

Chinmaya Gītā Chanting Yajña – Evaluation Criteria for Regionals 2024-2025

Criteria for evaluation of participants' chanting performance in individual centers (Regionals)

Definition of terms

Pronunciation is the ability to chant the verses correctly according to the pronunciation rules of Sanskrit.

Memory is the ability to chant the assigned/specified verses fluently without any break, long pause or hesitation.

Note: If a participant is unable to recollect the next quarter or word, he or she can request a prompt from the judge panel, in the preliminary or regionals event. This shall be considered as a memory lapse. Repeating a word or phrase during chanting shall be considered as a **fluency** lapse. Pronunciation of the first attempt will be used for evaluation in cases of such repetitions.

Correctness of text is to evaluate if the text of the verses being chanted matches the reference hand-out provided by Chinmaya Mission for this event. Secondly, in cases where a prompt or clue is given, this is to evaluate if the participant can recall and chant the required verses correctly.

Note: The hand-out published in [Chinmaya Mission West webpage](#) shall be used as the baseline for validating text and pronunciation. Common pronunciation challenges and guidelines for correct pronunciation of Sanskrit Text can be found in the Chanting Guide provided in the Reference Documents section of this webpage.

Presentation refers to the clarity and loudness of chanting, and consistency in speed, during chanting. Adhering to the respective meter (chandas/vṛttam), and chanting fluently following sandhi rules, shall also be evaluated in Presentation. The handout provided for the chapter has the verses split into four quarters, based on the meter.

Overall effect refers to the devotional attitude (bhāva), confidence in chanting and conduct of the participant during chanting.

Note: Tune shall not be a criterion for judgment.

Every participant is required to chant the assigned number of verses as specified in the verse assignment table, to be evaluated. Please refer to the Appendix at the end of this document for expected opening and closing.

Scoring criteria (rubric) for Preliminary Round, also referred to as Regionals are as follows:

Rubric for groups chanting from memory in Regionals

Breakdown of points for all groups chanting from memory is listed in the table below.

Memory & Correctness of text	Pronunciation	Presentation & Overall effect	Total
40 points	60 points	100 points	200 points

Rubric for groups reading from hand-out in the Regionals

1. Kaunteya - participants from grades 9-12 reading the verses
2. Mahābāho - the adult group reading the verses

Pronunciation & Correctness of text	Presentation & Overall Effect	Total
100 points	100 points	200 points

Each participant in the Regionals shall be awarded a final score out of 100 points by the panel of judges, solely based on their performance. The score awarded by the Judge Panel shall be final. The actual score will not be shared with the participants. Centers may report a Grade: Excellent Performance, Very Good Performance, Good Performance, etc., based on the score.

Chapter 5 Chanting Verse Assignments for Grades/Groups

Please note the number of verses assigned for every Group and Grade, to participate in this annual event conducted by Chinmaya Mission Centers.

Verse Assignments		
Group	Grade	Verses
Kiriti	Toddler/PreK	1-6
Anagha	Kindergarten	1-11
Arjuna	Grades 1-2	1-16
Bharata	Grades 3-4	1-21
Partha	Grades 5-6	1-26
Gudakesa	Grades 7-8	1-29
Dhananjaya	Grades 9-12	1-29
Kaunteya <<	Grades 9-12	1-29
Medhavi **	Grades 1-9	1-29
Mahabaho <<	--- Adults	1-29
Parantapa	--- Adults	1-29
<< Groups reading the verses (+ additional talks) ** Special group for all dedicated students; and evaluated as a separate group within their Grade. All other groups required to memorize the verses		

Appendix:

- Every participant is required to chant the following **opening**:

ॐ श्रीपरमात्मने नमः । अथ पञ्चमोऽध्यायः । कर्मसन्न्यासयोगः ।

om śrīparamātmānē namaḥ. atha pañcamo'dhyāyaḥ. karmasannyāsayogaḥ

- All participants not chanting until the full chapter, must conclude with the partial **closing**:

ॐ तत् सत् । श्रीकृष्णार्पणमस्तु ॥

om tat sat. śrī kṛṣṇārpaṇamastu

- All participants chanting the full chapter (Verse 5.1-5.29), must conclude with the full **closing**:

ॐ तत् सत् । इति श्रीमद्भगवद्गीतासु उपनिषत्सु ब्रह्मविद्यायां योगशास्त्रे श्रीकृष्णार्जुनसंवादे कर्मसन्न्यासयोगो नाम

पञ्चमोऽध्यायः ॥ श्रीकृष्णार्पणमस्तु ॥

om tat sat. iti śrīmadbhagavadgītāsu upaniṣatsu brahmavidyāyāṁ yogasāstre

śrīkṛṣṇārjunasaṁvāde karmasannyāsayogo nāma pañcamo'dhyāyaḥ.

śrī kṛṣṇārpaṇamastu

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