day.
9. Mārgaśīrṣa : Dattā-treya Jayantī, Gitā Jayantī, Guru Ravidas Jayantī,
10. Pauśa : Pārśvanātha Jayanti, Guru Govind Singh Jayanti
11. Māgha : Sankat Chaturthi, Makara Sankrānti, Vasanta Pancamī
12. Phālguna : Mahāśivarātri, Holī

Holy Places

Prayāga

This famous confluence of river Gangā, Yamunā and Sarasvatī is known as Prayāgraja. The significance of this holy place of Prayāga is described in Purānas. Saint poet Tulasīdāsa in his epic Rāmacarita mānasa has given an excellent description of Prayāga. It is said that Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Maheśa etc. reside in Prayāga. It is also believed that Vedas and Yajña live in Prayāga in bodily form. Simply by chanting the praise of this city and reciting its name as well as by simple touch of its soil all sins of man are washed away, Charity giving, oblations performed here and muttering of prayer become indelible.

It is believed that one who dies near Akṣaya vata goes to abode of Viṣṇu. During the month of Māgha, people stay for full month for ritual bath (Kalpa Vasa) at Prayāgarāja. Kumbha Mela is also held here. Lakhs of

people from all over the country gather here to take holy dip during the Kumbha to have the Darśana of God. Prayāga is not only the confluence of Gangā, Yamunā and Saraswatī but is also the confluence of our ancient traditions.

Avantikā or Ujjain

It is a historical place situated on the banks of river Kṣiprā. It is one of seven holy places of Hindus. It was the famous capital of King Vikramāditya, where the famous saṁskṛta poet Kālidāsa gave honour to his court. Every year a Mela is held here on the banks of river Kṣiprā on Kārtika Pūrnimā. After every twelve years a Kumbha Mela is held here when Brihaspati enters Vṛścika zodiac. The famous temple of one of the twelve Jyotirlingas Mahākālesvara is also located here.

Harasiddhi Mandir is another holy place. Small earthen lamps are lit at the top of the high towers of the temple.

Temples

Construction of temples is believed to be a sacred duty of Hindu life. Therefore, the Hindu society used to take a lot of interest in constructing temples. Temples are special places for religious functions and they are also useful for social activities. Therefore they have their social significance also.

In Bhārata many temples are built in different styles. Kalinga temple at Bhuvaneśwara and Sūrya temple of Konārka are of Oria style. Khajurāho temples built by Candel Kings, Dvārikādhiśa temple in Gujarat and Jain temple on Mount Abu are different in styles.



Due to heavy rainfall in Kerala, the temple roofs are made in a special style for protection. In north, the Hara Mandir at Amritsar has its own architecture. The Vivekananda Rock Memorial at Kanyākumārī is also worth mentioning because of its peculiar architecture.

Badarinātha

The idol of Badārināthaji made of black stone known as Śāligrāma Śīla is a four armed idol wholly in meditation. It is said that the gods dugout this idol from Nāradakunda on the banks of river Alakananda and established here. Devarṣi Nārada became the first Chief Priest.

To the right of Śrī Badarinātha, there is an idol of Kubera (made of brass). In front of it there is an idol of Uddhavaḥjī and a festival-idol of Śrī Badarināthaji. During winter the festival-idol is brought from the Joṣī Mutt. Just near the idol of Uddhava there are sacred foot steps. On the left there is an idol of Nara-Nārāyaṇa. There are idols of Śrīdevī and Bhūdevī near it.

Śakambharī Devī

Śakambharī devī Temple is 26 miles away from Saharanpur. It is self incarnated idol. Jagadguru Ādi

Śankarācārya established three other idols here. At the right side of Śakambharī devī, there are idols of Bhīmā and Bhrāmarī and on the left side there is an idol of Śatakṣī devī. On the right side idol of Bāla Gaṇapati is also there. Near by it, there is an idol of Śrī Hanumāna also.

Koṇārka

Koṇārka is 21 miles away from Jagannāthapuri in Orissa. One can see the dancing waves of the Bay of Bengal just two miles away from the temple. River Candrabhāgā flows on the north of the temple half a mile away. In the sanctum sanctorium of the temple there is a beautiful throne of the presiding deity. The lower portion of the throne is decorated with small statues of elephants. Chariot wheels have been carved inside the temple. The diameter of each wheel is 9'-8". The thickness is around 8". The idol of god Sūrya (Sun God) is established inside the temple. There is one-wheel chariot of the god. Seven horses are tied to the single wheeled chariot to pull it.

Holy Books

Scriptures Nourishing Bharatiya Culture

Bhāratīya culture is very ancient and so is its ancient literature, which is the unlimited storehouse of knowledge.

(a) Vedas are four — 1. Ṛgveda, 2. Yajurveda, 3. Sāmaveda, 4. Atharvaveda.

(b) Upaniṣads — These are the concluding parts of Vedic literature. They contain the explanation of the revelation and description of the mysteries of life and the world. These are also called the essence of Vedas or Vedanta. Principal upaniṣads are eleven : Īśa, Kena,

Katha, prśna, Mundaka, Māndūkya, Aittriya, Tattirīya, Śvetāsvatara, Brhādāraṇyaka and Chāndogya.

