

PREFACE

The twentieth century is an important period in the history of modern Sanskrit literature because in this century lots of Sanskrit works of different forms have been composed and published. These works prove that Sanskrit is not a dead language and it is still a living language. Among the literary forms, *Mahākāvyas* are the invaluable gems in the ocean of Sanskrit literature. The modern poets have enriched the Sanskrit language having composed many *mahākāvyas* on various subjects.

Mahākāvyas are available in plenty in classical Sanskrit literature. The tradition begins from the *Buddha-caritam* of Aśvaghoṣa and it is still continuing. We know that modern writers have composed many *mahākāvyas* and hence it is necessary to make a critical survey of them.

This survey mainly covers the period of one hundred years i.e. Twentieth Century. The present work is intended to give a broad view of twentieth century's epics composed on the different subject matters. The present survey contains the information about sixty epics, which are carefully divided into different categories and arranged by the year of publication beginning from 1901 to 2000.

An attempt is made for the first time to make a survey and study of the '*Mahākāvyas of Twentieth Century*' in English.

All the Sanskrit *Mahākāvyas*, which are mentioned in this thesis, are published. They have been thoroughly studied by me for the preparation of my thesis. All the

references, quotations and sources are also verified and traced from the original sources. An acknowledgment is given in proper place of the thesis.

I have collected all the epics in the original form, secondary research works, and information about the poets as well as their works. After survey and study, I have tried to express my own views.

The thesis is presented in the following chapters based on the original texts.

CHAPTER – I	ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF MAHĀKĀVYAS
CHAPTER – II	MAHĀKĀVYAS BASED ON THE RĀMĀYAṆA
CHAPTER – III	MAHĀKĀVYAS BASED ON THE MAHĀBHĀRATA
CHAPTER – IV	MAHĀKĀVYAS BASED ON THE PURĀṆAS
CHAPTER – V	MAHĀKĀVYAS BASED ON THE LIVES OF GREAT SAINTS
CHAPTER- VI	MAHĀKĀVYAS BASED ON FREEDOM FIGHTERS
CHAPTER- VII	MISCELLANEOUS MAHĀKĀVYAS
CHAPTER- VIII	CONCLUSION

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