

## 1

# Bharat Our Land

## Summary

The poem is a tribute to India, praising its natural beauty, rich culture, and spiritual heritage. The poet describes the Himavant (Himalayas) as mighty and unmatched, and the Ganga as generous and graceful. He highlights the importance of the Upanishads, which represent India's deep wisdom and philosophy.

The poet also mentions the bravery of warriors and the wisdom of sages, who have made the land sacred. He praises India's music, culture, and auspicious qualities. The poem further refers to Brahma-knowledge and the teachings of Buddha, showing India's strong spiritual roots.

Finally, the poet calls India a land of great antiquity and glory, and repeatedly urges everyone to praise the nation, calling it peerless (without equal).

### **Message of the poem:**

- The poem conveys a deep sense of pride and admiration for India's rich heritage, natural beauty, and spiritual wisdom.
- It encourages us to respect, value, and praise our country for its uniqueness and greatness.

## New Terms

- **Himavant** – The Himalayas (great mountain range)
- **Generous** – Giving; benevolent
- **Upanishads** – Ancient philosophical texts forming the last part of the Vedas
- **Peerless** – Without equal; unmatched
- **Gallant** – Brave and heroic
- **Sage** – A wise person/saint
- **Sanctified** – Made holy or pure
- **Divinest music** – Sacred music that connects the human soul with the divine
- **Auspicious** – Lucky; favourable
- **Brahma-knowledge** – Spiritual knowledge about ultimate truth
- **Dhamma** – Teachings of Buddha (moral law)
- **Hoary antiquity / Antiquity** – Very ancient times; distant past



## Reflect and Respond

I. Recall the lines of the National Anthem and complete the table given below with the names of the states, mountain ranges, and rivers mentioned in it.

States/Provinces	Mountain Ranges	Rivers
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Ans.

States/Provinces	Mountain Ranges	Rivers
<u>Punjab</u> <u>Sindh</u>	<u>Vindhya</u>	<u>Ganga</u>
<u>Gujarat</u> <u>Maratha</u>	<u>Himachala</u>	<u>Yamuna</u>
<u>Dravida</u> <u>Utkala</u>		
<u>Banga</u>		

II. Work in pairs. Discuss what the words 'जय हे' (Jaya he) in the last two lines of the National Anthem convey. Share your answer with your classmates and teacher.

Ans. 'Jaya he' means "Victory to thee" or "Hail to you".

It conveys a feeling of respect, pride, and praise for the nation, expressing a wish for India's glory and success.

III. Read the underlined words in the given lines of the poem. Choose the odd one out that does not correspond with the meaning of the underlined word.

1. She's peerless, let's praise her!

valuable, incomparable, unmatched

Ans. Valuable - 'Peerless' means unique, incomparable, or unmatched (having no equal). While India is valuable, the word 'valuable' does not mean peerless.

2. Many a sage has sanctified this land.

blessed, purified, applauded

Ans. Applauded - 'Sanctified' means to make holy, bless, or purify. 'Applauded' simply means praised or clapped for, which lacks the spiritual/holy meaning.

3. And here all auspicious things are found.

fortunate, fantastic, favourable

Ans. Fantastic - 'Auspicious' means promising success, fortunate, or favourable (like an auspicious occasion). 'Fantastic' means extraordinary or great, but it doesn't mean lucky or favorable.

4. Of hoary antiquity is Bharat,

ancient times, recent past, time immemorial

Ans. Recent past - 'Hoary antiquity' refers to something incredibly old, dating back to ancient times or time immemorial. 'Recent past' is the exact opposite.



## Check Your Understanding

I. Fill in the blanks by choosing appropriate words from the box given below to complete the summary of the poem.

warriors	peerless	Upanishads
Ganga	Buddha	Himavant
sages	praise	historical greatness
Brahma-knowledge		

The poem is a tribute to India, celebrating its natural beauty, spiritual heritage, and 1. \_\_\_\_\_. The poet praises the 2. \_\_\_\_\_, describing it as mighty and unparalleled. The 3. \_\_\_\_\_ is depicted as generous and graceful, while the 4. \_\_\_\_\_ are honoured as sacred and unmatched. The poem highlights the contributions of 5. \_\_\_\_\_ and 6. \_\_\_\_\_ who have enriched the land with their bravery and wisdom. It also acknowledges the presence of 7. \_\_\_\_\_ and the teachings of 8. \_\_\_\_\_, highlighting India's deep-rooted spiritual and philosophical traditions. The poet repeatedly asserts that India is 9. \_\_\_\_\_, urging everyone to 10. \_\_\_\_\_ her.

