

MALUKA IAS

INDIAN ART AND CULTURE



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CHAPTER- 1

AN INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN CULTURE

- Culture plays an important role in the development agenda of any nation.
- It represents a set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices.
- Culture and creativity manifest themselves in almost all economic, social and other activities.
- The mandate of the Ministry of Culture revolves around the functions like preservation and conservation of our cultural heritage and promotion of all forms of art and culture, both tangible and intangible.
- The functional spectrum of this Ministry is wide, ranging from generating cultural awareness at grassroots level to promoting cultural exchanges at international level.

Ministry of Culture



- The Ministry of Culture deals with the preservation and conservation of the country's rich cultural heritage and promotion of art and culture.
- The Ministry functions through two attached offices, six subordinate offices and thirty five autonomous organisations.
- There are seven Zonal Cultural Centres for promoting folk and traditional arts of different regions of the country.
- There are also four National Missions namely National Mission for Manuscripts, National Mission for Monuments and Antiquities,

National Mission on Libraries, and Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission.

- This Ministry is responsible for the protection, development and promotion of both tangible and intangible heritage and culture and also manages several knowledge resource centres.
- In addition, the Ministry is mandated to preserve Gandhian heritage and for commemoration of important historical events and centenaries.
- With regard to tangible heritage, the Ministry takes care of all the centrally protected monuments of national importance, through Archaeological Survey of India. Similarly, the Ministry also promotes the museum movement in the country and majority of the important museums of the country are under its administrative control.
- The Ministry also promotes regional museums through grant -in- aids. Regarding intangible heritage, the Ministry extends financial support to individuals, groups of individuals and cultural organizations engaged in performing visual and literary arts.
- Similarly, the Ministry through its organizations is engaged in recognizing excellence in the field of art and culture by way of awards given by institutions like Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- The National School of Drama is involved in promoting a vibrant theatre movement of contemporary relevance in the context of our traditions and cultural diversity.
- The Ministry is also the custodian of all the major libraries in the country.
- It extends grant-in-aid for library development and is also responsible for all policy matters regarding library development. Through National Archives of India, the Ministry is responsible for maintenance of all archival records of the country.
- The Ministry marks its international presence by way of organizing Festivals of India abroad and is also responsible for implementation of various UNESCO conventions in the field.

Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT)

- The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) is one of the premier institutions working in the field of linking education with culture.
- Established in 1979, pioneered by Smt. Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay and Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan, it functions as an autonomous organization under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- At the philosophical core of the CCRT lies a commitment to holistic education, encompassing the cognitive, emotional and spiritual development of children.
- To this end the CCRT conducts education grounded in cultural knowledge and understanding as conducive to clarity, creativity, independence of thought, tolerance and compassion.
- CCRT has been contributing to the strengthening of the foundation of the nation by making education culture based and meaningful. The CCRT has its headquarters in New Delhi and three Regional Centres at Udaipur in the west, Hyderabad in the south and Guwahati in the north-east to facilitate the widespread dissemination of Indian art and culture. The CCRT revitalizes the education system by creating an understanding and awareness among teachers, students and educational administrators about the plurality of the regional cultures of India and integrating this knowledge with education.
- CCRT's main thrust is to make variety of training programmes for in-service teachers, teacher educators, educational administrators and students throughout the country.
- It also organizes special training programmes for the physically and mentally challenged children.
- The role of culture in science and technology, housing, agriculture, sports i.e. in all aspects of development and growth is emphasized.
- The importance of in-service teachers training was also stressed. Change in educational system

can only be brought about if the teachers have been trained and prepared to understand and recognize the need for changes in the methodologies of teaching.

