

## Reading C

## Mainpat

Famously known as the Shimla of Chhattisgarh, Mainpat is a plateau located at a height of 1099 m from the sea level. Out of this area 226 sq.km. is a dense forest cover. This entire plateau is called Mainpat.

Spread over an area of 368 sq.km., this plateau offers breathtaking views of mother nature. Melodiously singing streams, gracefully flowing tranquil rivers, and dense forests brimming with rich flora and fauna enchant millions of travellers. Ayurvedic herbs, rare plants and vibrant varieties of avifauna enliven the beautiful plateau.

Mainpat consists of 24 villages with a total population of 25000. Mainpat is truly a hidden gem, with lots of adventure awaiting tourists in its green slopes, beautiful valleys, gently flowing brooks, unexplored waterfalls and forests.

**Historic importance:** After the India-China war in 1962-63, Tibetan refugees settled on the plateau and today, the Tibetan population here is approximately 1800. Very rich in their roots, Tibetans have maintained their vibrant culture and Buddhist flavour. A very authentic and highly unique way of life, Buddhism offers the way to Nirvana. Based in Surguja, the people here offer a warm delight to the travellers, giving a glimpse of their

Buddhist culture that transcends all religions.

**Buddha Temple:** This is the only temple dedicated to Lord Buddha in Chhattisgarh, and the most authentic Buddhist rituals are performed here every day.

The most famous Tibetan festivals are celebrated in this temple. These include: The day of Lord Buddha's first speech after enlightenment, The day lord Buddha returned from heaven to meet his mother after attaining nirvana, new year and Dalai Lama's birth day.

This temple is of special interest to various tourists because it has the rare confluence of Surguja's simplistic Adivasi culture and Tibetan Buddhist culture.

**Tiger Point:** At the centre of the Mahadev Muda River, where the forest cover is extremely dense, there is a beautiful waterfall that falls from a height of 60 m. Since this was a territory marked by Tigers, it came to be known as the Tiger Point. At this point the river is at its most beautiful best and surrounded by lots of medicinal herbs. The Government has constructed railings so that travellers and tourists can enjoy the breathtaking views from here.

**Machali Point:** Enveloped in the deep mountain ranges, is a clean river called

Machali Nadi. Full of little fishes, this river falls deeper, creating a spectacular waterfall. This point is called the Machali Point and the height of the waterfall is 48m. Through the droplets and fog of the falling water, the hills look even more mesmerizing. Here, you can also see an 80m waterfall, cascading down like milky white satin. This waterfall is rightly called the Milky Way. For geologists and environmentalists, this point is of special importance. Various water sports can be enjoyed here and tourists can take back memories of a thrilling and exhilarating experience.

**Parpatiya:** Located in between forest department vigilance point no.2328 and 2329, Damali, Parpatiya presents unlimited natural beauty and heart-stirring surroundings. Many awe-inspiring points can be seen from Parpatiya, mainly- Bandarkot Mountains Raksamada Caves, Dulha-Dulhan mountains, Banraj Dam, Shyam Ghunghutta Dams and Ramgarh Mountains.

The Chhattisgarh Tourism Board has created a spot for adventure sports here. Tourists can enjoy paragliding here.

**Mehta Point:** Just 8 km away from Mainpat, this spectacular waterfall is embraced by tall mountain ranges. Blending together the borders of Surguja and Raigarh, the Mehta Point is a must visit for all travellers. Comfortable shelters of the Forest Department are available to tourists. The Mehta Point is very much reachable by private vehicles.

**Dev Pravah(Jaljali):** This beautiful stream located in Kamleshwar, flows incessantly, later falling into an 80m waterfall. This waterfall is called the Dev Pravah and is extremely famous for rich herbs and medicinal plants that grow around it. Enriched with unique flora and fauna, this waterfall offers the tourists an interesting getaway in the proximity of nature.

**Caves:** Chhattisgarh is a land of mysterious caves, and Mainpat is no exception here. The caves of Mainpat include- Bandarkot, Raksamada (32 km), Bhalumada (8km) and Paiga Khoh.

**Cultural Delight:** A beautiful blend of various cultures can be enjoyed at Mainpat. The main delights are tribal village, Asgava and Tibetan camps.

**Pilgrimage:** Different pilgrim destinations welcome you to this sacrosanct land. These include Buddha Math, Kala Mandir (16 km), Banjari Temple (12 km), Jungleshwar Temple (18 km), Shivalaya (12 km), Panhi Pankhna (36 km) and Dulha-Dulhan (31 km).

**Forests and Valleys:** Bathed in rich green foliage, Mainpat blushes in green with beautiful valleys like – Kadnai (28 km), Kardna(26 km), Sakriya (16 km), Govindpur (21 km) and Paiga (15 km).

**Accomodation:** In Saila Tourist Resort operated by Chhattisgarh Tourism Board, 2-room forest department shelters are available. Apart from that, at Ambikapur via Darima (55 km) one can reach luxury hotels and authentic Dharmashalas.

## How to reach

*By Air:* Raipur(100 km) is the nearest airport well connected to Mumbai, Delhi, Nagpur, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Ranchi, Vishakhapatnam and Chennai.

*By Rail:* There are trains available from Bilaspur (240 km) from Ambikapur.

