



Bodh Mala – 12

Akhila Bhāratiya Saṁskṛti Jñāna Parīkṣā

For

(All India Culture Awareness Examination)

Conducted by

Vidya Bharati Sanskriti Shiksha Sansthan



**Mother Sacrificing her own son to protect the life of
Uday Singh—Panna Dhay**

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,
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 r̄, ॠ ṛ, लृ l̄, 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 carāṇa (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 r̄ (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।

Contents

	Page No.
Raṣṭrīya Gīta - Vande Mātaram Saraswatī Vandanā	
<u>1. BHĀRATA (India) : Our Mother land</u>	8
Major centers of pilgrimage (tīrthas) and historical and cultural cities of North Western and Northern India, of North East and East : Important places of Middle India, the important places of South India–Our states, A Song	
<u>2. Progeny of Bhārata–Hindu Society</u>	18
The blood stained Earth of Jallianwala Bagh : dedicated Luminaries who ornamented various Arts; Life firmly devoted to goal.	
<u>3. The Hindu View of life</u>	22
The Āśrama Order, Our beliefs, Food Hymn, Bhārātīya Darśana (Indian Philosophy), Ekātma Mānava Darśana, Scientific Basis of the Daily Chores, Ātman : Luminous Light, Performance of Duty, not craving for Rights.	
<u>4. The sacred Tradition of Sacraments</u>	35
Cultural Festival and functions, Sacred Places (Tīrtha) Temples, Scriptures, Purānas, Yoga, Santavaṇī – Saintspeak, Sixteen Sacraments (saṁskāras).	
<u>5. Our Glorious History</u>	49
Great Men of East, Yogeśvara Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Gītā.	

	Page
<u>6. The world as one family</u>	54
Great Luminaries, Who is the Goddess Saraswātī?, Some Illustrious Indians Abroad, A universal culture.	
<u>7. The Shining tradition of Indian sciences</u>	58
Indian Scientists, Āyurveda, Quiz and other information, Noise Pollution, Glossary of Science, Space Science.	
<u>8. General Knowledge</u>	68
World of sports, Important Defence Training Institutions, United Nations Organisation.	
<u>9. Our National Heroes</u>	71
Ramanand Sagar, Champaran Satyagrah, Late Shri Prahlad Chunni Lal, Mrinalini Sarabhai, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Jallianwala Bagh, Dr. Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai, Manna De, Sacrificer - Mother Panna Dhay	

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* (scripture) 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 Mother land

The essence of the national unity of Bhārata is clearly reflected in her history, geography, dharma, darśana (philosophy) and saṁskṛti (culture). Our forefathers, living on the river-banks of this country, produced such great literature as has, over the millennia, proved to be the touchstone to judge the values of human civilization. It is the spiritual consciousness aroused by our sages and seers who wandered from nook to nook and corner to corner of this great country as also the essential, permeating common values of life that lend immortality to Bhāratavarṣa as one Nation. Imperative it is, therefore, that we, her children, familiarize ourselves with her holy rivers, nature's bounty such as great mountain ranges and sacred places of pilgrimage and also remember our venerable forefathers so that this monumental experience called Bhārata is indelibly imprinted on our minds.

There are many countries on this earth. Among all of them, our Bhārata stands out as the most wonderful and glorious country. While nature has shielded her in the north by Himālaya, in the South, there is the vast expanse of an ocean. Between these two is extended the large green country interspersed with the ranges of the holy rivers. Its inhabitants too have contributed enormously to make this country foremost among the nations through their discoveries and inventions in the fields of knowledge, sciences and spirituality. This Bhārata, our Mother, with her bounteous mineral and energy resources, has produced such jewels among men and women who have made matchless contribution in the spheres of science, philosophy, arts and life-sciences. The world, since the dawn of human civilization, has been satiated itself with the nectar of wisdom flowing from work of the austere and dedicated lives of our great sages.

From Kailāsa to Kanyā Kumārī, from Kāmakhya to kutch, the entire Bhārata, is one tīrtha, a holy place of pilgrimage. Let's get acquainted with these centres of faith and reverence.