(c) In every age, the historians construct history. In India, after Vedas, Maḥr̥ṣi Balmīki has given a vivid account of the contemporary political situation. The social ethics, religion and other connected subjects in his Ramāyana are based on the character of Rama. Thereafter Maḥar̥ṣi Vyāsa composed Mahābhārata & eighteen Purānas.

Sri Ramacharitamānasa

Aranya Cantos Ninefold Devotion

(Let us memorize this portion of Mānas by heart)

1. ताहि देइ गति राम उदारा। सबरी के आश्रम पग धारा।
सबरी देख राम गृहँ आए। मुनि के बचन समुझि जियँ भाए॥

When Śabari saw Śrī Rāmacandra entering her hut, she recalled the words of Sage Matanga and her mind became delighted.

2. सरसिज लोचन बाहु बिसाला। जटा मुकुट सिर उर बनमाला।
स्याम गौर सुंदर दोड भाई। सबरी परी चरन लपटाई॥

When Śabari saw the two brothers who had lotus like eyes, large arms, crown of hair on the heads and wearing Vanamālā around their necks, she fell at their feet.

3. प्रेम मगन मुख बचन न आवा। पुनि-पुनि पद सरोज सिर नावा॥
सादर जल लै चरन पखारे। पुनि सुंदर आसन बैठारे॥

She was engrossed in affection. She could not speak; she was often rubbing her head against their lotus feet. She washed the feet of the two brothers with great reverence and made them sit on comfortable and decorated seats.

4. कंद मूल फल सुरस अति दिए राम कहँ आनि।
प्रेम सहित प्रभु खाए बारंबार बखानि॥

Then she gave Śrī Rāma sweet and juicy roots and fruits. Śrī Rāma accepted her hospitality and ate them with great affection.

5. पानि जोरि आगें भइ ठाढ़ी। प्रभुहि बिलोकि प्रीति अति बाढ़ी॥

केहि बिधि अस्तुति करौं तुम्हारी। अधम जाति में जड़मति भारी॥

Then she stood her hands folded in front of Śrī Rāma. On seeing Lord Rāma her affection increased enormously and she said to Śrī Rāma, "How should I praise you? I am a low caste and quite ignorant woman.

6. अधम ते अधम अधम अति नारी। तिन्ह महुँ मैं मतिमंद अघारी।

कह रघुपति सुनु भामिनि बाता। मानउँ एक भगति कर नाता॥

I am one of the lowest of the lowest women and Oh Lord! Cleanser of sins, I am an ignorant woman." Śrī Raghunāthajī said, "O, Noble lady! listen to me. I recognize only one relation of devotion, nothing else".

7. जाति पाँति कुल धर्म बड़ाई। धन बल परिजन गुन चतुराई॥

भगति हीन नर सोहइ कैसा। बिनु जल बारिद देखिअ जैसा॥

Caste, the clan family, the sect, the social status, wealth, power, number of relatives, personal skill, cleverness all have no relevance for me. A man devoid of devotion does not have any attraction just like the clouds having no water in them do not have any value.

8. नवधा भगति कहउँ तोहि पाहीं। सावधान सुनु धरु मन माहीं॥

प्रथम भगति संतन्ह कर संगी। दूसरि रति मम कथा प्रसंगी॥

गुर पद पंकज सेवा तीसरि भगति अमान।

चौथि भगति मम गुन गन करइ कपट तजि गान॥

Now I tell you about nine-fold devotion. Listen to me carefully and keep in mind. The first Bhakti is to have the company of saints. The second Bhakti is fondness for my

narratives. The third Bhakti is to serve the Guru selflessly and the fourth Bhakti is to recite, my qualities giving up deceitful mind.

9. मंत्र जाप मम दृढ बिस्वासा। पंचम भजन सो बेद प्रकासा।

छठ दम सील बिरति बहु करमा। निरत निरंतर सज्जन धरमा॥

Constant recitation of mantra and keeping determined mind in Me is the fifth Bhakti which is well known in the Vedas. The sixth Bhakti is controlling the senses, clean character, good nature; detachment from various activities and engage continuously in service of saints and their activities.

10. सातवें सम मोहि मय जग देखा। मोतें संत अधिक करि लेखा॥

आठवें जथालाभ संतोषा। सपनेहूँ नहिं देखइ परदोषा॥

Seventh Bhakti is to see the whole world (universe) in Me (Rāma maya) and to respect the saints more than Me. The eighth bhakti is to be satisfied with whatever you get and not to find faults in others even in dream.

11. नवम सरल सब सन छलहीना। मम भरोस हियँ हरष न दीना॥

नव महुँ एकउ जिन्ह कें होई। नारि पुरुष सचराचर कोई॥

Nineth Bhakti is being simple and have honest and sincere behaviour with others, have faith in Me, under any circumstances never be egoistic, under any circumstances never be overjoyed or regretful. Out of these nine (bhaktis) even if there will be one in any person whether non-intelligent being, whosoever be man or woman.

12. सोइ अतिसय प्रिय भामिनि मोरें। सकल प्रकार भगति दृढ तोरें॥

जोगि बृंद दुरलभ गति जोई। तो कहूँ आजु सुलभ भइ सोई॥

O noble Lady! That is dearest to me. You have consolidated all bhaktis in you. Therefore, this opportunity

which is not possible even to yogis has come to you, so easily.

