Indian Classical Literature

Prepared by:

Jitya Ranjan Saikia Department of English Dr. B.K.B. College

Prepared for:

B. A. 1st Semester English Honours Paper: ENG-HC-1016

Meaning

The main body of Indian classical literature consists of the sacred Hindu collections of poems and hymns known as the Vedas; the commentaries on the Vedas in the Brahmanas, the Aranyakas, and the Upanishads; epic poetry and wisdom literature; and poetry in a style called kavya.

History

Indian Classical Literature is the literature of those languages depended largely on the ancient Indian background, which includes two Sanskrit epic poems, the Mahabharata and Ramayana, as well as the Bhagavata-purana and the other Puranas.

Periods

Indian Classical Literature divides into three periods:

> The Vedic period:

(c. 1500–c. 200 bc)

The Epic period:

(c. 400 bc–c. 400 ad)

The Classical period

(from c. 200 ad)

Characteristics

Indian Classical Literature is an expression of life, truth, and beauty. It must be of high artistic quality, at least for the time in which it was written. Although different styles will come and go, a classic can be appreciated for its construction and literary art.

Focus

Indian Classical Literature emphasises on regional literary histories, especially the construction of hoary pasts and glorious traditions, cross-regional clusters of historical and cultural meaning. It also attempts in-depth interpretations instead of merely celebrating authors and their works.

Themes

Six common themes in Indian Classical Literature include:

- Good v/s evil.
- Love
- Redemption
- Courage and perseverance
- Coming of age
- Revenge

Views

Indian Classical Literature is arguably one of the oldest and richest literature in the world. Additionally, the oldest works of the Indian Classical Literature include oral transmission of knowledge. India is a country with huge diversity and accommodates people from different cultural backgrounds.

THANK YOU