Q. What is a *tīrtha*?

A. *Tīrtha* means purifier. The rivers, lakes, towns etc. that, on being contacted either by visiting or by ablutions or otherwise, wash away the sins mystically are called *tīrthas*. These *tīrthas* are of three types :-

- (i) *nitya tīrthas* – (eternal places of pilgrimage)
- (ii) *bhagavadiya tīrthas* –(places sanctified by the appearance of God’s incarnations)
- (iii) *santa tīrthas* – (places lent holiness by the saints)

Q. Which is a *nitya tīrtha* ?

A. Kailāsa, Mānasarovara, Kāśī etc. are the *nitya tīrthas*. Likewise, the holy rivers such as Gangā, Yamunā, Rewā (Narmadā), Kāverī etc. are also *nitya tīrthas* because they have contained divine properties of purification since the beginning of this creation.

Q. Which is a *bhagavadiya tīrtha*?

A. Places such as Ayodhyā, Mathurā etc. where God appeared in His divine incarnations, and/or performed His deeds or blessed a devotee with His appearance before him.

Q. Which is a *santa tīrtha*?

A. That piece of land which attains holiness by the footprints of a saint, becomes a *tīrtha*. The birthplace, the place of penance, the place of nirvāṇa (final liberation) or the place of samādhi (the place where mortal remains are retained) of the saint/s are known as the *santa tīrthas*.

Our forefathers instituted the *tīrthas* with a view to preserving and promoting the country’s spiritual orientation and social values. Every Hindu must benefit from the knowledge about their purpose and significance.

Major centers of pilgrimage (*tīrthas*) and historical and cultural cities of North Western and Northern India

1. Nankānā Sahib – This is a major centre of pilgrimage. Guru Nanak Dev was born here. Its old name is Talwandi. It is situated in the Lahore district of the present day Pakistan.

2. Ranthambhore (Sawai Madhopur) – The historical fort which has a huge idol of Lord Ganeśa. This is also the ancient capital of Hamir Singh who defeated Allauddin Khilji.
3. Amarnātha (Kashmir) – This is a natural cave, at a height of 16,000 ft. from the sea level. It is 60' long 25' to 30' wide with a height of 15'. Herein is the shrine of Lord Śiva, where the Śivalinga is automatically formed with snow on the natural snow-seat.
4. Naimiṣāraṇya – Here Śri Śūta Jī delivered his paurāṇic discourses to Śaunaka and (80 thousand) others. This famous holy place is in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh on the bank of river Gomatī. The *Śaktipīṭha* of *Lalitādevī* is also situated here.
5. *Vindhyācala* (Mirzapur) – Situated on Gaṅgā in Uttar Pradesh, near Mirzapur. The Siddhapīṭha of *Vindhyāvāsini devī* is near Mirzapur.

Famous places of North Eastern and Eastern India

1. Imphal – It is the historical city and the capital of Manipur. This is the place where Vabhruvāhana had taken captive Yudhiṣṭhira's Aśvamedha horse and challenged Arjuna for a battle.
2. Paraśurāma Kuṇḍa – The famous tīrtha of Aruṇāchal Pradesh. Lord Paraśurāma divided apart the highland of Lohita Sarovara so that the river Brahmaputra flowed down on the soil of Bhārata.
3. Gaṅgā Sāgara – Situated 145 km south of Kolkata, Gaṅgā Sāgara is an island where the river Gaṅga merges into the sea. This is a sacred Hindu tīrtha of West Bengal.
4. Koṅārka – Located in Orissa state, it is the ancient Padmakṣetra. Sāmba, a son of Śrī Kṛṣṇa worshipped Sun god here to get rid of leprosy. The chariot-style Sun Temple constructed in the 13th century A.D. is a main centre of attraction for the tourists.

Famous places of Madhya Bhārata

1. Ujjain – This city is also known as Ujjayinī or Avantikā. It is said to be the hub or the focal point of earth. Mahākāleśwara, one of the 12 Jyotirlingas and one of the 51 Śaktipīthas are also located here. Ujjayinī was the capital of India during the reign of Emperor Vikramāditya.

2. Kolhapur– Celebrated as Karvīra Kṣetra in the Purāṇas. Temples of Mahiṣamardinī and Mahālakṣmī.

3. Rajim – It is the perfect Tirtha (Sacred Place) of Chhattisgarh. Here two rivers Pairi and Saudu join with Mahānadī. Therefore it is called Triveni (confluence of three rivers). People visit this place while coming back from Jagannatha pilgrimage. Rājīva loṇana Temple and Kuleśwara Siva temples are located here. It is said that in Kuleśwara the linga was installed by Jānakījī.

4. Orchha – It is situated on the bank of river Betawa in Madhya Pradesh. Here there are two main temples. The idol that is installed in Rāmarāja temple was found by queen Ganeśa kunwari while taking bath at Ayodhyā. There is the idol of Rādhā Kṛṣṇa in Caturabhujā Temple.