Main Functions-

- Organizes theoretical and theme based academic programmes on Indian art and culture for teachers and students.
- Conducts Workshops to provide practical training and knowledge in crafts to be incorporated in school curriculum. Various art activities like drama, music, narrative art forms, classical dances, etc. are organized to create an awareness of the regional variations and richness of cultural expressions of our country.
- Organizes various educational activities for school students, teachers and children belonging to governmental and non-governmental organizations under its Extension Services and Community Feedback Programme, to create an awareness of the need for conservation of the natural and cultural heritage
- Collects and develops a library of resources in the form of scripts, digital photographs, audio and video recordings and films with the objective of producing culturally-oriented educational aids to encourage the art and craft forms of rural India and their revival.
- Prepares publications and other audio-visual material which attempt to provide an understanding and appreciation of the different aspects of Indian art and culture
- Implements Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme for providing facilities to young talented children in the 10-14 age groups to study one or the other art form.
- The CCRT also implements some other important policies of the Ministry of Culture, e.g., awarding Scholarship to Young Artiste, Junior and Senior Fellowships focusing on "in-depth study/ research" in various facets of culture, these include New Emerging Areas of Cultural Studies. The CCRT has started organizing training programmes on arts

management under NICHM Scheme, a new initiative of Ministry of Cultural, Govt. of India.

- The CCRT is also implementing Cultural Heritage Young Leadership Programme, aimed at promotion of social values and community engagement amongst the youth of the Country.



