



Bodh Mala – 11

Akhila Bhāratiya Saṁskṛti Jñāna Parīkṣā

For

(All India Culture Awareness Examination)

Conducted by

Vidya Bharati Sanskriti Shiksha Sansthan



Hailing from Ireland & making Bharata her land of action,
disciple of Swami Vivekanand–Bhagini Nivedita

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 Bhāratvaṛṣa, 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,
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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, घ gh, ङ् ṅ, च् c, छ ch, ज् j, झ 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, ब 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 carana (चरण) 'छ' के लिए ch लिखा जाएगा, जैसे chātra (छात्र) यदि च्छ 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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राष्ट्र गीत - 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 प्राणाः 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, The Motherland

To the North of Hindu Mahāsāgara (Indian Ocean) and the South of Himālaya is situated this great county, Bhārata. Śrī Guruji Golwalkar used to worship this land as the Universal Mother incarnate. Swamī Vivekananda had a vision of this very Motherland, in his meditation at the rock of *Śrīpādasīlā* (श्रीपादशिला). Swami Rāma Tīrtha used to say, “I am Bhārata. My body can be compared with her land. Two legs of mine are Mālābār and Cholamandalam. My feet are Kanyā Kumārī. Himālaya is my head. The Gaṅgā and the Brahmaputra – the mighty rivers – are like my hair. Deserts of Rajasthan and Gujarat are, as it were, my heart. My arms extend east and westwards”. It is the duty of every Bhārāṭīya to learn more and more about its immense and divine form.

On this sacred land, Bhārata, are situated Panca Sarovara (five lakes), holy rivers and four *dhāmas* (holy abodes) in four directions. They are the links which lend strength to its unity and integrity. Likewise, on this very land are located seven holy cities (सप्तपुरी), which lead to ultimate deliverance (मोक्ष).

अयोध्या मथुरा माया काशी काञ्ची अवन्तिका।

पुरी द्वारावती चैव सप्तैता मोक्षदायिकाः॥

These seven Purīs are :

- (a) *Ayodhyā* – Situated on the bank of river *Sarayū*, capital of Ikṣvāku (इक्ष्वाकु) dynasty and the birthplace of Lord *Rāma*.
- (b) *Mathurā* – On the right bank of *Yamunā*, this holy city was founded by *Śatrughna*, the younger brother of *Rāma*, after killing the demon *Madhura*. Birthplace of Lord *Kṛṣṇa*.
- (c) *Māyā (Haridwār)* – A great centre of pilgrimage where *Kumbha* festival is held every 12th year. Major sacred spots are ‘*Har-ki-Paudi*’ and the ‘*Temple of Dakṣa Prajāpati*’.
- (d) *Kāśī* – Situated in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh, on the bank of Gaṅgā, *Kāśī* is the most ancient city of the world. Among its famous holy places are the Temple of *Viśālākṣī Devī*,

Daśásvamedha Ghāṭa and *Viśvanātha Jyotirlingam* (विश्वनाथ ज्योतिर्लिंग) Kāśī is known as the cultural capital of Bhārata.

- (e) *Kāñcīpuram* – Kāśī of South India, Kāñcīpuram is situated in the Chingalapet district of Tamil Nadu, 40 km. South-West of Chennai. The famous temple of *Kāmākṣī Devī* is situated here. The *Kāñcīkamakoṭi Maṭha* of *Śaṅkarācārya* is situated here.
- (f) *Avantikā (Ujjain)* – the seat of administration of Emperor Vikramāditya and King Bhoja. Located on the bank of *Kṣiprā* river. The abode of *Mahākāleśvara Śiva*, one of the twelve *Jyotirlingams*. *Kumbha* festival is held here once every twelve years.
- (g) *Dvārakāpurī* – On the seashore of Saurashtra (Gujarat), this is the capital of Lord Kṛṣṇa. It is one of our four, sacred abodes (धाम). The *Śāradāpīṭha*, established by Ādi Śaṅkarācārya is situated here.

Introduction to the major cities and places of pilgrimage of North-Western and Northern Bhārata.