Famous places of South India

1. Tiruanantapuram (Trivandrum) – Capital of the present day Kerala State. Located here, in an ancient fort with high ramparts, is the ancient temple of Śrī Padmanābha Swamī.

2. Tirupati Balaji – This city, to which the pilgrims return after visiting the temple of Lord Venkateśwara (Balaji), is at the foothill of the temple. A magnificent temple of Lord Govindarājā is situated here. The principal deity in this temple is Lord Śeṣaśāyī whose idol was installed by Śrī Ramānujācārya.

3. Dhanuṣkoṭi – Situated right on the seashore, near Rāmeśwara dhāma. On the eve of his invasion of Lanka,

Śri Rāma had commenced the setubandhana (construction of the bridge) from this spot. It is located in Tamil Nadu.

4. Vijayavādā – This is a famous city of Andhra Pradesh, on the bank of Krishnā river, known for the artistic Kanakadurgā temple and Buddhistic caves.

Our states

West Bengal

Area – 88,752 sq.km.

Population – 9,13,47,736

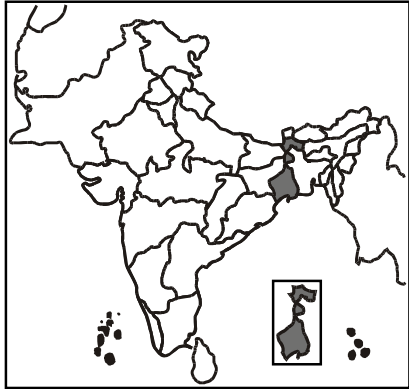
District – 20

Main Language – Bangla

Geographical Features – The verdant and lush green land of Bengal is surrounded in the north by silver-like shining peaks Himalaya, in the south by day and night cleansing waves of Gangā Sāgara (Bay of Bengal), in the east by Bangla Desh, West by Jharakhand and in South west by Orissa State.

Bengal is an agriculture dominated state. Three fourth part of the population dwells in villages. 60% people depend on agriculture or the works related to agricultural products for their livelihood.

Gangā is the most important river of Bengal. After entering Bengal Gangā divides itself into two branches, the names of which are Padmā and Bhāgīrathī. When Bhāgīrathī merges into Gangā Sāgar while passing through Calcutta, then it is called Hoogli. On the one bank of Hoogli is situated Kolkata and on the other is Howrah. Padma joins the sea while flowing through Bangladesh.



Important Place – Kolkata : Extending in an area of 185 square K.M. this metropolis has a population of more than one crore. Here the Race Course ground, Zoo, Birla Planetarium, India Botanical Garden, Bellore Math etc. are the places worth visiting. Botanical Garden is the largest garden of vegetation of Asia. In the herbal museum here, more than 25 Lakhs samples of dry leaves of various herbs are preserved. The first metro rail was started in this city. Kolkata is a big business center.

The other important cities of Bengal include Siligudi, Darjeeling, Murshidabad, Malda, Durgapur, Chitranjan, Asansole etc.

Important Sacred Places –

1. Kalighat – The Kalighat of Kolkata is high seat of Goddess (Mahapitha). It is said that the four fingers of the right foot of Sati fell here. The name of the presiding deity of this place is Kalika.
2. Daksineswara – Kali Temple of Daksineswara is situated very close to the bank of Ganga. This is the place where Ramakrishna Paramhans performed penance taking inspiration from whom, Swami Vivekanand re-established the greatness of Indian culture, religion and philosophy in the world.
3. Bellor Math – In front of Daksinesawara Kali Temple, on the other side across Ganga, this Math is located. The architecture of this temple made of stone is worth seeing. Here is the world famous memorial of Ramakrishna Paramhansa. The memories of the illustrious son of Bharata Swami Vivekananda are associated with it. The total cost of the construction of this was donated by a lady disciple of Swami Vivekanand from USA.

Illustrious Personalities –

1. Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu : Born in Navadvipa, the great Saint, propagated the message of love through the medium of devotion to Radha-Kṛṣṇa throughout Bharata. His message has by now spread throughout the world.