Ans. The poem is a tribute to India, celebrating its natural beauty, spiritual heritage, and greatness. The poet praises the Himavant, describing it as mighty and unparalleled. The Ganga is depicted as generous and graceful, while the Upanishads are honoured as sacred and unmatched. The poem highlights the contributions of warriors and sages who have enriched the land with their bravery and wisdom. It also acknowledges the presence of Brahma-knowledge and the teachings of Buddha, highlighting India's deep-rooted spiritual and philosophical traditions. The poet repeatedly asserts that India is peerless, urging everyone to praise her.

- |              |                     |           |               |             |
|--------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. greatness | 2. Himavant         | 3. Ganga  | 4. Upanishads | 5. warriors |
| 6. sages     | 7. Brahma-knowledge | 8. Buddha | 9. peerless   | 10. praise  |

II. Complete the following features about the poem.

- The impact on the readers (mood): \_\_\_\_\_
- The poet's attitude (tone): \_\_\_\_\_
- The rhyme scheme: \_\_\_\_\_
- Examples of personification: \_\_\_\_\_

Ans.

- Mood: Patriotic and inspiring
- Tone: Admiring and respectful
- Rhyme scheme: Irregular / free verse
- Personification: India is described as 'she' and given human qualities

III. What is the impact of the refrain, 'she's peerless, let's praise her!'?

Ans. The refrain 'she's peerless, let's praise her!' creates a strong feeling of pride and admiration for India. It emphasises that the country is unique and unmatched, and encourages readers to respect, celebrate, and honour its greatness.

IV. Complete the following sentence appropriately.

India is metaphorically described as 'this sunny golden land,' suggesting that it is \_\_\_\_\_.

Ans. India is metaphorically described as 'this sunny golden land,' suggesting that it is rich, prosperous, and full of beauty.

**V. The poet uses symbolism. Match the symbols in Column 1 to what they suggest in Column 2.**

Column 1	Column 2
1. Himavant	(i) knowledge and enlightenment
2. Ganga	(ii) spiritual and philosophical legacy
3. Upanishads	(iii) purity and generosity
4. Gallant warriors and sages	(iv) richness and glory
5. Brahma-knowledge and Buddha's Dhamma	(v) strength and permanence
6. Sunny golden land	(vi) courage and wisdom

**Ans.** Symbolism matching:

Column 1	Column 2
1. Himavant	(v) strength and permanence
2. Ganga	(iii) purity and generosity
3. Upanishads	(ii) spiritual and philosophical legacy
4. Gallant warriors and sages	(vi) courage and wisdom
5. Brahma-knowledge and Buddha's Dhamma	(i) knowledge and enlightenment
6. Sunny golden land	(iv) richness and glory

**VI. The poet uses imagery (descriptive language to create vivid mental pictures that appeal to the senses). Give any two examples from the poem.**

**Ans.**

- Visual Imagery:** "The mighty Himavant is ours" — This creates a powerful, majestic mental picture of the towering, snow-capped Himalayan mountains.
- Visual and Kinetic Imagery:** "The generous Ganga goes its way" — This evokes a vivid, serene image of a wide, flowing river gracefully moving through the landscape.

**VII. What is the impact of the use of hyphens in the first stanza? Select the options that are true.**

1.	Creates deliberate pauses to reinforce the sense of admiration and pride
2.	Emphasises the contrast between India's strengths and weaknesses
3.	Lends to the lyrical quality giving it a measured, chant-like rhythm
4.	Suggests hesitation or uncertainty in the poet's claims about India
5.	Presents a key element of India's greatness before the hyphen and makes a strong assertion about its uniqueness after the hyphen

**Ans.** The options that are true are: 1, 3, and 5:

- 1. Creates deliberate pauses to reinforce the sense of admiration and pride
- 3. Lends to the lyrical quality giving it a measured, chant-like rhythm
- 5. Presents a key element of India's greatness before the hyphen and makes a strong assertion about its uniqueness after the hyphen

### VIII. The poet uses hyperbole in the poem.

Hyperbole (hi-puh-buh-lee) is a figure of speech that involves extreme exaggeration to highlight a point or create a dramatic effect. It is not meant to be taken literally but is used to make something sound more impressive or intense.

For example:

- My luggage weighs a tonne. Does the luggage actually weigh a tonne?
- She was so happy that her smile was a mile wide. Can a smile be a mile wide?

**Ans.** An example of hyperbole in the poem is "she's peerless", which exaggerates India as completely unmatched to highlight its greatness.