13. मम दरसन फल परम अनूपा। जीव पाव निज सहज सरूपा॥

जनकसुता कइ सुधि भामिनी। जानहि कहु करिबरगामिनी॥

The result of my rare sight is that the life achieves its real nature. Oh Lady! now if you know something about charming gait Jānakī, please tell me.

14. पंपा सरहि जाहु रघुराई। तहँ होइहि सुग्रीव मितार्ई॥

सो सब कहिहि देव रघुबीरा। जानतहँ पूछहु मतिधीरा॥

Śabari said, "Oh Raghunāthaji! Please go to Lake Pampā. There you will develop friendship with Sugriva. Oh god Raghuvīra! He will tell you everything in detail. Oh man of perseverance, although knowing everything you are asking me.

15. बार बार प्रभु पद सिरु नाई। प्रेम सहित सब कथा सुनाई॥

She told every details keeping her head again and again on his feet.

16. कहि कथा सकल बिलोकि हरि मुख हृदयँ पद पंकज धरे।

तजि जोग पावक देह हरि पद लीन भइ जहँ नहिं फिरे॥

नर बिबिध कर्म अधर्म बहु मत सोकप्रद सब त्यागहू।

बिस्वास करि कह दास तुलसी राम पद अनुरागहू॥

After telling all the story and having the revelation of God, she held his sacred feet in her heart and with the help of fire generated by yoga she relinquished her body and reached heavenly abode from where no one ever returns. Tulasidāsji says, many actions, evil deeds and many sects all are sorrowful. O, Human beings! Give up all these. Have faith in Śrī Rāma and worship his feet.

17. जाति हीन अथ जन्म महि मुक्त कीन्हि असि नारि।

महामंद मन सुख चहसि ऐसे प्रभुहि बिसारि॥

He gave release even to the woman of low caste and mother of sins; you the stupid mind, how do you desire happiness by forgetting such a great Lord?

Quiz —

Q1. According to Shri Rama which is the first type of Devotion?

Ans. To have the company of saints.

Q2. Which is the fourth devotion?

Ans. Recitation of my qualities giving up deceitful mind.

Q3. Which devotion is constant recitation of Rama Mantra and keeping determined mind?

Ans. Fifth devotion.

Q4. What did Lord tell in the Eighth Devotion?

Ans. To be satisfied with whatever you get and not to find faults of others even in dream.

Q5. Of what kind is the Nineth Devotion?

Ans. Be simple, honest and sincere in behavior with all others and having faith in me.

Santa Vānī

Śrīmadbhagavad Gītā

गीता सुगीता कर्तव्या किमन्यैः शास्त्र विस्तरैः।
या स्वयं पद्मनाभस्य मुखपद्माद् विनिसृता॥

Gita is the essence of our Upanisads and the foundation of our culture. Its study and deliberation on that is our foremost duty, In every class some slokas (Hymns) of Gita have been prescribed —

मत्कर्मकृन्मत्परमो मद्भक्तः सङ्गवर्जित।
निर्वैरः सर्वभूतेषु यः स मामेति पाण्डव॥11.55॥

He who does work for me (Yajna, Charity and austerity), he who looks upon Me and is my devotee, is free from attachment, he who is free from enmity to all creatures, he goes to Me, O Pandava (Arjuna) 11.55)

श्रेयो हि ज्ञानमभ्यसाज्ज्ञानाद्ध्यानं विशिष्यते।

ध्यानात्कर्मफलत्यागस्त्यागाच्छान्तिरनन्तरम्॥12.12॥

Better indeed is knowledge than the practice (of concentration). Better than knowledge is meditation; better than meditation is renunciation of the fruit of action; on renunciation (follows) immediately peace.

Quiz on Gita —

Q1. What did the lord give to Arjuna to have a vision of His supreme Cosmic form?

Ans. Lord bestowed Arjuna with the divine and supernatural eyes.

Q2. At the time of the vision of the cosmic form, in what form Arjuna saw the supreme?

Ans. The absolute Supreme Atman, the ultimate resting place of the Universe, the undying guardian of the eternal law, the Imperishable Primal Person.

Q3. In the vision of Cosmic Form, what was the form of the Lord?

Ans. The form of Destroyer of worlds and the Infinite Death (Mahakala).

Q4. What did the Lord ask Arjuna to become eligible for acquiring glory?

Ans. All the great warriors have already been killed by me; You merely become the occasion (Cause).

Q5. Why did the Lord call Arjuna 'Savyasanchin'?

Ans. Arjuna was well versed in shooting the arrows with both hands.

Q6. To which of the devotee, the Lord give instant redemption form this mortal world?

Ans. Lover devotee who meditates on the Lord and loves him concentrating his mind.

Q7. On doing what a man get peace?

Ans. By renouncing the fruit of actions.

Q8. What is the meaning of 'Aniketa' (Houseless)?

Ans. Who has no attachment with any fixed abode.

Q9. Which of the devotees, the Lord has called to be most dear to Him?

Ans. Who have single-minded faith in God and drink the nectar consisting of virtues.

