

CHAPTER-I

ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF MAHAKĀVYAS

This chapter consists of the outline of the tradition of Sanskrit *Mahākāvyas* from ancient time up to the modern period. In this chapter, I have discussed about the origin and development of the *kāvya*, purpose of *Mahākāvyas*, definitions of *Mahākāvyas* according to the rhetoricians, characteristics of *Mahākāvyas* and the other aspects.

CHAPTER-II

MAHĀKĀVYAS BASED ON THE RĀMĀYAṆA

The *Rāmāyaṇa* occupies a prominent place in the Hindu society, because it is the mirror of the highest ideals of Hindu culture and civilization. It is written by Maharshi Vālmikī. The modern poets are highly impressed with the characters of the *Rāmāyaṇa* and they have composed many *mahākāvyas* on the characters of it. In this chapter, I have dealt with those *mahākāvyas* which are composed on the characters like Sītā, Rāma, Urmilā and others and the theme of the *Rāmāyaṇa*.

CHAPTER-III

MAHĀKĀVYAS BASED ON THE MAHĀBHĀRATA

The *Mahābhārata* which is a store of precious gems is a Holy Scripture and great epic of Hinduism written by Maharshi Vedavyāsa. This *mahākāvya* teaches us truthfulness, obedience, honesty, devotion, sacrifice, and commitment. It is narrated the war between Pāṇḍavas and Kauravas righteousness and unrighteousness respectively. Thus, it is the story of victory of righteousness, truth and untruth and evil. In this chapter, I have discussed about those *mahākāvyas*,

which are perusing the theme and characters of *Mahābhārata* like Bhiṣma, Karṇa, Pārtha, and so on.

CHAPTER- IV

MAHĀKĀVYAS BASED ON THE PURĀṆAS

The Purāṇas are eighteen in number, which are written by Maharshi Vedavyāsa. They contain the narrations of the glorious episodes following the Hindu mythology. The Purāṇas inspire the human beings to live a life of ‘good deeds and virtues’, a moral code of conduct towards fellow beings. Having been inspired from the story and characters of Purāṇas the modern poets have composed many *mahākāvyas*. In this chapter, I have discussed only those epics, which are composed, on the themes on the Purāṇas.

CHAPTER-V

MAHĀKĀVYAS BASED ON THE LIVES OF GREAT SAINTS

The saints are the invaluable gems of the society. They show the right path to those people who wander from the reality of this world and led their life in the hell. In this chapter, I have focused on those *Mahākāvyas* which are composed on the lives of great saints like Buddha, Swāmī Vivekānanda, Tukārāma and others.

CHAPTER- VI

MAHĀKĀVYAS BASED ON THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

The freedom fighters have made great sacrifice for India and its people and hence the modern poets of Sanskrit literature pay tribute to them, having composed the *Mahākāvyas* on their lives. In this chapter, I have discussed those *Mahākāvyas*, which are composed, on the lives of freedom fighters of India like Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru and others.

CHAPTER- VII

MISCELLANEOUS MAHĀKĀVYAS OF TWENTIETH CENTURY

I have discussed about some miscellaneous *mahākāvyas* namely *Tarjane* of Durga Datta Shastri, *Śrī-Śivarājyo-dayam* of Shridhar Bhaskara Varnekar, *Śrīmat Pratāpa-rāṇāyanam* of Ogeti Parikshit Sharma and *Keralodayam* of K.N. Ezhuthaccha, *Bhṛtyā-Bharanam* of Shrirāma Dave, which are the best compositions of twentieth century.

CHAPTER- VIII

CONCLUSION

This chapter gives the summary of the entire discussions of the thesis highlighting the significant contributions of the modern poets containing the concluding remarks followed by Bibliography and Appendix.