

PREFACE TO THE REPRINT

This volume of the Gazetteer of India was first published in 1965 and the public response has been very encouraging. The entire 5000 copies were sold out in a very short time. Since then, major changes in the political map of India have taken place. There has been some change in the Indo-Pakistan boundary in the Gujarat sector. The number of States of the Indian Union have increased from 15 to 21. Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura have become States. Chandigarh (capital of the erstwhile Punjab), Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh have become Union Territories. Among the languages recognised by the Indian Constitution, Sindhi has also found a place. Dogri, which is one of the important languages of the north-western Himalayan region of the country, has been recognised as a regional language by the Jammu and Kashmir State. The figures of the 1971 census are also available now.

The changes mentioned above would affect the text to a great extent. It has, therefore, been decided to bring out a revised edition of this volume. Since this volume is only a reprint of the earlier edition, no changes in the maps and the text have been carried out.

Meanwhile, some chapters of this volume, such as Physiography, People and Languages, have been published separately in the form of booklets in view of their wider appeal and utility. The idea is to provide to the general public, especially the university students, low-priced publications containing valuable, authentic and objective information on these subjects by well-known experts in their respective fields. It is my earnest hope that these booklets will meet the ever-growing requirements of the readers in India and abroad.

I am grateful to Professor S. Nurul Hasan, Minister of Education and Social Welfare and Culture, Shri I. D. N. Sahi, Secretary, Ministry of Education & Social Welfare and Shri Mohan Mukerji, Additional Secretary, Department of Culture, for the keen interest they have consistently been taking in this work. I also take this opportunity to thank my colleagues Dr. L. M. Gujral, Dr. Neelakshi Sen Gupta, Shri L. C. Goswami, Dr. Dayal Dass, Dr. B. N. Sharma and Shri P. R. Chopra for assisting me in bringing out this reprint.

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P. N. CHOPRA,
Editor