1. *Vaiśālī* – The ancient city of Bihar, capital of the famous Licchavī Republic (लिच्छवी गणराज्य).
2. *Takṣaśilā* (now Texla) – the famous international centre of education, situated near Rawalpindi. Ācārya Cāṇakya (चाणक्य), was a graduate of and a teacher at this university. Paṇini (पाणिनि) also studied and taught here.
3. *Ekaliṅga Jī* (एकलिंग जी) – The Śiva Temple situated in Rajasthan on Udaipur–Nathdwara road, is known as Ekaliṅga Ji. It is the family deity of Maharanas of Mewar.
4. *Paśupatiṅgā* (Kathmandu) – Situated in Nepal, *Paśupatiṅgā*, deity in this temple, is one of the eight idols (*aṣṭamūrtis*) of Śiva.
5. Prayāga – On the confluence of Gaṅgā and Yamunā, it is a famous holy city of Uttar Pradesh. It is also known as

trivenī, the confluence of three rivers, because the invisible Saraswatī also meets the other two rivers here.

6. *Amritsar* – Famous for Golden Temple gurudwara. Situated in Punjab. It is here that a memorial has been erected in the memory of the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh carnage. *Durgānā Mandir* is also situated here.

Where are the following worth-seeing and historical places situated?

(i) Amarnāth Cave (Kashmir), (ii) Char Minar [Bhagya Nagar (Hyderabad)], (iii) Brindavan Gardens (Mysore, Karnataka), (iv) Dilwara Temples, Arbudanchal (Mt. Abu, Rajasthan), (v) Vivekananda Rock Memorial (Near Kanyā Kumārī), (vi) Mahākāla Temple (Ujjain), (vii) Vijay Ghat (New Delhi), (viii) Kīrti Stambha (Chittor), (ix) Bhārata Mātā Mandir (Haridwar), (x) Gol Gumbad (Bijapur), (xi) Ajanta & Ellora Caves (Aurangabad, Jalgaon, Maharashtra), (xii) Mīnākṣi Temple (Madurai), (Xiii) Mahābalipuram (Tamil Nadu).

Eminent Places of North East and Eastern India –

- (1) *Nabadwīpa* – The birthplace of *Caitanya Mahāprabhu*, situated on the bank of Gaṅga in West Bengal.
- (2) *Jayantiyā* – This is a hillock. Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya, a beautiful hill-station is located on this hillock. A major *Śaktipīṭha*; where the Jayanti Devī temple is also situated.
- (3) *Dimapur* – Now situated in Nagaland, it has been mentioned as *Hiḍimbāpura* in the *Mahābhārata*. *Bhīmsena* married *Hiḍimbā* here.

Our States Tamil Nadu

Geographical Data – Tamil Nadu is a sprawling state on the shore of Hindu Mahāsāgara (Indian Ocean) and Gaṅgā Sāgara (Bay of Bengal). It has 29 districts.

Area – 1,30,058 sq. km

Population	– 7,21,38,958 (According to census 2011)
Capital	– Chennai
Literacy	– 80.33%
Main hills	– Nīlagiri and Malayagiri
Main rivers	– Kāverī (Cauvery), Tāmraparnī, Pennar

Main cities and places of pilgrimage

1. *Chennai* – Capital city. Chennammā is its presiding deity; a major port. The land of action of Sage *Agastya*.
2. *Rāmeśwaram* – The Jyotirlinga (Śivaliṅga) consecrated by Lord Rāma. The Gaṅgā water brought from Gaṅgotarī is offered here and the sands from here are taken to be offered into the Gaṅgā. Every Hindu looks forward to visiting Rāmeśwaram at least once in his life. This is one of the four holy Shrines of the Hindus.
3. *Madurai* – Capital of Paṇḍyas where Mīnākṣī temple is situated. This well-planned, ancient city is a centre of education and trade.
4. *Mahābalipuram* – A city of Tamil Nadu. Its ancient name is Māmallapuram. A tourist centre with abundance of Pallava style sculpture. The stories of the Mahābhārata times are engraved here.
5. *Paksitīrtha* – Every mid-day, a bird-couple comes on this hill to partake of the *prasāda* of lord śiva.
6. *Śri Raṅgam* – A city on the banks of Kāverī, with a large temple of Lord Viṣṇu. The deity here is in a sleeping posture.
7. *Kumb(h)akoṇam* – Holy place of pilgrimage where a famous religious festival takes place once every 12 years, in which millions of people participate, like the Kumbha festival of *Prayāga*.
8. *Thanjavur* – This is known for its ancient temple. Its top most *śikhara* (शिखर, apex point) is dimensionally so erected that its shadow never falls on the earth. A huge library is also situated here, wherein rare books and

manuscripts, representing wisdom and scientific knowledge of our ancestors, are preserved.