*By Road:* Mainpat is reachable by buses, taxis and private vehicles from Ambikapur (85 km) and Raigarh (193 km)

(An extract from a **brochure** published by Chhattisgarh Tourism Board.)

## Meanings in context

plateau	:	highland
breathhtaking	:	extremely exciting, beautiful or surprising
tranquil	:	peaceful
brimming	:	full, overflowing
flora and fauna	:	plants and animals
enchant	:	charm
vibrant	:	lively
authentic	:	real
enlightenment	:	illumination, wisdom
confluence	:	joining together
spectacular	:	exciting to watch
mesmerizing	:	having someone's attention completely
cascading	:	falling quickly in large amounts
milky way	:	a group of stars and planets which can be seen like a in the sky (Akash Ganga)
thrilling	:	extremely exciting
exhilarating	:	giving strong feelings of excitement and happiness
heart-stirring	:	inspiring
awe-inspiring	:	worthy of admiration
blending	:	coming together
mysterious	:	strange
sacrosanct	:	sacred
proximity	:	closeness

## Comprehension

### I. Answer the following questions.

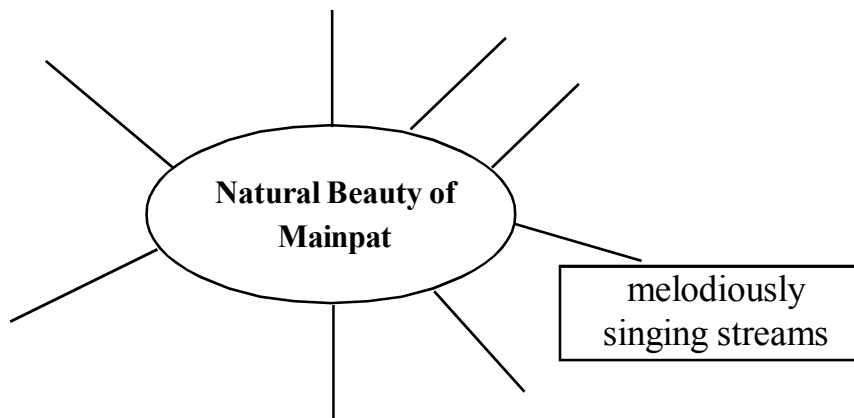
1. Name the most prominent places in Mainpat.
2. What are the festivals celebrated in Mainpat?
3. Why do you think Machali waterfall is called the 'milky way'?
4. What makes the culture of Mainpat different from the rest of Chhattisgarh?
5. How do you think Mainpat is similar to Shimla?

### II. Complete the table given below with the names from the text you have read.

	Names
temples	
waterfalls	Devpravah
caves	
rivers	
animals	
plants	
means of transport	
adventure sports	

## Vocabulary

Complete the web with the phrases from the text that describe the natural beauty of Mainpat. One has been done for you.



## Grammar

### Subject - Verb Agreement

Look at the following sentences from the lesson.

1. **The government** has constructed railings so that travellers and tourists...
2. **Chhatisgarh** is a land of mysterious caves.
3. **Different pilgrim destinations** welcome you to this sacrosanct land.

The words in bold in the above sentences are subjects. In sentences 1-2 the subjects are singular and therefore take verbs 'has', and 'is'. In sentence 3 the subject is plural and it takes the verb 'welcome'(plural).

### Remember

- Nouns which look plural in form but are singular take a singular verb.  
The news was a great shock to him.  
Economics is an interesting subject.  
Measles is very common among small children.
- In sentences with *either, neither, as well as*, etc. the verb agrees to the subject nearer to it.  
Neither I nor **he was** allowed to go.  
Either he or **they are** to blame.  
Neither of **them know** the way to Mainpat.
- We normally use a singular verb with these words :  
it, one (of), each (of), every, nobody, no one, everyone, anybody, staff, furniture, information, luggage, advise, Mathematics, Physics, athletics, gymnastics, measles, news.
- We use a plural with the following words/phrases.  
scissors, trousers, police, people, a number of

### **I Tick (✓) the incorrect sentences and correct them.**

1. The things I gave to my sister are the gifts I received.
2. Bread and butter are good for breakfast.
3. Either the director or the workers are to be blamed.
4. The cost of all commodities have risen.
5. Law and order is considered important in elections.

## II Select the correct alternatives in brackets

1. A number of students (has/have) opted for science.
2. This furniture (is/are) very strong.
3. One of the children (have/has) gone for NCC camp.
4. Most of my luggage (is/are) still missing.
5. The scissors (is/are) on the table.
6. Each of my brothers (has/have) his own bicycle.
7. Gymnastics (was/were) my favourite activity in school.
8. The news (was/were) better than expected.
9. The staff (is/are) busy preparing for function.

## III. Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs given in brackets.

1. Mr John, with his wife and daughter ..... (live) next door.
2. The horse and the carriage ..... (be) now at his door.
3. R.K. Laxman the cartoonist and his brother, the writer ..... (be) famous.
4. To take pay and then not go to work ..... (be) bad.
5. The United States ..... (have) a big military force.
6. Ten kilometers ..... (be) not a long way to go for work.

## Writing

Describe one of your favourite places you may have visited recently.

## Project Work

Prepare a brochure of your city/village similar to the brochure of Mainpat. You need to mention the places worth visiting, the distance from the nearest railway station / bus station, contact information, etc.