

# Surendranatha College

## 3<sup>rd</sup> semester general 2021

Anusrita Mandal (December to  
March)

A decorative graphic consisting of several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors (teal, white, and light blue) extending from the right side of the page towards the center.

# Syllabus

- CCA3- Section D- History of Sanskrit Drama and An Introduction to Principle of Sanskrit Drama
  - Origin and Development
  - Some important dramatists and drama : Bhāsa, Kālidāsa, Śūdraka, Viśākhadatta, Harṣa, Bhavabhūti

# Origin and Development Sanskrit Drama

- The earliest form of Indian drama
- Main source of Indian theatre with culture, customs and ethnicity.
- Difficult to trace the origin with exact date of its commencement.
- Emerged between 2nd century B.C. to 1st century B.C. and flourished between the 1st century to 10th century
- Playwrights like Bhāsa, Kālidāsa, Śūdraka, Viśākhadatta, Harṣa, Bhavabhūti
- Exponents of dramatic art like Bharata, Abhinavagupta, Dhananjaya, etc.

# Bharata

- ‘Natya Shastra’, a theoretical treatise on ancient Indian dramaturgy and histrionics dated between roughly 400 B.C. and 200 B.C.
- Written in Sanskrit consisting 6000 sutras or verse stanzas incorporated in 36 chapters.
- It can be loosely translated as ‘A Compendium of theatre or a manual of Dramatic art’.

# Bhāsa

- Between 500 B.C. to 50 B.C
- 13 plays are in recorded by Mahamahopadhyaya T. Ganapati Sastri
- More than 100 writings
- The *ūrubhangam* and *Karṇabhāram* are the only known tragic Sanskrit plays in ancient India

# plays

- **Plays based on *Ramayana***
- *Pratimā-nāṭaka*
- *Abhiṣeka-nāṭaka*
- **Others**
- *Avimāraka* is a fairy tale, it is not epic based
- *chārudatta*
- *Pratijnā Yaugandharāyaṇam*
- *Swapnavāsavadattam*

- **Plays based on Mahabharata**
- *Pañcha-rātra*
- *Madhyama-vyāyoga*
- *Dūta-Ghaṭotkacha*
- *Dūta-Vākya*
- *Ūrubhangam*
- *Karṇabhāram*
- *Harivamśa or Bāla-charita*

# Kālidāsa

- lived in the period 370-450AD.
- ‘Abhijñānaśākuntalam’
- Vikramorvasiyam’
- Malovikāgnimitram

# Śūdraka

- ‘Mṛcchakaṭīkam’ (The Little Clay Cart).
- 2nd century B.C.
- In ten Acts based on the story of the love of Charudatta, a prominent but poor inhabitant of Ujjayini, and Vasantasena, an exquisitely beautiful but pure-minded courtesan of the city

# Viśākhadatta

- Only two of his plays, the *Mudrārākṣasa* and the *Devichandraguptam* are known to us
- after the 6th century CE.

# Harṣa

- **Harsha** (c. 590–647 CE), also known as Harshavardhana
- Indian emperor who ruled North India from 606 to 647 CE. He was a member of the Vardhana dynasty
- Three Sanskrit plays *Ratnāvalī*, *Nāgananda*, *Priyadarśika*.

# Bhavabhūti

- 8th century scholar
- ‘*Mahāvīracharita*’ (The story of highly courageous), depicting the early life of Rama.
- ‘*Uttararāmacharita*’ (The story of Rama's later life), depicts Rama's coronation, the abandonment of Sita, and their reunion
- ‘*Mālatimādhava*’- Malati is in love with Madhava, After numerous travails, all ends well, with the two couples uniting.

# Books

- Suggested
- *History of classical Sanskrit Literature*,  
Krinshnamacharian, MLBD,  
Delhi
- *Sanskrita sahityer itihasa*,  
Dhirendranath  
Bandyopadhyay, Sanskrit
- *Sanskrita sahityer ruparekha*,  
Biman Bihari Bhattacharya,  
Sanskrit Pustak Bhandar,  
Kolkata
- Consulted
- *The Sanskrit Drama* (in Its  
Origin, Development, Theory &  
Practice), Arthur Berredale  
Keith, MLBD, 1992
- *Women in Sanskrit Drama*,  
Ratnamayi Dikshit,  
Maherchand Lachmandas,  
Delhi
- *Conflict in Sanskrit Drama*,  
Minakshi Dalal, Somaiya  
Publication Pvt. Ltd.
- K.R.Srinivasa Iyengar,' Drama  
in Modern India'