9. *Kanyākumārī* – The confluence of three oceans, temple of Kanyākumārī, the seat of goddess *Pārvatī*'s penance and Vivekananda Rock Memorial make it a famous place.
10. *Puducherry (Pandeycherry)* – A Union Territory, the seat of the Great Yogī Aurobindo's self-realisation. A centre of education.

Literature

Many an ancient book was also written in Tamil language. Let's know a little about the Tamil literature –

1. Tolakappiyam – It is the famous work of Tamil grammar. Its author Tolakappiyam was a disciple of the sage Agastya.
2. Among the five epics, Śilapathigāram and *Maṇimekhalai* are famous for enunciating the principles of Buddhism, while in the other three, Jeevan Chintamani, Kuṇḍalakeshi and Valayapathi, the principles of Jainism have been expounded.
3. *Tamil scripts* – Vatta Elattu is written in the rounded letters and Vettu Ekattu – the script for holy scriptures, is meant for writing in Sanskr̥ta.
4. Mahākavi Kamban's *Kamba Rāmāyaṇa*. It has six *kāṇḍas* (cantos). Its *Uttarakāṇḍa* was completed by the poet Ottookkattun.
5. *Subrahmanyam* Bhārātī was the national poet whose 'Panchali Shapatham' is a national poem and the nation's cherished treasure.
6. *Tirukkural* was written by the saint *Thiruvalluvar* and is known as the Tamil Veda.

Eminent Personalities

1. Dr. Chandrashekhar Venkataraman – born on Nov. 7, 1888, in Tiruchirapalli, died Nov. 21, 1970, in Bangalore.

Passed Matriculation Examination at the age of 12. In 1909, a research paper on light diffraction. On March 16, 1928, he enunciated 'Raman Effect' and with its help, discovered the structure of more than 2000 objects. This also led to the invention of laser. Received Nobel Prize in 1930. Founded Raman Research Institute in Bangalore where he devoted his entire life to research. He also made several discoveries in the field of magnetism and of musical instruments. His message was : Independent thinking and hard work are more important for research than the equipments.

2. Mathematician Srinivas Ramanujam – A mathematician of world fame and a member of Royal Society, he was honoured with the trinity fellowship. After matriculation, he did not pass any university examination and yet got highest degrees of D.Math, Rangler Mathematics, Tripos. He was the first scholar to receive all these three degrees. He was the founder of the theory of statistics.
3. *Śrī Rāmānujācārya* – The Ācārya of *Srīvaiṣṇava sect* and exponent of *Viśiṣṭādvaita* school of philosophy, he publicly pronounced the great *mantra* (महामंत्र).
4. Chakravarti Rajagopalachari – Litterateur, statesman and the first and the last Indian Governor General of independent India.
5. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan – World famous philosopher, educationist and the second president of Bhārata. His birthday, the 5th September, is celebrated as the Teachers Day.

Madhya Pradesh

Area	– 3,08,245 sq. km.
Capital	– Bhopal
Population	– 7,25,97,565 (as per census 2011)
Districts	– 51
Language	– Hindi
Literacy	– 70.63%

Geographical data – The entire Madhya Pradesh, with the exception of Narmadā and Tāptī Vallies, is a plateau. Extending through it are the Vindhya-chala and Satpura ranges. Major rivers of this state are Chambal, Betawā, Narmadā, Tāptī, Mahānadī, Sone, Payasvinī and Indrāvātī.

A special characteristic of Madhya Pradesh is the highest number of tribes it has. Tribals constitute majority of the population in 23 of its districts. Noteworthy among these tribes are Gonds (गोंड), Bhīls (भील), Orāns (ओरण), Korkons (कोरकोण) and Kols (कोल).