The policy of Benevolence

परमार्थ की नीति

पानी बाढ़े नाव में, घर में बाढ़े दाम।
दोनों हाथ उलीचिये यही सयानो काम॥
यही सयानो काम रामकौ सुमिरन कीजै।
परमारथ के काज शीश आगे धरि दीजै॥
कह गिरिधर कविराय बड़न की याही बानी।
चलिये चाल सुचाल राखिये अपनो पानी॥
तरुवर, सरवर, संत जन चौथे बरसे मेह।
परमारथ के कारने, चारौ धारे देह॥
परहित बस जिन्ह के मन माहीं। तिन्ह कहूँ जग दुर्लभ कुछ नाहीं॥
नर सरीर धरि जे पर पीरा। करहिं ते सहहिं महा भव भीरा॥
करहिं मोह बस नर अघ नाना। स्वारथ रत परलोक नसाना।
पर उपकार बचन मन काया। संत सहज सुभाउ खगराया॥
तन मन धन दै कीजिये, निसिदिन पर उपकार
यही सार नर देह में, बाद-बिबाद बिसार।

At the end of this life wealth, money etc. nothing would accompany him. So one must do welfare of others according to his capacity. Only then the life shall be meaningful. This is the essence of the principle of benevolence.

Good Manners

Abstention & self-culture (Yama-Niyama)

Yama and niyama are two aspects of Eight fold path of discipline. Yama includes all the necessary qualities that make life pure and lofty and help in leading life in a systematic and socially useful way. There are five parts of abstention.

अहिंसासत्यास्तेयब्रह्मचर्यापरिग्रहा यमाः॥

1. **Non-violence** (ahimsā) : Never to cause injury to any living being, and not even to think of harming others.
2. **Truth** (Satya) : We should be truthful in our thoughts, words and deeds.
3. **Non-covetousness** (asteya) ; Never to steal, nor even desire to take things which belong to others without their permission.
4. **Abstinence** (brahmacharya) : Controlling our five senses and leading simple life preserving the bodily vitality to last longer.
5. **Non-accumulation** : Not to hoard things beyond one's need.

Niyama (self culture) is very helpful in forming one's character. It has five components.

शौचसंतोषतपः स्वाध्यायेश्वरप्रणिधानानि नियमाः॥

1. **Cleanliness** (Śauca) : to keep clean both in body and mind.

2. **Contentment** : One should be satisfied with what one has, without having of feeling of any deficiency of material comforts.
3. **Austerity** (Tapa) : In order to achieve something tangible, one has to endeavour hard and observe perseverance.
4. **Self-Study** (svādhyāya) : Svādhyāya or self-study is one of the surest ways to success. It includes reading good books and coming into contact with noble persons.
5. **Īśvara pranidhāna** : Surrendering all our desires to God.

Sixteen Sacraments

In order to bring refinement in life, sixteen sacraments have been prescribed viz.

1. Conception (Garbhādhāna)
2. Ceremony to beget a male child. (Puñsavana)
3. Ceremony for healthy delivery. (Simāntonnayana)
4. Ceremony on child-birth. (Jātakarma)
5. Ceremony of Naming. (Nāmakarana)
6. Exit ceremony. (Niṣkramana)
7. Giving cereal-made food to infant. (Annaprāśana)
8. Tonsure ceremony (Churakaran)
9. Piercing the ear (Karṇavedha)
10. Sacred thread ceremony (Upanayana)
11. Initiation in the Vedic Studies (Vedārambha)
12. Convection (Samāvartana)
13. Marriage (Vivāha)

14. Dwelling in the jungle (Vānaprastha)
15. Renunciation (Saṁnyāsa)
16. Funeral ceremony (Antyeṣṭi)

A few out of these are given below —

Cuḍākaraṇa (tonsure)

According to the tradition of the family this ceremony is performed either in the first year or the third year of birth. The purpose of this ritual is first of all to shave the head leaving a bunch of hair. By performing this ceremony the physical strength, longevity and galmour is increased. The sacrament is also called mundan.

Karṇavedha (Piercing of ears)

This ritual is performed at the age of five years. It increases the power of hearing and sense of confidence in mind. for attaining longevity and worldly prosperity, the scriptures have praised the piercing of ears.

Upanayana

When the child is first taken near the teacher, the ceremony is called upanayana or initiation. This ceremony is considered superior to other sacraments. After this ceremony the teacher initiates the student in learning Veda. The sacred thread is also worn on this occasion. Without sacred thread and a knot in 'choti' the ceremony goes vain.

5. Our Glorious History

Sri Rāma and his birthplace Ayodhyā

The ancient Ayodhyā is situated on the banks of the Sarayū in the district of Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh. It was the capital of the kṣtrīya Kings belonging to the solar

dynasty. Today it is the birth place of Rāma. Emperor Manu and his queen Śatarūpā were born as Daśartha and Kausalyā in one of their later births. Lord Nārāyaṇa was incarnated as their son on the ninth day of the brighter half in the month of Caitra.

On the basis of the testimony in Purānas and the science of Jyotisa (Astrology) it is believed that Śrī Rāma was born 17 Lakh years ago.

Some Important places of interest at Ayodhyā are–

1. Birth place of Rāma 2. Lakṣmaṇa ghāta 3. Svarga dvāra (Door to heaven) 4. Ahalyābāi ghata 5. Rāmakota 6. Hanumāna garhī 7. Kanaka Bhavana, 8. Darśaneśvara 9. Tulsī Chaurā 10. Maṇi Parvata etc.

