CBSE Grade 11

Topic - 2

Acquaintance with the themes of : *Bhagwat Purana*

Bhagavata Purana



The **Bhagavata Purana (Srimad Bhagavatam)** is one of the most sacred Hindu scriptures, dedicated to the glory of **Lord Vishnu** and especially **Lord Krishna**. Traditionally attributed to **Maharishi Vedavyasa**, it consists of **12 Skandas (Cantos)** and approximately 18,000 verses. The text emphasizes **Bhakti (devotion)** as the highest path to spiritual realization. The original **Srimad Bhagavatam** is divided into **12 Skandas**:

1. Prathama Skanda (First Canto)

Introduces the Bhagavatam and its purpose. It narrates the story of King Parikshit, who is cursed to die in seven days, and the arrival of Sage Shukadeva, who begins narrating the Bhagavatam to him. The importance of devotion to God is emphasized.

2. Dvitiya Skanda (Second Canto)

Describes the cosmic form (**Virat Purusha**) of the Lord and explains the process of creation. It teaches meditation on the Divine and highlights the path of Bhakti as the means to liberation.

3. Tritiya Skanda (Third Canto)

Contains the dialogue between Vidura and Maitreya. It explains the creation of the universe, the story of Kapila Muni and his teachings on Sankhya philosophy, and the incarnation of Varaha, who rescues Mother Earth.

4. Chaturtha Skanda (Fourth Canto)

Includes the stories of **Daksha Yajna**, Sati, and Lord Shiva. It also narrates the inspiring story of **Dhruva**, whose unwavering devotion earns him an eternal place as the Pole Star.

5. Panchama Skanda (Fifth Canto)

Describes the life and renunciation of King Rishabha and his son Bharata. It also presents detailed descriptions of the universe, geography, planetary systems, and cosmic structure according to Puranic tradition.

6. Shashtha Skanda (Sixth Canto)

Focuses on the power of devotion and repentance. The famous story of **Ajamila**, who attains salvation by uttering the name of Narayana at the time of death, is narrated in this Skanda.

7. Saptama Skanda (Seventh Canto)

Dedicated mainly to the story of **Prahlada**, the great devotee of Lord Vishnu. It culminates in the appearance of **Narasimha Avatar**, who destroys the demon king Hiranyakashipu and protects Prahlada.

8. Ashtama Skanda (Eighth Canto)

Contains stories of several incarnations of Vishnu, including **Kurma Avatar** and **Vamana Avatar**. It also narrates the famous episode of the **Samudra Manthana (Churning of the Ocean)** and **Gajendra Moksha**.

9. Navama Skanda (Ninth Canto)

Describes the genealogies of various royal dynasties, including the **Solar Dynasty (Surya Vamsha)** and **Lunar Dynasty (Chandra Vamsha)**. It includes the lineage of Lord Rama and many noble kings.

10. Dashama Skanda (Tenth Canto)

The largest and most celebrated Skanda. It narrates the complete life and divine play (**Leela**) of **Lord Krishna**, including:

- Krishna Janma (Birth of Krishna)
- Putana Vadha
- Kaliya Mardana
- Govardhana Dharana
- Rasa Leela
- Kamsa Vadha
- Dwaraka Leelas

This Skanda forms the basis of many dance dramas and classical dance compositions.

11. Ekadasha Skanda (Eleventh Canto)

Contains the **Uddhava Gita**, in which Lord Krishna imparts spiritual wisdom to Uddhava before departing from the world. It discusses devotion, detachment, and the nature of the soul.

12. Dvadasha Skanda (Twelfth Canto)

The concluding Skanda. It describes the future age of **Kali Yuga**, the decline of righteousness, and the eventual dissolution of the universe. It concludes by glorifying the Bhagavata Purana as a path to liberation through devotion.

Conclusion

The **Bhagavata Purana** is a treasure house of devotion, philosophy, and mythology. Its stories of **Dhruva, Prahlada, Ajamila, Gajendra, Dashavatara, and Krishna Leela** continue to inspire devotees and serve as important themes in Bharatanatyam and other Indian classical dance traditions. Through its twelve Skandas, it teaches that sincere devotion to the Divine is the highest path to spiritual fulfillment.

Sadhana, Poshana (Vasan), and Nirodha Skanda



These are **thematic classifications** derived from the Bhagavata Purana and are often used in traditional studies and dance syllabi to group the contents of the Bhagavatam according to their spiritual purpose.

For example:

- **Sadhana** – spiritual practice and preparation
- **Poshana (**sometimes written Vasan in some syllabi**)** – divine protection and nurturing of devotees

- **Nirodha** – divine withdrawal and Krishna's supreme manifestations

Thematic Skanda	Main Theme
Sadhana Skanda	Manu, creation, cosmology, spiritual discipline
Poshana (Vasan) Skanda	Prahlada and divine protection
Nirodha Skanda	Krishna's birth and divine life

These are **not separate books** of the Bhagavata Purana. Rather, they are **educational classifications of stories drawn from different parts of the 12 Skandas**.

1. Sadhana Skanda

The Story of Manu and the Description of the World

The Sadhana Skanda deals with the process of creation and the path of spiritual discipline. It includes the story of **Manu**, who was saved by Lord Vishnu in the **Matsya Avatar** during the great deluge. The Skanda also describes the structure of the universe, including the earth, planetary systems, mountains, oceans, and cosmic order. It teaches the importance of dharma, devotion, and divine guidance.

2. Vasan (Poshana) Skanda

Prahlada Charitra

The Vasan or Poshana Skanda focuses on divine protection of devotees. It narrates the story of **Prahlada**, the devoted son of the demon king Hiranyakashipu. Despite severe torture and opposition from his father, Prahlada remained steadfast in his devotion to Lord Vishnu. The Lord manifested as **Narasimha Avatar** to protect Prahlada and destroy evil. The story highlights unwavering faith and the triumph of devotion.

3. Nirodha Skanda

Birth and Life of Krishna

The Nirodha Skanda is centered on **Lord Krishna's divine incarnation and life**. It describes Krishna's birth in Mathura, his childhood in Gokula and Vrindavan, his playful leelas, and his protection of devotees. Important episodes include **Putana Vadha, Kaliya Mardana, Govardhana Dharana, Rasa Leela, and Kamsa Vadha**. Krishna's life symbolizes divine love, righteousness, compassion, and the establishment of dharma.