History – Following the reorganisation of states, the present Madhya Pradesh came into existence in 1956. Included in it are the 17 Hindi speaking districts of the erstwhile Madhya Pradesh, erstwhile Madhya Bhārata, erstwhile Vindhya Pradesh, princely state of Bhopal and Sironj Sub-division of district Kota.

Economy – Based primarily on agriculture. 52.06% of the entire land is under irrigation. Major crops of the state are millet, wheat, rice, ditch millet (कोदो), Kutko(कुटको), Sawān (सवाँ), gram etc. Commercial crops are oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, soyabeans etc. Madhyapradesh is rich in natural resources like manganese, iron, coal, lime, stone and tin.

Major Industries – Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) in Bhopal, Security Paper Mill in Hoshangabad, Bank Notes press in Dewas, News Paper Mill in Neapanagar, Alkloid factory at Neemuch. There are cement factories, automobile factory, ordnance factory, ammunition factory and 27 textile mills in Madhya Pradesh. BHEL, Bhopal is the first electrical-equipments factory of India and the biggest one of its kind in Asia.

Cultural and Tourist Centres

Madhya Pradesh abounds in architectural marvels. On their stones comes alive, even today, the ancient history. Bhim Betika, near Bhopal has been protected as world-heritage site.

The world famous archeological temples of Khajuraho, Mahākāleśwara temple of Ujjain, Sāncī Stūpa – the Buddhistic

dome; the fort of Gwalior, Gujari Mahal of Mandu fort are the specimens of the rich heritage of Madhya Pradesh. Nature has been very generous in bestowing beauty upon it. Amarkantak, the source of Narmadā and Sone rivers is the place where saints and seers in ancient time used to practise penance, a centre of tourism. Likewise, the marble rocks near Jabalpur also speak of its natural beauty. Nearby is the National Sanctuary of Kanha. Among the places worth seeing are also Bāndhavagarh, Pachmarhī and Ramban Satna. The lake of Bhopal in this state is known for its beauty and grandeur.

The very mention of *Citrakūṭa* reminds us of Lord Rāma in exile. On its ghat, Śrī Rāma appeared before the saint-poet Goswāmī Tulasīdāsa. Even today every particle of this holy place reverberates with the name of Rāma. Part of *Citrakūṭa* falls in Uttar Pradesh.

The History of Madhya Pradesh has seen many ups and downs. The brave women of this land evoke respect and reverence for women. The Maheshwar fort on the bank of Narmadā, constructed by Ahalyabai, the queen of Malwa, the *Gadhamaṇḍala* fort of Rani Durgawati, the grand statute of Maharani Lakshmi Bai at her Samadhi, close to the Gwalior fort: all of them beckon our countrymen to pay homage to and draw inspiration from them.

Madhya Pradesh is the birth place of Emperor Vikramāditya, Poet Kālidāsa, Bāṇa Bhaṭṭa, Varāha Mihira, King Bhoja and the prince among Indian musicians, Tansen, the disciple of Swāmī Haridās. Their native places have become the places of pilgrimage in our times.

Chhattisgarh

Area	– 1,35,191 sq km.
Capital	– Raipur
Population	– 2,55,40,196 (as per census 2011)
Language	– Hindi, The chhattisgarhi dialect is in vogue.
Literacy	– 71.4%
Districts	– 27

Chhattisgarh was carved on November 2001 out of former Madhya Pradesh by amalgamation of 16 districts of the latter. This is a tribes-majority state.

Economy - 46% of this state is covered by forests. Most of the forest area is full of medicinal leaves and herbs. Tendu leaf (*diospyros peregrina*), chironji (*chironjia sapada*), harar (*myrobalan*), bahera (*emblic myrobalan*), sal (*shorea robusta*), mahua (*madhuca latifolia*) etc. are the forest products. Since it is a plateau area, agricultural land is very little.

From the point of view of mineral products, Chhattisgarh is indeed, quite rich. Coal, copper, limestone, manganese etc. are available aplenty. The world famous diamond mine is located at the place named Divbhag in Raipur district. Bhilai steel factory and Korba BALCO factory are among the major industries. The ancient caves of Ambikapur, the sanctuary of Jagdalpur and the Buddhistic monastery of Rājnāndgāon are the worth seeing religious places. The historic cities of Champa, Jaspur and Mahasamund are the priceless legacies of this state.

