

Preface

Sanskrit has an undeniable influence on poetry, with many of its poets expressing their creativity in poetic form. Despite the famous proverb '*Gadyam kavinam nikasam vadanti*', a majority of poets in Sanskrit prefer to express themselves through verses. Padya has a powerful appeal due to its beautiful unity, musical style, and rhythmic effect of Sanskrit. It is full of bewitching sweetness that produces an indescribable aesthetic joy. Consequently, Sanskrit poetry has become one of the most renowned aspects of the literature. It has drawn the attention of various illustrious literary minds from the past and even to this day, it continues to influence remarkable poets. Over the years, Sanskrit experts have found poetic form to be a source of great interest. This is seen in their compositions of scientific and philosophical pieces such as *Carakasamhitā* and *Bṛhatsamhitā* among many others, which are all written in a poetic format.

Mahākāvyas are highly valuable contributions to the Sanskrit language, and have been around for centuries. Poetry is believed to have originated in the Vedas and this art is still practiced today.

The Ṛgveda is the earliest known literary creation of humans, written in a poetic style. Ādikavi-Vālmīki immortalized his work, *Rāmāyaṇa*, by choosing to compose it using this form. This practice of writing epics has been maintained over the years and even today, famous poets are attempting to imitate Vālmīki and his successors like Kālidāsa. The *Mahākāvyas* have earned a special place in Sanskrit literature.

Sanskrit literary works have come a long way, evidenced by the abundance of *Mahākāvyas* in modern times. This tradition began with Asvaghosa's *Budhha-caritam* and is still prevalent to this day. It is imperative to analyse different *Mahākāvyas* written by modern writers from a variety of perspectives.

The 21st century marks an important period in the history of contemporary Sanskrit literature. This century has seen an influx of *Mahākāvyas* written by celebrated poets

on various topics. These pieces of literature shed light on the lives of remarkable individuals, emphasizing their honourable actions and beliefs. There are numerous different types of stories, both factual and fictional. These include tales that are based on historical events, biographies, myths, societal norms and those conjured up through imagination. Many of these tales have been known to us for a while, however many remain untapped by scholars.

STATEMENT – I

This work 'A Literary Study of Sanskrit *Mahakavyas* of twenty first century (2001-2018)' to the best of my knowledge is first of its kind. Sanskrit literature is progressing day by day. Many competent and enthusiastic writers are trying their best to enliven and enrich this divine language with profound zeal and commitment. So, the Sanskrit literature is not lagging behind. They are written keeping in mind modern sensibilities. They are in fact the products of modern time.

A Literary examination of Sanskrit *Mahākāvya*s composed between 2001-2018 is essential to appreciate the literary contributions of great poets in this era. This endeavour will meet a long-awaited need and have a major impact on the world of literary criticism. So far there has been no such study of the *Mahākāvya*s. A quick survey revealed more than fifteen of them but we believe that there are likely to be many more since a thorough exploration hasn't been conducted yet.

This research will focus on the literary aspects associated with *Mahākāvya*s, like metres, figurative language, narration, emotions, diction and writing style merits/advantages, characters/individuals involved in the story, creative and innovative elements as well as typical traits distinctive to *Mahakavyas* and biographical information about the authors, the sources, goals and objectives of the compositions are essential components to consider.

STATEMENT - II

METHODOLOGY, SOURCES AND ORIGINALITY

My thesis is divided into five distinct chapters, each with its own specific headings for a more organized presentation of the contents. The thesis was formulated by using both analytical and critical methods to ensure precision and effectiveness.

I have carefully explored all available published and unpublished materials related to my topic. I have thoroughly analysed the Sanskrit *Mahākāvyas* written in the 21st century which are available to me.

As far as I know, this attempt is made for the first time ever. An analytical, literary and comprehensive investigation has been conducted on Sanskrit *Mahākāvyas* of the 21st century.