

8

How the Land Becomes Sacred

Section A: Fill in the blanks.

- Sacredness can be a special location or _____ that evokes deep feelings, high thoughts, or emotions.
- In Sikhism, Sikhs aspire to undertake _____ to important sites associated with Sikh Gurus.
- The Great Stupa at Sanchi (Madhya Pradesh) is a relic _____.
- The Kumbh Mela originates in the legend of _____ manthana.
- In Jainism, trees, ponds, hills, and mountains that the Tirthankaras visited or meditated at are also considered _____.
- The Char Dham Yatra connects _____ sacred sites in India.
- The _____ River is considered a goddess in Hinduism.
- _____ is the sacred site in Bodh Gaya where Buddha attained enlightenment.
- _____ are sacred sites linked to the goddess Shakti in India.
- The Kumbh Mela is held every _____ years at four sacred river sites.

Section B: Match the following.

A	B	Ans.
a. Kumbh Mela	i. The place of Buddha's enlightenment	a. _____
b. Peepul tree	ii. Sacred to Hindus, especially for Shiva	b. _____
c. Char Dham Yatra	iii. Goddess Ganga worshipped here	c. _____
d. Takht Sri Patna Sahib	iv. A pilgrimage to four sacred river sites	d. _____
e. Sabarimala Temple	v. Sacred tree in multiple religions	e. _____

Section C: Choose the correct option and tick (✓) the right answer.

- Which of the following religions did not originate in India?

a. Buddhism	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Sikhism	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Islam	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Jainism	<input type="checkbox"/>
- The Dongria Khond tribe worships which hill?

a. Nanda Devi	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Girnar	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Shatrunjaya	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Niyam Dongar	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. The Bodhi Tree is sacred to:
- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| a. Buddhists | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Jains | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Hindus | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Parsis | <input type="checkbox"/> |
4. Which sacred place is associated with the Rama legend in Chhattisgarh?
- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| a. Vaishno Devi | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Bastar | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Sanchi | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Prayagraj | <input type="checkbox"/> |
5. What are Shakti piṭhas symbolically formed from?
- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| a. Temples | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Stories | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Sati's body parts | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Ashes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
6. Sikkim government protected sacred sites like:
- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| a. Caves | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Lakes | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. All of these | <input type="checkbox"/> |
7. Peepul tree has what type of medical value?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| a. Treats stomach issues | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Tooth pain | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Headache | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
8. Which of these is considered sacred in Meghalaya?
- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| a. Sarna | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Ryngkew/Basa | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Oran | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Ganga | <input type="checkbox"/> |
9. What symbolised a connection from earth to heaven?
- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| a. Temple pillars | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Roads | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Rivers | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Mountains | <input type="checkbox"/> |
10. The Uttarapatha was an important:
- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| a. River | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Temple | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Trade route | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Scripture | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Section D: Write T for True and F for False in the box.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. A pilgrimage is only meant for recreation and travel. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. In the Jain tradition, even trees and ponds can be considered sacred. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Sabarimala receives only a few hundred visitors each year. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. A Tirthankara is a preacher and spiritual guide in Jainism. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Pilgrimage routes were always located in cities and plains. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Hilltop shrines often require effort to reach, symbolising inner discipline. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Mount Abu is a significant pilgrimage site for Buddhists. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8. Sacred journeys often involve self-control and discipline.
9. Sabarimala is in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
10. Pilgrimages contribute to both spiritual and cultural life.

☐
☐
☐

Section E: One Word Answer.

1. An important pilgrimage site for followers of Jainism in Gujarat: _____
2. In India, the confluence of rivers is called: _____
3. The peepul tree is also known as: _____
4. The founder of Sikhism: _____
5. The shrine of Sabarimala is in: _____
6. The Mahabodhi Stupa is located in: _____
7. The 12 jyotirlingas are dedicated to which deity: _____
8. Shakti Piṭhas are associated with: _____
9. The Kumbh Mela is linked to the legend of: _____
10. A sacred grove in Kannada is called: _____

Section F: Answer the following questions.