### IX. The poem is an ode.

An ode is a lyrical poem that expresses deep admiration, praise, or reverence for a person, place, object, or idea. It is often written in an elevated and formal style, celebrating the subject with enthusiasm and emotion. An ode's language is often grand and expressive; and it seeks to highlight the extraordinary qualities of its subject.

**Now, identify examples from the poem that correspond to it being an ode.**

**Ans.**

- The poet praises India as "peerless" and urges everyone to admire her.
- He glorifies India's natural beauty (Himavant, Ganga) and spiritual heritage (Upanishads, Buddha).
- The poem uses grand and expressive language to show deep admiration and respect for the nation.

### X. The poet uses allusion in the poem.

Allusion is a literary device where a writer makes an indirect reference to a well-known person, place, event, literary work, or cultural element without explicitly mentioning it. The reader is expected to recognise and understand the reference based on prior knowledge. Allusions can come from mythology, religion, literature, history, or popular culture.

For example: He is a real Einstein in the mathematics class. (This alludes to Albert Einstein, meaning the student is very intelligent, especially in mathematics or science.)

Now, read the explanations and identify the matching allusions from the poem for the following.

- An allusion to the ancient Indian scriptures that form the philosophical core and symbolise deep wisdom and enlightenment.
- An allusion to the concept of spiritual knowledge associated with self-realisation and ultimate truth.
- An allusion to Gautama Buddha's teachings, which include compassion, non-violence, and enlightenment. This highlights India's role in shaping major religious and philosophical traditions.

Ans.

- An allusion to the ancient Indian scriptures → Upanishads
- An allusion to spiritual knowledge and ultimate truth → Brahma-knowledge
- An allusion to Gautama Buddha's teachings → Buddha's Dhamma



### Critical Reflection

I. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

The mighty Himavant is ours—  
there's no equal anywhere on earth.  
The generous Ganga is ours—  
which other river can match her grace?  
The sacred Upanishads are ours—  
what scriptures else to name with them?

1. Complete the sentence.

The word 'mighty' refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Himavant.

Ans. The word 'mighty' refers to the strength and grandeur of the Himavant.

2. Choose the correct option to complete the sentence given below.

The question mark at the end of the fourth and sixth line of the extract is used to \_\_\_\_\_.

- show doubt and uncertainty
- emphasise a point
- highlight confusion and hesitation
- reveal inquiry and curiosity

Ans. (ii) emphasise a point

(These are rhetorical questions, meaning the answers are already obvious—no other river or scripture can match them).

3. The poet uses the word 'generous' to describe the Ganga. Why?

Ans. The poet calls the Ganga 'generous' because it selflessly nurtures millions of lives. It flows down from the mountains to provide abundant freshwater, create fertile agricultural plains, and endlessly sustain the livelihoods and civilisations of India without demanding anything in return.

4. Why has the movement of the river been described as graceful?

Ans. The movement of the river is described as graceful because its continuous, fluid flow through hills, valleys, and plains looks elegant, peaceful, and artistically beautiful to the eyes.

5. Fill in the blank with the correct option from the words given in the brackets.

- The poet is implying that the Upanishads are \_\_\_\_\_ (unmatched/abundant) in their wisdom and spiritual depth.

Ans. unmatched

## II. Answer the following questions.

### 1. How does the poem reflect a strong connection to cultural identity and heritage?

**Ans.** It highlights India's mountains, rivers, scriptures, and sages, showing its rich cultural and spiritual traditions.

### 2. What can you infer about the poet's attitude towards India from the repeated phrase 'she's peerless, let's praise her!'?

**Ans.** From this repeated refrain, we can infer that the poet's attitude is filled with intense patriotism, deep reverence, and absolute devotion. By calling India "peerless" (having no equal), the poet highlights an unconditional admiration and a desire to inspire citizens to celebrate and worship the unmatched glory of their motherland.

### 3. What does the line 'many a sage has sanctified this land' suggest about India's spiritual heritage?

**Ans.** This line suggests that India's spiritual foundation is ancient, deep, and sacred. It implies that the country is not just a geographical piece of land, but a holy soil that has been purified, blessed, and enriched over millennia by the prayers, meditation, wisdom, and moral righteousness of enlightened saints.

### 4. How does the poet connect warriors and music to India's greatness?

**Ans.** He shows that India is great due to its brave warriors and rich cultural traditions like music.

### 5. How does this poem foster a sense of national pride?

**Ans.** It praises India's beauty, heritage, and achievements, making readers feel proud of their country.



## Vocabulary in Context

### I. Complete the table by choosing words from the poem.

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-ous	full of, having the qualities of kindness	1. _____ous
-ity	the state of being very old or ancient	2. _____ity
-est	superlative form	3. _____est
-less	without something	4. _____less

**Ans.**

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
• -ous	full of, having the qualities of kindness	generous
• -ity	the state of being very old or ancient	antiquity
• -est	superlative form	mightiest
• -less	without something	peerless

### II. Complete the following table by adding a different suffix to form new words. Also, create a sentence using the created word. One example has been done for you.