Great Luminaries of Bhārata

- **Pr̥thu** : Pr̥thu was the son of Emperor Vena. He was a great ruler. With his strength and skill he made this land plentiful. Hence the earth came to be called his daughter Pr̥thivī.
- **Dadhīci** : On the bank of Sarasvatī he willingly donated his backbone for making Vajra to destroy furious demon vṛtrāsura.
- **Bhṛgu** : Bhṛgu was one among the Saptarṣīs. He wrote Bhṛgu Samhitā, a famous book on astrology.
- **Dhruva** : was the son of Uttānapāda and his wife Sunītī. As a very young boy he performed severe tapas and was able to have darshan of Lord Viṣṇu. Even today we see star Dhruva in his name in the clear sky at night.
- **Prah̥lāda** : The son of demon king Hiraṇyakaśyapu. He was a great devotee of Lord Viṣṇu. Due to his

hard penance the Lord in the form of half–lion–half man appeared to protect him.

- **Viśvakarmā** : Viśvakarmā was the divine architect and artist. He devised the Triśūla, Cakra and Vajra etc. many weapons for destroying the bad elements.
- **Hariścandra** : As a result of a word given to sage Viśvāmitra in dream, he had to sell his wife, son and himself to pay the debt of Guru and thus fulfilled the true promise.
- **Vikramāditya, the Destroyer of Śakas** : The Vikrama era is believed to have started three thousand forty five years after Kaliyuga and fifty seven years before the birth of Christ.

The beginning of this era is associated with the history and marking indelible grand victory of famous emperor Vikramaditya of Avantika or Ujjaini over the foreign invaders Śakas. Therefore this emperor is called 'The Destroyer of Śakas'.

- **Lalitāditya** : He was the ruler of consolidated Kashmir who ascended the throne in 724 A.D. He proved to be the most powerful ruler of Kārkota dynasty. He defeated several kings and expanded his kingdom. The famous temple 'Martand Mandir' of Kashmir was built by him. In the year 760 A.D. he breathed his last.
- **Emperor Gulab Singh** : During 19th century, Gulab Singh was the ruler of Dongar Area of Jammu. He extended his kingdom by annexing many small states of Kashmir Vally. During British rule also he kept his territory of Jammu. & Kashmir as a free state & his political skill and his heroic excellence; The state established by Gulab Singh was a vast territory until 1947. Its total area was 84,471 square miles.

Saints and Sects that brought about religious revolutions.

1. **Bhagawān Buddha** : (Siddhārtha, Gautama). son of king Śuddhodana of Kapilavastu. He founded Buddhism. He preached the gospel of truth and non-violence.
2. **Jinendra (Mahāvīra Swāmī)** : He was the twenty fourth Tirthankara of Jains who consolidated the teaching of all previous 23 tirthankaras and welded them in one chain.
3. **Śankarācārya** : A great seer who mastered all available religious texts by the age of sixteen. Later he established four holy shrines in four corners of the country for the propagation and strengthening of Vedic way of life.
4. **Patañjali** : A great pioneer of Yoga and a great Grammarian.
5. **Rāmānujācārya** : propounded Viśiṣṭādvaita. He strove to root out untouchability.
6. **Caitanya** : Caitanya was the founder of the Gaudiyā sect. He became embodiment of Kṛṣṇa Bhakti.
7. **Kabīra** : He was a disciple of Swāmī Rāmānanda and Hindu Muslim both came within his fold. He preached the philosophy of formless Brahman.
8. **Vallabhācārya** : A great seer who mastered all the ancient Bhārātīya religious literature by the age 13 and was considered an extra-ordinarily brilliant person who earned the title of 'Vākpati'. He was the founder of the Vallabha sect and a pioneer of 'Puṣṭi' tradition. He was a great devotee of Lord Kṛṣṇa. He was a source of inspiration to the poets of aṣṭachāpa school.

9. **Narasī Mehtā** : Narasī Mehtā was a saint and a great devotee of Lord Kṛṣṇa.
10. **Nayanmāras** : The holy men who follow the Śiva cult are called nayanmāras in Tamil Nadu.
11. **Ālvāras** : Great Vaiśnava saints absorbed in the path of devotion called Ālvāras.
12. **Tiruvalluvara** : Tiruvalluvara was a great social reformer who lived in Tamil Nadu. He composed Tirukkurala'.
13. **Tulasīdāsa** : The most famous Hindi poet of Rāmabhakati tradition. He was a popular singer. He has penned, 11 books including Rāmacarita mānasa, Vinaya Patrikā and Kavitāvalī, etc. He gave new direction to the Hindu society and inspired it, and reconciled various Bhakti cults into one.
14. **Acārya Kumarila bhaṭṭa** : Kumarila Bhaṭṭa was born in South India. He saved the vanishing Vaidic Dharma and regenerated it. He was the chief propounder of Pūrva Mīmāṃsā. His cult in Mīmāṃsā is called gurumata. He wrote a commentary on Śabara Bhāsyā of Pūrva Mīmāṃsā Darśana. 'Ślokavārtika' is his another work. Ādi Śankarācārya has looked upon him like Guru and called him 'Bhagavatpāda' in his books.
15. **Swāmī Vivekananda** : The greatman of the world, pioneering the Hindu renaissance; he unfurled the flag of Vedanta in western countries and declared that service of humanity is the most effective means of the service of God. Disciple of Rama Krishna Paramhasa.

