

FOREWORD

I have pleasure in introducing to the reading public the second Volume of the Gazetteer of India which deals with "History and Culture". It is not to be considered as a revised version of the corresponding volume of the Imperial Gazetteer of India. It has been entirely re-written, following a completely different plan. Emphasis has been shifted from political history, which has been given only as a background. The many facets of our rich and varied cultural life through the ages have been given due importance. Important landmarks in the development of various regional languages of India have been mentioned. It has been shown that in spite of the apparent diversity, there is an underlying unity and this volume presents a coherent picture of our history and culture from the earliest times.

The approach to the subjects treated in this volume is essentially Indian. Every effort has been made to analyse the various forces and influences that were at work at different times and which contributed to the process of social change and shaped subsequent history. The history of India's struggle for freedom has been given proper emphasis and every effort has been made to tell the story of our country's emancipation with veracity and precision.

The contributors to this volume are men of distinction in their chosen fields. They have lent to this work the benefit of their profound scholarship. I hope it will be welcomed not only by students and scholars of history, but by all those interested in the history and culture of India, whether in this country or abroad.

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