

Course Outcome:

CO1: Gain an understanding of the depiction of nature as divine in classical Sanskrit literature, with a focus on major epics like the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and works of Kalidasa.

CO2: Explore the symbolic representations and interpretations of natural elements within these texts and their relevance to cultural and environmental values.

CO3: Analyse the philosophical and theological concepts related to nature in Sanskrit literature, emphasizing the role of nature in spiritual practices and cosmic order.

CO4: Conduct a comparative study of traditional ecological wisdom in Sanskrit literature and its potential integration with modern ecological thought.

CO5: Develop practical insights for incorporating the ancient Indian reverence for nature into contemporary environmental conservation practices.

Unit I: Introduction to Nature in Sanskrit Literature

- Overview of the depiction of nature in major Sanskrit epics: Ramayana, Mahabharata, and works of Kalidasa.
- Historical context and significance of natural settings and elements in these texts.
- The concept of nature as divine and its role in the cultural and spiritual life of ancient India.

Unit II: Symbolism and Mythological Interpretations

- Analysis of the symbolic representations of nature in Sanskrit literature.
- Study of mythological interpretations of natural elements such as rivers, mountains, forests, and their divine associations.
- Exploration of common motifs and their cultural significance in traditional literature.

Unit III: Philosophical Insights on Nature

- Examination of the philosophical teachings related to nature in Sanskrit literature.
- Discussion on the concepts of cosmic order, the divine nature of the environment, and their roles in maintaining balance in the universe.
- Analysis of the role of nature in spiritual practices, including meditation and rituals.

Unit IV: Comparative Study of Traditional and Modern Ecological Thought

- Comparative analysis of traditional ecological wisdom in Sanskrit literature and modern ecological theories.
- Identification of common themes, values, and practices that align with contemporary environmental challenges.
- Exploration of how traditional reverence for nature can inform and enhance modern conservation efforts.

Unit V: Practical Applications and Spiritual Significance

- Discussion on the practical implications of incorporating traditional ecological wisdom into modern environmental practices.
- Exploration of the transformative power of ancient ecological values for contemporary spiritual seekers.
- Insights into the integration of nature reverence from Sanskrit literature into personal and community-based environmental actions.

Textbooks/References:

1. Valmiki Ramayana: Critical edition by Baroda Oriental Research Institute.
2. Mahabharata: Critical edition by Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute.
3. Kalidasa's Works (Raghuvamsha, Kumarasambhava): Translations and commentaries by A.C. Narayana.
4. Olivelle, P. (1992). The Asvamedha: The Rite and Its Logic in the Vedic Corpus.
5. Haberman, D. L. (2013). People Trees: Worship of Trees in Northern India.

Links:

1. Valmiki Ramayana: <https://www.sacred-texts.com/hin/rama/index.htm>
2. Mahabharata: <https://www.sacred-texts.com/hin/mbs/index.htm>
3. Kalidasa's Works: <https://www.sacred-texts.com/hin/kalidasa/index.htm>

Evaluation Pattern:

Category	Marks
Continuous Assessment	20
Mid-Term	30
End Semester	50
Total	100