6. The World as one Family

Our Motherland Bhārata is known as 'Preceptor of whole world'. She was also once called 'the Golden bird'. It was a well known fact that our society was prosperous as well as intelligent. Our wealth was used for philanthropic purposes and wisdom was directed towards the welfare of the people. Our glory and thoughts are recorded in our ancient books. Let us know some thing about the ancient literature of our country :

1. Vedas : There are four Vedas each having four parts, Samhitā, Brāhmana, Āranyaka and Upaniṣads. These are also called Śruti (Revealed).
2. Purāṇas : There are eighteen purāṇas. wherin description of cosmology, (creation and dissolution of the universe), history of royal dynasties, details of various Manus and genealogy are included.
3. History : Rāmāyaṇa and Mahābhārata.
4. Smṛti : There are several Smṛties in which Manusmṛti, Yājñavalkya smṛti and Devala smṛti are very important.
5. Mūla Upaniṣad : Īṣāvāsya, Aitareya, Katha, Kena, Taittirīya, Praṣna, Māndūkya, Mundaka, Śvetasvatara, Brhadāranya/copaniṣad, Chāndogyaupaniṣad. Ādya Śankarācārya wrote the commentary on these eleven upaniṣads.

Great Personalities

1. **Nanaji Deshmukh** : Born in Maharashtra, worked in various districts of Uttar Pradesh as the full-time propagator of Sangh; inspirer of Shishu Mandir programme; active participant in the politics of the

country through Jana Sangh and Janta Party; successful crusader against Emergency; taking in hand the project of rural uplift, the founder of 'Deen Dayal Shodh Sansthan' (Deen Dayal Research Institute); In chitrakut and Gonda (Uttar Pradesh) new experiements in rural uplift. Donated body after death.

2. **Jai Prakash Narayan** : Played leading role in the freedom struggle; Pioneer of the Total Revolution; After emergency; brought together all the political parties social reformer; was arrested in the Quit India movement in 1942; In 1946 released from Jail.
3. **Dr. Rama Manohar Lohia** : Having great interest in Politics from the early childhood, an eminent Socialist thinker; founder of the first coalition government in Uttar Pradesh; Conducting the struggle for the liberation of Goa, he had to remain in Jail from 28 September to 8 October 1946, under Goa Government. On 9th October was released by the Goa government on the direct interference of Gandhi ji.
4. **Shrimati Vijay Lakhshmi Pandit** : In 1946 this valiant lady created a revolution throughout the world; a movement was launched against the tyranny committed by the white-men on the Indians in South Africa. Her movement remained cent percent successful.
5. **Shrimati Sarojini Naidu** : Entered the political field in 1913. In 1916 met Gopal Krishna Gokhale and became active in politics. In free India, became the first woman Governor of Uttar Pradesh. Her speeches gave inspiration to every body. She was the world renowned poetess of English language, who was

called the 'Indian Cuckoo' (Bharat Kokila). She Played very important role in the freedom struggle.

The following statements are significant as they serve as valid evidence accepted by the world.

1. The First man : Sir Walter Rally in his book, History of World at page No. 99 writes, "The first human being was born in Bhārata Khandā"
2. Origination of human Culture : Count Jornstajurna in his book 'Theogony of Hindus' on page no. 168 and Col. Alkot in 'Theosophy' March 1881 Number, have written, 'Undoubtedly Bhāratavarṣa is the place of origin of human culture'.
3. Prof. Hiren in Historical researches, Vol.II on page 45 opines: One could understand that the origin of the people's knowledge and the roots of religions of not only of the people of Asian Continent but also of European continent will be found in Bhārata only.

We, in the Eyes of Foreign Thinkers

1. "Hindus are religious and they love truth, peace and justice. They are devotees of truth and they are always grateful, full of devotion to God"
– Poet Samuel Johnson
2. "Hindus occupy the highest place among the intelligent and inquisitive people. They are experts in mathematics, astrology and many other areas of human endeavour. Their knowledge and skill in field of medicine is of first category. –Jacobi, 9th Century
3. "When Hindus want to take revenge of any harm done to them they never fail to inform the person of their intentions. Although they follow the defeated enemy in

war but if anyone seek refuge in them they never kill him.
– Chinese Traveller Heun Tsang

4. "Hindus are so honest that they never lock their houses. Whenever they make an agreement with others there is no need for written agreement".
– Straybo - a famous Historian
5. "I have studied all religions of Europe and Asia. But to me Hinduism is the noblest and the best I may assert that, one day the entire world would have to bow its head before that."
– Romia Rola
6. "O great and ancient land of Bhārata, you have nurished human life and you are worthy to be worshipped. O preserver of the world, obeisance to you. The beastly atrocities of invaders have failed to destroy your vital power despite thousands of years of invasions. Welcome to you. O, the mother of veneration, love, arts and sciences! Obeisance to you."
– M. Louis Jacoliate

7. The Shining Tradition of Indian Sciences

Ancient Scientists

The wisdom of ancient Bhārata is to be found in the Vedas. They give a graphic and lucid account of the highly cultured and plentiful life. What we call science today was inherent in the knowledge contained in Vedas. Here are some of our great scientists of past and the present.

1. **Varāha Mihira** : He was born approximately in 499 A.D. He discovered for the first time that there is some power that keeps all the things to stick with earth. He wrote a treatise on Astronomy titled 'Panca Siddhāntikā'. His another book 'Vṛhad Varahī'

Samhitā is considered as the principal foundation of Astronomy.