Cultural and Tourist Centres — Chattisgarh has many architectural marvels. The temple of Boramdev near Kavardha and the ancient Lakṣmana Temple of Shivapur are considered a world heritage from Archological point of view. The ancient caves of Ambikapur in Bastar, Chitrākūta, the water fall of Tirathgarh and the cave of kutumsara are very famous monuments. Danteshwari Devi of Dantewada, Kamleswari Devi of Dungargarh and Mahamaya devi of Ratanpur are famous Shaktipithas. Confluence of three rivers, Rājima, Shibaī Nārāyana, the birth place of Sain Ghasidasji, Girodapurī and the birth place of Mahaprabhu Vallabhācārya champaran are the eminent religious places (where a grand fair is organized every year). The sanctuary of Jagdalpur, the Baudha stupa of Rajanandgaon are religious places worth seeing, Champa, Jasapur and Mahasamund are the heritage cities of the state.

Prominent national leaders of this state are martyr Vir Narayan Singh, Thakur Pearey Lal Singh, Barrister Chedi Lal (who is famous as the Gandhi of Chattisgarh) Pt. Sundar Lal Sharma and famous revolutionary Dr. Khūb Chand Baghel.

Padumlal Punnalal Bakhshi. Mukutdhar Pandey, Shri Kant Varma are eminent literary figures of the state.

The North - Eastern States

There are seven small states in this area, Tripura and Manipur being the ones which could never be conquered by any foreign invader. Brief introduction to these seven states is as follows —

ASSAM

Area	–	78,438 sq. km.
Capital	–	Dispur
Population	–	3,11,69,272 (as per Census 2011)
Language	–	Assamese
Literacy	–	73.18%
District	–	35

Major River - Brahmaputra (The longest river of India)

Economy – This state occupies special position due to its minerals and oil production. There are about 750 tea gardens in the state. Besides the fertilizer factory in Kamrupa, the state has oil refineries and petroleum and gas production plants.

Other industries - Sugar, jute, silk, paper, plywood, rice mills are the main industries. Among cottage industries the state has handloom, silk-worm rearing, cane and bamboo articles, brass utensils etc.

Cultural and Tourism centres - The famous *śaktipīṭha* of *Kāmākhyā Devī*, Guwāhātī and the Kāzirangā sanctuary.

Arunachal Pradesh

Area	–	83,743 sq. km.
Capital	–	Itanagar

Population – 13,82,611 (According to 2011 Census)
Literacy – 66.95%
District – 20

Languages and Tribes - Monpa, Miji, Aka, Sherdeokapen, Apatni, Tagin, Nishing, Tangsa, Vanche, Khamti, Membra. 79% of the state population comprises tribes.

Major Rivers - Barahmaputra and Lohit.

Economy – 80% of the population has agriculture as its mainstay. Forests are the major source of income in this area.

Crops – Rice, maize, millet, pearl millet, wheat and mustard are the main crops.

Industry – Flour mills, plywood, plating, rice mills, fruit preservation, crushers, handloom and handicrafts are the major industries.

Cultural and Tourism Centers – The ruins of Ita fort, the ancient Buddhist monastery in Tawang and the *Bauddha* Vihar in Dishang. Places worth seeing are the old city of Malini Than, *Paraśurāma Kuṇḍa* and Namdapha sanctuary. Sela pass and Bomdi-la are those places from where the Chinese entered to invade India in 1962. There is a Martyr's Memorial to commemorate 4000 Indian soldiers who laid down their lives during the Chinese war.

Meghalaya

Area – 22,429 sq. km
Capital – Shillong
Population – 29,64,004 (as per Census 2011)
Literacy – 75.48%
District – 7

Languages – Khasi, Garo, Assamese, Hindi and English are the main languages.

Major Hills – Garo, Khasi and Jayantiya are the major hills.

Main Rivers– Krishnai, Kalu, Mugai etc. are the main rivers.