1. What does the term 'sacredness' mean in the context of this chapter?

Ans. _____

2. How is the land considered sacred in Hindu and tribal traditions?

Ans. _____

3. What is a pilgrimage, and why is it significant in Indian culture?

Ans. _____

4. Why are rivers like Ganga and Yamuna considered sacred in India?

Ans. _____

5. What is the role of sacred groves in preserving biodiversity?

Ans. _____

6. How does the concept of sacred geography contribute to India's cultural integration?

Ans. _____

7. What makes the Niyam Dongar hill sacred to the Dongria Khond tribe?

Ans. _____

8. Why is the Mahabodhi Stupa in Bodh Gaya important for Buddhists?

Ans. _____

9. What is the significance of the Kumbh Mela in Indian tradition?

Ans. _____

10. How do sacred places contribute to environmental conservation in India?

Ans. _____

Section G: Long Answer Questions.

1. Discuss the connection between nature and sacredness in Indian traditions.

Ans. _____

2. Describe the role of sacred places in uniting communities and preserving culture.

Ans. _____

3. How do sacred places help in the preservation of biodiversity? Give examples.

Ans. _____

4. Explain the significance of sacred geography in different religious traditions in India.

Ans. _____

Section H:: Assertion and Reasoning.

Assertion (A): Sacred trees are often left untouched due to their religious value.

Reason (R): People fear punishment from gods if they harm sacred trees.

Options:

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.
- (d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

Ans. _____

Answer**Section A: Fill in the blanks**

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. shrine | 5. sacred | 9. Shakti Peethas |
| 2. pilgrimages | 6. four | 10. twelve |
| 3. stupa | 7. Ganga | |
| 4. samudra | 8. Mahabodhi Stupa | |

Section B: Match the following

- | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| 1. a – iv | 2. b – v | 3. c – ii | 4. d – i | 5. e – iii |
|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|

Section C: MCQs

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. c. Islam | 5. c. Sati's body parts | 9. d. Mountains |
| 2. d. Niyam Dongar | 6. d. All of these | 10. c. Trade route |
| 3. a. Buddhists | 7. a. Treats stomach issues | |
| 4. b. Bastar | 8. b. Ryngkew/Basa | |

Section D: True or False

- | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. False | 2. True | 3. False | 4. True | 5. False |
| 6. True | 7. False | 8. True | 9. False | 10. True |

Section E: One Word Answer

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. Shatrunjaya | 5. Kerala | 9. Samudra manthan |
| 2. Sangam | 6. Bodh Gaya | 10. Devara kaadu |
| 3. Bodhi tree | 7. Shiva | |
| 4. Guru Nanak | 8. Durga | |

Section F: Short Answer Questions

- Sacredness means something spiritually or religiously significant, worthy of reverence, and connected deeply with belief, tradition, or inner journey.
- In Hindu and tribal traditions, land is considered sacred due to associations with deities, myths, natural forces, or ancestral spirits. Hills, rivers, and forests are revered.
- A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place. In Indian culture, it fosters spiritual growth, connects people across regions, and strengthens unity.
- Ganga and Yamuna are sacred because they are seen as goddesses, purify sins, and have mythological and spiritual relevance.
- Sacred groves preserve biodiversity by preventing deforestation. People protect them due to religious belief, allowing flora and fauna to flourish.
- Sacred geography links regions spiritually, fosters shared culture, and unifies people through collective worship and pilgrimages.
- The Niyam Dongar hill is sacred to the Dongria Khond tribe as it is believed to be the abode of their deity Niyam Raja, who sustains their life.
- The Mahabodhi Stupa is significant because it marks the spot where Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree.

9. The Kumbh Mela is a grand pilgrimage occurring at four river locations, rooted in the legend of the nectar of immortality (amrit) from samudra manthan.
10. Sacred places discourage exploitation, protecting forests, water bodies, and hills. Faith-based respect leads to ecological conservation.

Section G: Long Answer Questions

1. Nature and sacredness are interlinked in Indian traditions. Rivers, forests, and hills are personified as deities. Sacred groves preserve biodiversity. This reverence ensures conservation of nature.
2. Sacred places unite communities through shared festivals and pilgrimages. They preserve oral traditions, local crafts, and religious values, creating a shared cultural identity.
3. Sacred places like sacred groves (Devara Kaadu) or forests around temples are often untouched, conserving rare species. Communities preserve them due to spiritual value, indirectly protecting biodiversity.
4. In Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and tribal traditions, geography is sacred — rivers are goddesses, mountains are holy, forests house spirits. Sacred geography fosters respect and unity across religions.

Section H: Assertion and Reasoning

Assertion (A): Sacred trees are often left untouched due to their religious value.

Reason (R): People fear punishment from gods if they harm sacred trees.

Answer:

(a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).