2. **Brahmagupta** : He was born in Gujrat in 518 AD. He for the first time laid down the rules of the use of Zero. He also worked on one of the branches of Higher Mathematics (Numerical Analysis) : Making distinction between Arithmetic and Algebra, he declared them as two branches of mathematics. Explaining further the principle enunciated by Varāhmihira, he pointed out that earth attracts every thing towards itself due to its natural force. He has two books to his credit — Brahmasphuta Siddhānta and Khaṇḍa Khādyaka.
3. **Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha** : Dr Homi Jahangir Bhabha was born on 30th Oct. 1909 in Bombay. Dr. Bhabha went to Cambridge University to study Engineering. He obtained Ph.D. Degree in 1934 from Cambridge University. Dr Bhabha gave a new direction to experiments in the fields of Electronic, Space Science and Cosmology. He authored the books 'Quantum Theory', Elementary Physical Particles and Cosmic Radiation. He expired on 24th January 1966 in an air accident.
4. **Dr. Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar** : Dr. Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar was born in Sahpur district of Punjab on 21.2.1894. He passed F.Sc. Examination in 1913 with First division. He invented the methodology of smell free wax, distillation of Kerosene Oil and Petrol. His first treatise on Magnatic Chemistry was published in 1941 AD. He was selected as a member of Royal Society in 1943. Government of India conferred the honour of Padma Bhushan on him. He left for his heavenly abode in 1955.

5. **Dr. Praphulla Chandra Ray** : Great chemical scientist Praphulla Chandra Ray was born on 2nd August 1861 in East Bengal. In 1887 AD, he got the D.Sc. degree from Edinburgh University; Remained Professor in Presidency College Kolkata from 1889 to 1916 : He created a compound named Mercurie Nitrate in 1896. His main contribution to chemistry is the creation of Nitrate of Mercury, to calculate the conduction power of Bitritus Dr. Roy left his mortal frame on 16th June 1944.
6. **Vikram Sarabhai** : Dr. Vikram Sarabhai was born in Ahmedabad, Gujrat on 12th August 1919. He passed B.A. examination from Cambridge University with Mathematics and Physics. He conducted research on the mysterious cosmic rays coming from the depth of space and got Ph.D. Degree from Cambridge university in 1947. He became the member of Atomic Energy Commission (India) in 1961. In 1966 Dr. Sahab became the member of International Council of Scientific Union. He also remained President of the science sector of united Nations Organization Council. In December 1971 he died at thumba near Trivendrum.
7. **Dr. Satyendra Basu** : Dr. Satyendra Nath Basu was born on 1st January 1894 in Kolkata. He passed M.Sc. examination from Kolkata university in Physics in First Division. From 1924 to 1925 AD worked with Madam Curie and worked in Collaboration with Albert Einstein from 1925 to 1926. Dr. Bose gave the mathematical explanation of the behavior of Boson particles which is called Bose-Einstein Statistics. Through his research work he made possible to bifurcate into two parts the Atomic particles of Nuclear Physics which are called Boson particles. He left this world on 4th Feb. 1974

8. **Jagdish Chandra Basu** : He was born on 30 November 1858 in East Bengal (now Bangladesh) and expired in 1937. He gave the principle to the country and to the whole world that the Plants have consciousness and invented an instrument named Crescograph to measure its power and fluctuations, Jagdish Chandra Basu is also the inventor of wireless system. One year before Marconi got his invention patented in 1895, Basu had already given a public demonstration of his instrument. This fact has now been accepted by all western scientists. He, for the first time invented an instrument from which micro waves were emitted. He is also the first person who used micro-waves to understand the construction of the objects. This instrument is called 'waveguide'. His main contribution is in the development of a new branch of science called Bio-physics.

Who invented the following?

- Crescograph : Jagdish Chandra Bose
- Genetic Code and Artificial gene : Hargobind Khurana
- Raman Effect, Theory of Crystals : C. V. Raman.
- Dispersion of light in liquids : Ramanathan
- Gobar gas plant : Dr. C. B. Desai

Scientific View point

a). Why does the weight of Iron increase when it is rusted?

Ans. The rust on the iron is iron oxide. In the presence of moisture, iron absorbs oxygen from atmosphere and prepares iron oxide. The

increased weight is equal to the Oxygen absorbed from the atmosphere.

b). During winter why do the water pipes often burst?

Ans. During winter season water turns into ice and its volume increases whereas the volume of the pipe remains the same. Therefore the pipes often burst.

c). Why is it easy to walk on wet sand than walking on the dry sand?

Ans. The water works as an adhesive which keeps the particles of sand joined together. Therefore attraction increases between the particles of sand. On the wet sand the friction works more, therefore it is easy to walk on wet sand than on the dry one.

d). On some cars additional yellow light is fixed, why?

Ans. The yellow light can penetrate through the fog. Therefore when there is fog, it is easy to see the road through this light, due to which the possibility of accident is diminished.

Āyurveda

With two words "Āyuh" meaning life span and "Veda" means knowledge we have Āyurvedas which means the science of life. This science tells us what is useful and harmful to the body, what makes life pleasant and what causes pain, and many other facts. It explains how we can use herbs, minerals, rasas and other things we find on mother earth to cure many diseases.