Economy – Agriculture – 80% of Meghalaya's population

depends on agriculture. Rice and maize are the main crops. Among the other crops are the bay-leaf (तेजपत्ता), sugarcane, cotton, jute and betel-nut (or areca-nut). Forest products make significant contribution to the state's economy.

Minerals and Industries – Sillimanite, limestone, dolomite and quartzite are the major mineral products. Meghalaya Plywood Ltd, Meghalaya Essences and Chemicals, Meghalaya Fayto Chemicals and cement factories are the major industries.

Cultural and Tourist centres – Uniyan Lake, Kellong Rock, Nohan Singathiang Falls, the Majhali centre of Ranikor and the unbroken rock pillars of Nartiang.

Mizoram

Area	–	21081 sq. km
Capital	–	Aizawl
Population	–	10,91,014 (as per census 2011)
Languages	–	Mizo and English
Literacy	–	91.58%
District	–	8

Economy – Agriculture – 87% of the population of this state depends upon agriculture. Maize and rice are the major crops. Pulses, sugarcane, chillies, ginger, tobacco, turmeric, banana and pineapple are the other crops. This state is famous for fibre free ginger.

Industry – Cottage industries are relatively more developed in this state. Number of handloom and handicrafts related industries is more. Silk industry of this state is also famous.

Nagaland

Area	–	16,579 sq. km.
Capital	–	Kohima
Population	–	19,80,602 (as per census 2011)
Literacy	–	80.11%
Languages	–	English, Nagamiz and Hindi
Major rivers	–	Dhanshri, Doyang, Dikhu and Jhanjhi.
District	–	11

Economy – Rice is the only major food product. There is one sugar mill, one paper mill and a kitplywood factory in the state. Limestone, coal, and sand are the major minerals. Handlooms and silkworm rearing are the mainstay of the state's economy.

Manipur

Area	–	22,327 sq. km
Capital	–	Imphal
Population	–	27,21,756 (as per census 2011)
Languages	–	Manipuri and English
Literacy	–	79.85%
District	–	11

Economy – Rice and Maize are the chief crops. Handloom is the major industry, TV assemblage factory, bamboo and cane cottage industries are the other industries. From the point of view of silk-worm rearing, Manipur is the first state which has initiated Oak Tussore industry. Industries related to leather products, edible oils, oil extraction have also developed here.

Cultural and Tourist centres – Radha Govind Ji Temple of Imphal; Viṣṇu Temple of Bishnupur; Lokatak, the biggest lake of fresh water in Eastern India; the only floating National Garden in the world, Keevul Tayajao and the Orchid gardens of Khogampet are the centres of cultural and tourists interest. The *Rāsa Nr̥tya* of Manipur is a major tourist attraction.

Tripura

Area	–	10,491 sq. km.
Population	–	36,71,032 (as per census 2011)
Capital	–	Agartala
Literacy	–	95%
Language	–	Bangla, Kakborak, Tripuri and Manipuri are the major languages.
District	–	8

Economy – Major crops – Rice, wheat, sugarcane, potato, oilseeds, jute etc.

Major industries – Tea is the biggest industry of the state. Jute factory, aluminium utensils, wood cutting, steel furniture, medicines, rice mills, PVC pipes, leather products, plywood, fruit-canning and oil mills are also there. Handloom is the major cottage industry of the state.

Cultural and Tourist centres – Neer Mahal, Sefi waters, Dambur lake, Kamal sagar, Jampui Hill, Unakoti, Matahari, Radha Kishorepur *Śakti-pīṭha* etc.

Greater India

अस्त्युत्तरस्यां दिशि देवतात्मा, हिमालयो नाम नगाधिराजः।

पूर्वापरौ तोयनिधीवगाह्य, स्थितः पृथिव्यामिव मानदण्डः॥ (कालिदास)

In Kumārasambhava, the great poet Kālidāsa says that Himālaya, the king of mountains, situated in the north of Bhārata, surrounded by eastern and western seas, is like the measuring – rod of the world. The highest peak of the world is a Himālayan peak which is known as “Gauri Śankara” (Sāgaramāthā or Everest). Himālaya defines the boundaries of undivided Bhārata.