CHAPTER- 2

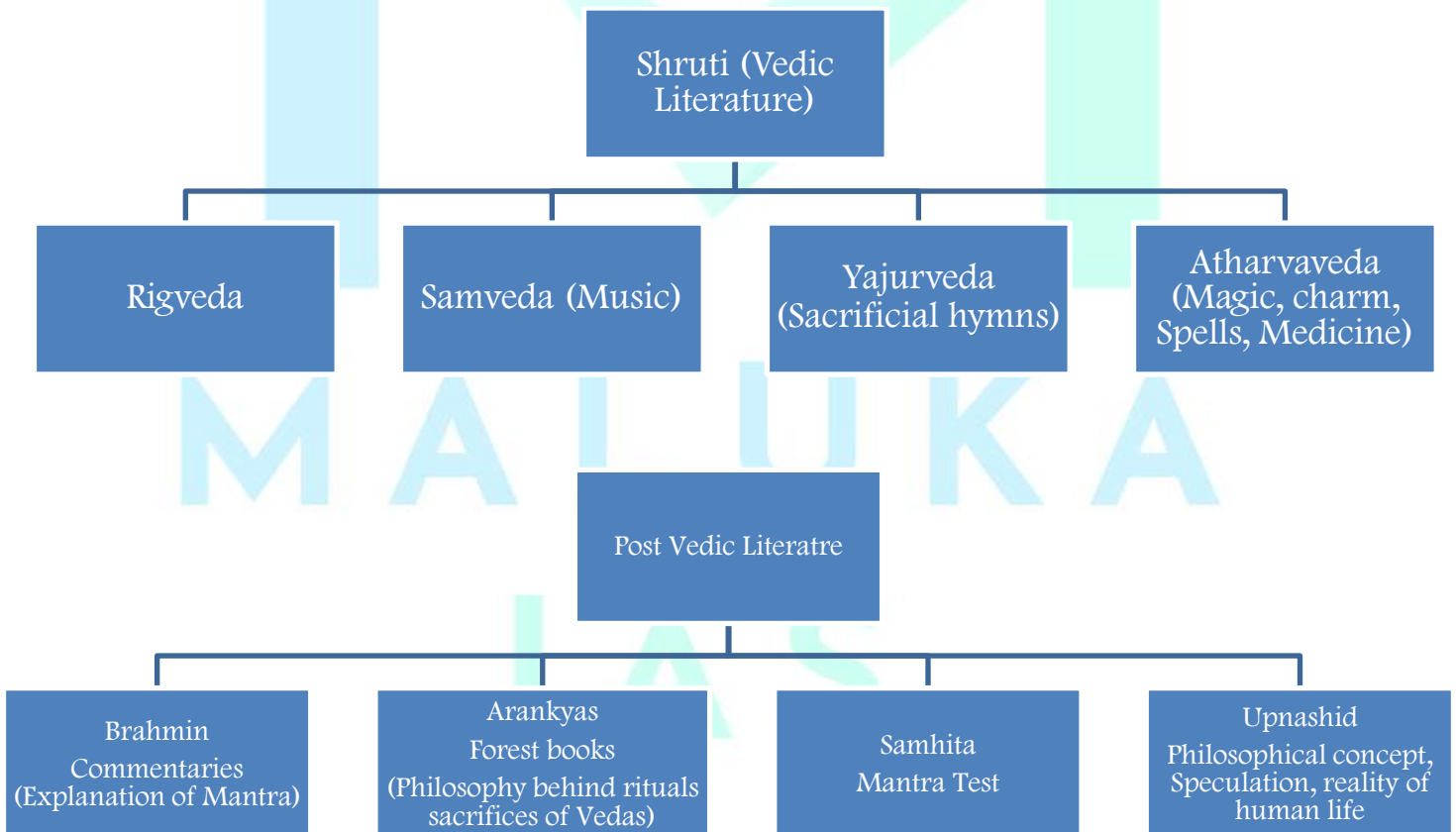
RELIGION IN INDIA

India is a Secular State by the 42nd amendment act of Constitution in 1976. The Indian subcontinent is the birthplace of four of the world's major religions; namely Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism.



Hinduism

It borrows its basic principle from Pre-Vedic and Vedic philosophies



Initially religious sacrifices and offering done in open air, but later Puja and worship of divine

powers or its image began with this Hinduism became a religion with holy books, area of worship and priest to mediate with God.

In Upanishads there are 4 stages in life-

Ashram System-

Brahmacharya- 25

Grihastya- 25

Vanaprastha- 25

Sanyasi- 25

Sects under Hinduism-

Vaishnavism-

- It is focused on worshipping of Vishnu. Vaishnavites lead a way of life promoting differentiated monotheism, which gives importance to Lord Vishnu and His ten incarnations.
- Its beliefs and practices, especially the concepts of Bhakti and Bhakti Yoga, are based largely on the Upanishads, and associated with the Vedas and Puranic texts such as the Bhagavad Gita, and the Padma, Vishnu and Bhagavata Puranas.
- Awareness, recognition, and growth of the belief have significantly increased outside of India in recent years. The Gaudiya Vaishnava branch of the tradition has significantly increased the awareness of Vaishnavism internationally, since the mid-1900s, largely through the activities and geographical expansion of the Hare Krishna movement founded by A. C.
- Bhakti Vedanta Swami Prabhupada in New York City in 1966.

Shaivism-

- Shaivism reveres the god Shiva as the Supreme Being. Shaivas believe that Shiva is All and in all, the creator, preserver, destroyer, revealer and concealer of all that is.

- Devotees of Shiva wear sacred ash as a sectarian mark on their foreheads and other parts of their bodies with reverence.
- The Sanskrit words bhasma and vibhuti can both be translated as “sacred ash”. Shaivism has a vast literature that includes texts representing multiple philosophical schools, including non-dualist (abheda), dualist (bheda), and non-dual-with-dualism (bhedābheda) perspectives.

Shaktism-

- Shaktism focuses worship upon Shakti or Devi – the Hindu Divine Mother – as the absolute, ultimate Godhead. Shaktism regards Devi as the Supreme Brahman itself, with all other forms of divinity, female or male, considered being merely her diverse manifestations.
- In the details of its philosophy and practice, Shaktism resembles Shaivism. However, Shaktas focus most or all worship on Shakti, as the dynamic feminine aspect of the Supreme Divine.
- Shaktism is practiced throughout the Indian subcontinent and beyond, in numerous forms, both Tantric and non-Tantric; however, its two largest and most visible schools are the Srikula (lit., family of Sri), strongest in South India, and the Kalikula (family of Kali), which prevails in northern and eastern India.

Smartism-

- Smartism is a liberal or nonsectarian denomination of the Vedic Hindu religion which accepts all the major Hindu deities as forms of the one Brahman.
- The term Smarta refers to adherents who follow the Vedas and Shastras. Only a section of south Indian Brahmins call themselves Smartas now
- Smartas are followers and propagators of Smriti or religious texts derived from Vedic scriptures. Smarta religion was practiced by people who believed in the authority of the Vedas as well as the basic premise of Puranas.
- As a consequence usually only a Brahmin preferred to use this term to refer to his family tradition.