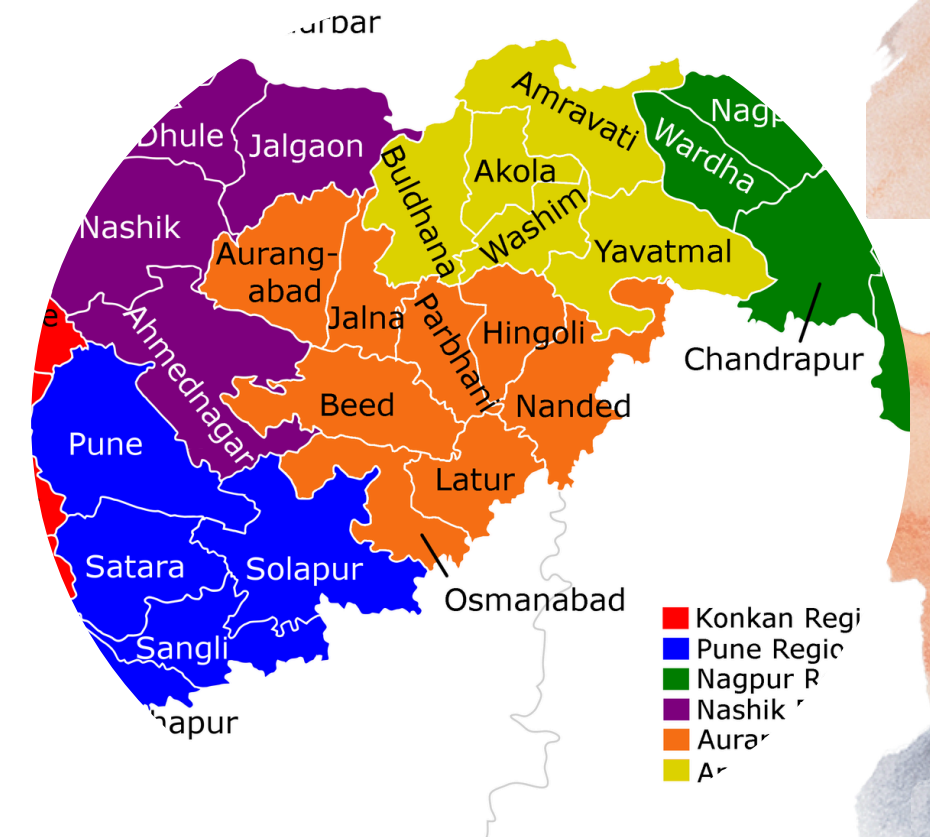


# Maharashtra - Mumbai

Marathi language, Indo-Aryan language of western and central India. Its range extends from north of Mumbai down the western coast past Goa and eastward across the Deccan; in 1966 it became the official language of the state of Maharashtra. The standard form of speech is that of the city of Pune (Poona).

In the 13th century, two Brahmanical sects arose, the Mahanubhava and the Varakari Panth, that both shaped Marathi literature significantly. The latter sect was perhaps the more productive, for it became associated with bhakti movements, particularly with the popular cult of Vitthoba at Pandharpur.



The great names of early Marathi literature came: Jnaneshvara, in the 13th century; Namdev, his younger contemporary, some of whose devotional songs are included in the holy book of the Sikhs, the Adi Granth; and the 16th-century writer Eknath, whose best-known work is a Marathi version of the 11th book of the Bhagavata-purana. Among the bhakti poets of Maharashtra, the most famous is Tukaram, who wrote in the 16th century. A unique contribution of Marathi is the tradition of povadas, heroic stories popular among a martial people.

The modern period in Marathi poetry began with Kesavasut and was influenced by 19th-century British Romanticism and liberalism, European nationalism, and the greatness of the history of Maharashtra. Among modern dramatists, S.K. Kolhatkar and R.G. Gadkari were notable. Realism was first brought to the stage in the 20th century by Mama Varerkar, who addressed many social issues.

Balshastri Jambhekar (1812–1846) is recognized as the father of Marathi journalism and a pioneer of modern Marathi literature for launching Darpan, the first Marathi newspaper in 1832. While he is not the sole creator of Marathi language, his work was crucial in developing Marathi prose and journalism, making him a major figure in the state's literary history.



Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan (All India Marathi Literary Conference) is an annual conference for literary discussions by Marathi writers started in 1878

99th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan: The premier Marathi literary gathering took place in Satara from January 1 to 4, 2026, at the Chhatrapati Shahu Stadium. Presided over by author Vishwas Patil, the event featured a massive book exhibition, poetry sessions (kavikatta), and discussions on Marathi identity.