The following *śloka* of *Viṣṇu Purāṇa* is notable –

उत्तरं यत् समुद्रस्य हिमाद्रेश्चैव दक्षिणम्

वर्षं तद्भारतं नाम भारती यत्र सन्ततिः।

Gaṅgā, Yamunā, Brahmaputra, Satluj, Jehlam, Vyāsa, Cināb, Rāvī etc are the rivers that make our country verdant. They are all originated from Himālaya. Because of her culture and civilization, many foreigners have paid obeisance to the *Bhārata-Mātā* and called it ‘*Deva-Bhūmi*, gods’ abode. *Bharata khaṇḍa*, *Āryāvartta*, *Saptasindhu* etc. are the ancient names of Bhārata.

Blessed is the land called Bhāratavarṣa which is celebrated in the songs of the gods also. Even after enjoying the divine luxuries of heaven, gods wish to be born in India as human beings:

‘गायन्ति देवाः किल गीतिकानि धन्यास्तु ये भारतभूमिभागे।
स्वर्गापवर्गस्य च हेतुभूते भवन्ति भूयः पुरुषाः सुरत्वात्॥

Bhārata, due to her culture alone, had earned the pride of being called *Viśvaguru*, the mentor of the World. Lord Manu has called her the source of inspiration and learning for humanity and said –

एतद्देशप्रसूतस्य, सकाशादग्रजन्मनः।

स्वं-स्वं चरित्रं शिक्षेरन् पृथिव्यां सर्वमानवाः। (मनुस्मृति)

If, says Manu, anyone wishes to learn virtuous conduct, he must learn it from the wise men of Bhāratavarṣa. Many cultures rose in the world and died after a while but Indian Culture stands proud even today, giving the message of immortality to the world. This culture is the basis of the unity of India.

Patriotic Song

मातृ-भू की मूर्ति मेरे हृदय-मन्दिर में विराजे॥
कोटि हिन्दू हिन्दवासी, मातृ मंदिर के पुजारी,
प्राण का दीपक संजोए, आरती माँ की उतारी
लक्ष्य के पथ पर बढ़ें हम, स्वार्थ का अभिमान त्यागें॥1॥
स्वर लहरियाँ उठ रही हैं, मात तव आराधना की,
कोटि हृदयों में उठी है, चाह तेरी साधना की,
शंख ध्वनि संघोष करती आज रण का साज साजे॥2॥
हाथ में हो अरुण केतु, और पावों में प्रभञ्जन,
शत्रु शोणित, विजयश्री से, आज माँ का करें अर्चन,
विजयश्री का मुकुट फिर से मातृ-मस्तक पर विराजे॥3॥

My heart is the shrine where the image of my Motherland is installed.

(1) Millions of Hindus, the children of Hindustan, are the worshippers at this altar of the Mother. With the flame of

their life-breath, they perform the Mother's *āratī* with a resolve to keep marching towards their goal, surrendering their small egos and petty selfishness.

- (2) O Mother! songs of your worship reverberate the atmosphere. Millions of hearts swell with a single desire, that of dedicating their lives to you. This army of your children has sounded the conch shell to declare war on your enemies.
- (3) Ochre flag in hands and hurricane in their feet, they march on, determined to consecrate the mother with the blood of enemy and gift of conquest. Once again, her head shall be adorned with the crown of victory.

My heart is the shrine where the image of my Motherland is installed.

2. Progeny of Bhārata–Hindu Society

Whenever the Bhāratiya life stream faced stagnation, some great man was born to give Hindu society a fresh direction. Let us also know something about such personages who attained immortality on account of their awakening the society by dint of their outstanding contribution to knowledge.

(A) Lord Buddha

1. The *Śākya Kṣatriyas* ruled the foot hills of Himālaya. Lord Buddha was born there in 623 BC in the gardens of Lumbini in the territory of Kapilavastu, the capital of the rulers.
2. His childhood name was *Siddhārtha*. He was married to *Yaśodharā*.
3. The name of Lord Buddha's father was *Śuddhodana* and mother's name was Mahāmāya.
4. Once he chanced upon a sick man on the verge of death. On another day, he saw an old person and on yet another, he saw a corpse being taken to the cremation ground. Thereafter he happened to see a Saṁnyāsī oozing