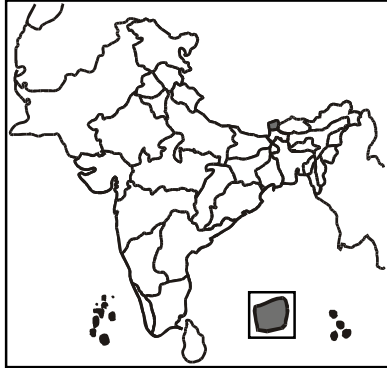
2. Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa – When the people forgot the direction while indulging in the conflict of Bharatiya and Western knowledge and Philosophy, the foundation of dharma was shaking, then in this hour of crisis Ramakrishna appeared. He, while pursuing various ways of worship, proved conclusively that all the sects lead to the realisation of one ultimate Truth.
3. Swami Vivekananda – He delivered the message of Vedant to the World. In the World Religions conference in Chicago, he not only impressed the scholars of world, but also put the seal of victory of the Bhāratiya Philosophy on the world. People's faith in Hindu way of life increased. He also initiated the nation with the aphorism of renaissance and patriotism. The nation awakened with his lofty ideals and powerful call.
4. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay – Considering the service of his mother- tongue as his duty, he wrote many novels like Anand Math, Durgesh Nandini, Kapal kundala, Devi Chaudharani etc. In all his works there is conspicuous the pride of our culture and moral flavour. The song of Vande Matram that filled the whole freedom movement with indomitable enthusiasm, was adopted from his novel 'Anand Math' and to day it is our national song.
5. Ravindranath Thakur – Ravindra Nath was a man of multiple faces. He wrote Songs, Dramas, Stories, Novels, Essays, Lyric and Action Songs. He got the highest honour of the world 'Noble Prize' in literature for his poetic work 'Geetanjali'. He was a prominent educationist and the founder of Shanti Niketan. He was also the writer of 'National Anthem'.
6. Subhash Chandra Bose – Born in Cattuck, this illustrious son of mother Bhārata made history making contribution in the freedom struggle of India. Subhash Chandra Bose, famed as 'Netaji' gave a call "Give me blood, I shall give you freedom". He gave the slogan 'March to Delhi' to Azad Hind army for making Bhārata independent and to hoist the tricolour on the capital of country.

Main Festivals –

It is a public anecdote in Bengal "thirteen festivals in twelve months.' but the biggest festive occasion is 'Durga Pūja'. This festival is in fact the welcome and honour of winter. At the festive time of vijyādaśamī, the well decorated idol of the presiding goddess of power is installed in very artistic way. Continuously for nine days the Chandi hymn is recited Obesima to Kālī. Obesiance of Saraswati, Viśwakarmā worship, Gangā Sāgar-fair etc. are the big festivals celebrated here.

Sikkim

Situated in the lap of Himalaya, this state became an inseparable part of Bhāratiya Republic as the 22nd state of India in April 1975 AD. The state has many snow-clad peaks of Himalayan range. The third highest peak of world Kanchenjanga (8579 meter) is situated on the border



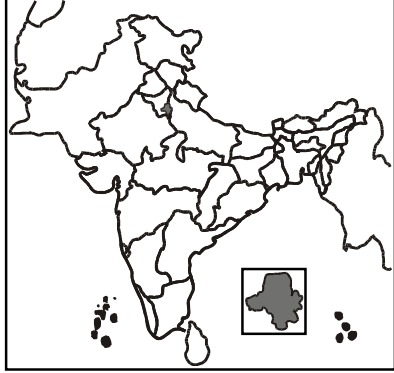
of this state. Several awe-inspiring vallies and glaciers irresistibly attract the tourists. Trisrotā (Tista) is the sacred river of this state. On the bank of this river in the territory of Bangal state, at a place name Trisrota, there is a seat (Pītha) of Goddess of Power.

Vegetation of tremendous diversity is grown here in this state, which includes hundreds of the species of orchid. Gangtok is the capital of Sikkim. Its area extends upto 7096 square K.M. Its population is 6,07,688. Here there is the cultivation of Tea in great area. The Tea is mainly exported to Russia and Germany. Majority of people depend on agriculture for their livelihood. It is famous for the highest production of large brown cardamom in India.

Dilli

Area	–	1483 sq. km
Population	–	1,67,53,235 (According to Census of 2011)
Capital	–	New Delhi
Languages	–	Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu
Literacy	–	86.34%
District	–	11

Geography – This Pradesh is adjacent to the eastern border of Haryana in north India. On its eastern border is the state of Uttar Pradesh.