Suffix	Meaning	Sentences
-tion	the action or process of	Example: indicate—indication The dark clouds were an indication that it would rain soon. 1.
-ive	quality or nature of	2.
-ment	the action or result of	3.
-ed	past-tense version of a verb	4.

Ans.

Suffix	Meaning	Sentences
• <b>-tion</b>	the action or process of	The dark clouds were an <b>indication</b> that it would rain soon.
• <b>-ive</b>	quality or nature of	She has a very <b>creative</b> mind and loves painting.
• <b>-ment</b>	the action or result of	His hard work led to great <b>achievement</b> in exams.
• <b>-ed</b>	past-tense version of a verb	She <b>completed</b> her homework on time.



### Listen and Respond

I. You will listen to four people talk about the places they like to travel to. As you listen, write the speaker number for the two pictures given. (Transcript for teacher on page 260)



1. Speaker No. \_\_\_\_



2. Speaker No. \_\_\_\_

**Ans.** Looking at the images:

Picture 1 (person taking photos / enjoying scenery)

→ Matches: "The sight of such beauty is very inviting and has to be captured."

➔ Speaker No. 1

Picture 2 (person climbing a rocky mountain)

→ Matches: "The risk and thrill in such an area is what is most appealing."

➔ Speaker No. 4

Final Answers:

Speaker No. 1

Speaker No. 4

II. You will once again listen to the four speakers. As you listen, match the given statements to the speaker. There are two statements that you do not need. (Transcript for teacher on page 260)

Statement	Speaker
1. The green surroundings look beautiful visually.	
2. The group visits make even the difficult areas seem easy.	
3. The quietness of the environment here leads to a peaceful experience.	
4. The risk and thrill in such an area is what is most appealing.	
5. The dry expanse promises to appeal to the spirit of exploration.	
6. The sight of such beauty is very inviting and has to be captured.	

Ans.

Statement	Speaker
1. The green surroundings look beautiful visually.	Speaker 1
2. The group visits make even the difficult areas seem easy.	Speaker 3
3. The quietness of the environment here leads to a peaceful experience.	Speaker 2
4. The risk and thrill in such an area is what is most appealing.	Speaker 4
5. The dry expanse promises to appeal to the spirit of exploration.	Speaker 4
6. The sight of such beauty is very inviting and has to be captured.	Speaker 1



### Speaking Activity

I. In pairs, take turns to speak about the aspects of your village/town/city that you feel are an asset. It could be about geographical, cultural, traditional features, or even its history.



Use these cues to express your praise and admiration.

1. One thing that I find truly wonderful about my village/town/city is...
2. If I had to describe my village/town/city in one word, it would be...
3. I have always been fascinated by the way the people of my village/town/city...

4. What I want other people to know about my village/town/city is...
5. When it comes to the scenery, my village/town/city truly shines because...
6. I feel a deep sense of pride when I think about my village/town/city...

**Ans.** Speaking Activity (Sample Response)

1. One thing that I find truly wonderful about my city is its rich culture and lively atmosphere.
2. If I had to describe my city in one word, it would be vibrant.
3. I have always been fascinated by the way the people of my city celebrate festivals together with great joy and unity.
4. What I want other people to know about my city is that it is not only modern but also deeply rooted in tradition.
5. When it comes to the scenery, my city truly shines because of its beautiful parks, rivers, and historic buildings.
6. I feel a deep sense of pride when I think about my city because it represents diversity, progress, and cultural heritage.



### Writing Task

**I. Write a paragraph about a place that you have visited which has stayed in your memory.**

**Remember to mention the following:**

- Why did you go there?
- Who did you travel with?
- How did you prepare for the travel?
- Where did you stay?
- What activities did you do there?

**Ans.** A place that has stayed in my memory is Goa, which I visited during my summer vacation. I went there to relax and explore its beautiful beaches. I travelled with my family, and we were all very excited about the trip. Before travelling, we packed light clothes, sunscreen, and made a list of places we wanted to visit. We stayed in a small beachside hotel, which had a wonderful view of the sea. During our stay, we enjoyed many activities like swimming, building sandcastles, visiting churches, and trying delicious local food. The sound of the waves and the peaceful atmosphere made the trip unforgettable.

One Point Learning