Q. Give a list of seven elements and three wastes specified in Āyurveda.

Ans: The seven elements according to Āyurveda are, rasa (life juices), rakta (blood), māṁsa (flesh), meda (fat), Asthī (bone), majjā (marrow), śukra (Semen)

At first, when the food is digested it turns into rasa and then a number of chemical processes take place before it turns into the blood. The process continues by which a number of further elements are formed and finally as a result of the process called vitat heat oja (Vīrya) is created.

Āyurveda recognizes three types of wastes: Urine, excreta and perspiration. The science fixes a proportion of these in a healthy body, which is essential for its maintaing.

Wonderful Book : Vṛikṣāyurveda (Plant Pathology)

Mahaṛṣi Paraśāra is the author of this book. The book contains eight parts. Chapter on formation of seeds, parts of flowers and parts of fruits etc. The fourth chapter gives the description of photosynthesis. “पत्राणि वात आतपम् रंजकानि अधिगृहणन्ति” Leaves prepare their food from carbon dioxide (वात) sunlight (आतप) and chlorophyll (रंजक) What a wonderful scientific analysis! The book is full of details of scientific knowledge, from seed to tree, varieties of soil and forest wealth.

Space Science

Our Achievements - In 2017, India launched several satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre located at Shrihari kota in Tamilnadu by Indian Space research centre (ISRO), some of which are given as under:- the GSAT-19 Satellite was launched on 5 June 2017 by JSLV-MK-III. It was first orbital mission, which was capable to display the outer graphic description during flight. It's outer cover was chrayogenic and fully indigenously made.

GSAT-19, is the biggest satellite launched from Indian soil.

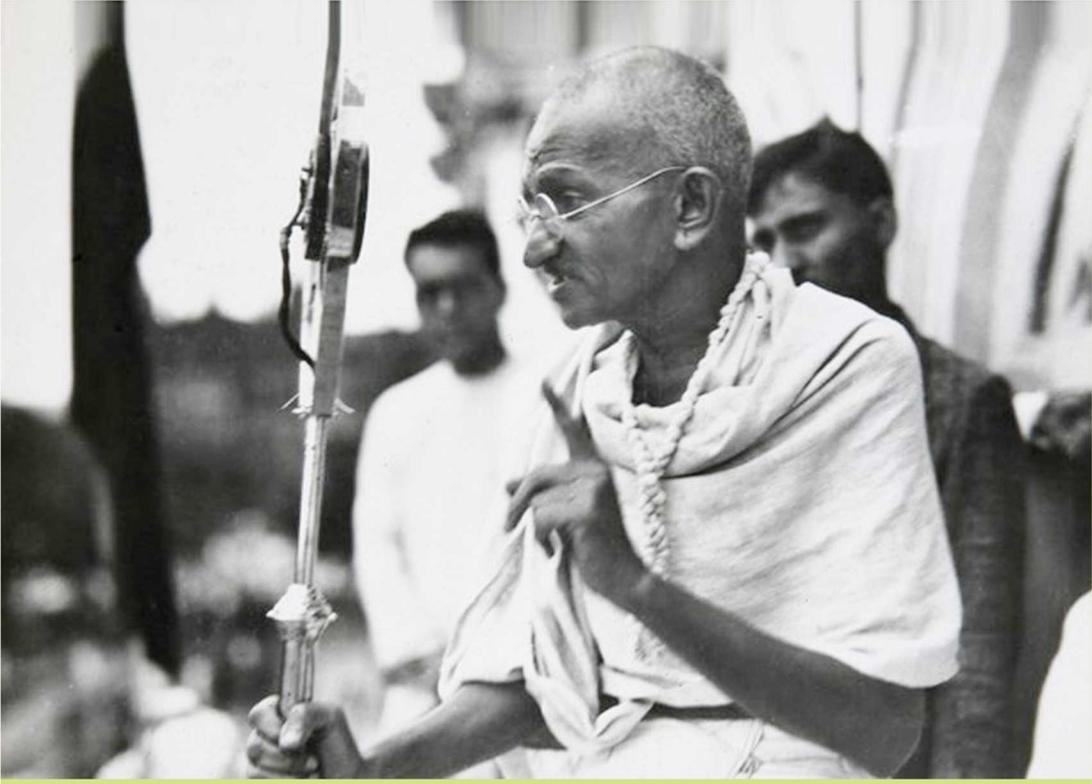
Chapter-8. General Knowledge

Chapter-9. Our National Heroes

Due to Corona period, no questions will be asked from both the above chapters in the session 2020-21, so they have been removed.

Type of Questions

- Q.1 Fill in the blanks.
- Q.2 Answer in one word.
- Q.3 Tell the names of mother, father, wife, husband, Mentor, disciple.
- Q.4 Who said / who said to whom.
- Q.5 Linking the name and place with the word of the question.
- Q.6 Who had/has the relation or belonged to which place.
- Q.7 Whose pen name / short name is this.
- Q.8 Tell its ancient / modern name.
- There shall be four options in above mentioned questions.
- Out of these one shall be correct and three shall be incorrect.
- From every heading, there shall be multi-choice objective questions of prescribed marks.
- It shall be compulsory to have questions from every heading.



"I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test :

Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to Swaraj for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and yourself melting away."

Source : Mahatma Gandhi [Last Phase, Vol. II (1958), P. 65]



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