History – In the ancient times, Dilli was known as Indraprastha which was founded by the Pāṇḍavas. The present city of Dilli was established in the 11th century by a Tomara king. Later it went under the control of the Chauhāns. In the last battle of Tarain (1192AD), Mohammad Gauri took Prithvi Raj to Ghazani where the latter was killed. Thereafter, Dilli came under the Muslim rulers. They ruled it for nearly 600 years. In 1857, following the defeat of Indian soldiers in India's First War of Independence, Emperor Bahadur Shah was dethroned, it was legally made a part of the British Empire. Since the advent of independence of India in 1947, this is the capital of Bhāratīya Gaṇatantra (Indian Republic)

Administration – On November 1, 1965, Dilli became the Union Territory. It has unicameral legislature with 70 members.

Education and Transport – It has five Universities, many colleges and schools. It has city transport service; Most comfortable Metro Rail.

Cultural and tourist centres -

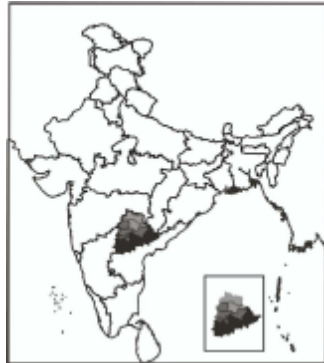
1. **Cultural Centres** – Fort of Prithviraj, Lohstambha (Iron pillar), Yogamāyā Temple, the *siddhapīṭha* of Goddess

Kālikā (Kalka Ji Mandir), Rajghat, (Gandhi Ji's Samādhi), Vijay Ghat (Lal Bahadur Shastri Ji's Samādhi), Old fort of Indraprastha, Birla Mandir, Gurudwara Sheesh Ganj (where Guru Teg Bahadur Ji became a martyr), Bhai Matidas chowk, Gurudwara Bangla Sahab etc.

2. **Tourist Centres** – Rashtrapati Bhawan (Mughal Gardens), Parliament House, Chandni Chowk, Red Fort, Qutab Minar, Vijaya Stambha (Victory Column), Jantar Mantar, India Gate, Vigyan Bhawan, National Museum, Buddha Jayanti Park, Appu Ghar, Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium (the biggest in Asia), Palam International Airport, Aśoka's pillar Akṣara Dham and Chhattarpur Temples etc.

Telangana

Telangana was made India's 29th state on June 2, 2014. It was formerly a part of Andhra Pradesh. Before India's independence it was included in the state of Hyderabad, with two Divisions- Warangal and Medak. At that time there was the rule of Nizam in the region. Currently the total population of the state Telangana is 350.4 lakh according to official data.



Geography-Boundaries : In north and north west, is Maharashtra, in the west is Karnataka; Chhattisgarh is on the north East and Andhra Pradesh is in the east.

Area – 112077 sq kms based on official data.

Rivers – Moosi, Krishna, Manjira and Godavari

Famous city – Hyderabad, Nizamabad, Warangal, Karimnagar

Places of Pilgrimy – Tourist Destination – Basra, Birth place of mother Saraswati, Bhadarakali Mandir (Warangal), The dwelling place of Lord Rama's during Bhadrachalam. Nagarjuna Sagar Dam etc.

Total Districts — 31

The economy — Agriculture is the most important source of economy of Telangana. The main crops of cotton, mango, tobacco are grown locally. The major two rivers Krishna and Godavari are giving this state a good facility of irrigation.

Society and Culture — Most of population speaks Telugu. Here, Diwali, Shriramanavami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Mahashivratri, Bakrid, Eidul Fitr festivals are celebrated. Bataukamama and Lashkar Bonalu are the major festivals of this state.

Prominent Education Centers — Hyderabad University, I.I.T. Hyderabad, National Institute of Technology, Osmania University etc.

2. Progeny of Bhārata–Hindu Society

Indian culture is permeated with the spirit of sacrifice and devotion. The children of Bhārata have set extraordinary examples of devotion to their mothers and fathers; the disciples, of veneration to their Gurus. We must learn about such a galaxy of the jewels of Bhārata who got so immersed in their love of God that they became oblivious of their physical existence –

(अ) “रूप नहीं, रेख नहीं, और नहीं कुल गोत रे॥

बिन देही के साहब म्हारो, झिलमिल झपके जोत रे॥”

(a) He has no face, no form, is without lineage, without clan

My Lord is without a physical frame, a shimmering, truckling light.

(A) _____ has described the formless God in these words. (Singā Jī)

(B) In the year 1486 AD, _____ was born in the house of the mother Śacī Devī and father Jagannātha Miśra. (Caitanya)