

**Undergraduate Programme, 2024**  
**Semester – III (NEP)**  
**Comparative Literature**  
**MNCL 02**  
**(World Literature)**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Full Marks: 80**

(Questions are of value as indicated in the margin)

1. Answer **any fifteen** questions from the following:

2X15= 30

- a. What is *in medias res*?
- b. Who composed the *Panchatantra*?
- c. What is Cyclops?
- d. In which language was the *Brihatkatha* written?
- e. Who was Shahzaman?
- f. Name two *ganas* who were cursed by Parvati in the *Kathasaritsagara*.
- g. Who was Pramila?
- h. Mention two important literary events of 1861 which are related to Bangla literature.
- i. Who were Karataka and Damanaka?
- j. Who was Dido?
- k. What is plot?
- l. Who was the mother of Aeneas?
- m. Who was Vararuci?
- n. Who was Octavius?
- o. With whose death does the *Meghnadvadh Kavya* begin?
- p. Who was Calypso?
- q. Who were the lotus eaters?

2. Answer short notes on **any four** from the following:

5X4= 20

- a. Secondary epic
- b. Valmiki
- c. *Vandana*
- d. "Kathapitha" of *Kathasaritsagara*
- e. Invocation of the Muse in Epic traditions
- f. *The Arabian Nights*

3. Answer **any two** from the following:

15X2= 30

- a. Do you think 'framed narratives' are an integral part of Indian story-telling tradition? Answer with relevant examples.
- b. The epic, through its various themes, focuses on a hero's journey. Do you agree with the statement? Answer with suitable examples from the texts in your syllabus.
- c. Is it possible to read *Meghnadvadh Kavya* as Madhusudan Dutt's response to contemporary Bengal? Substantiate your answer with relevant references from the text.

B.A. Undergraduate Programme, 2025  
Semester - IV (NEP)  
Comparative Literature  
MNCL 02  
(World Literature)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 80

*Questions are of value as indicated in the margin*

1. Answer **any fifteen** of the following questions: 2X15= 30
  - a. What is invocation of muse in epic?
  - b. Who composed *Dasa Kumara Charitam*?
  - c. Who is Gundhya in the narrative of *Kathasaritsagara*?
  - d. Who is Telemachus?
  - e. What is the name of the Arabic translation of *Panchatantra*?
  - f. Who is Birbahu?
  - g. What is *Mahakavya*?
  - h. Explain the importance of the Persephone myth.
  - i. In *The Aeneid* which city was favoured by Juno?
  - j. What is *Vandana*?
  - k. What is the difference between plot and story?
  - l. Who is Penelope?
  - m. In *The Odyssey*, which god opposes Odysseus?
  - n. Who was the patron of Virgil?
  - o. When was the *Meghnadvadh Kavya* published?
  - p. Name two authors contemporary to Madhusudan Dutta.
  - q. Name the poets Madhusudan Dutta mentioned in the *Meghnadvadh Kavya*.
  
2. Answer short notes on **any four** from the following: 5X4= 20
  - a. The curse motif in the *Kathasaritsagara*
  - b. *Katha* and *Akhyayika*
  - c. *Purva-Pithika* of *Dasa Kumara Charitam*
  - d. Journey to the underworld in the epic tradition
  - e. Rama in *Meghnadvadh Kavya*
  - f. The gods in the Greek and Indian epic traditions
  
3. Answer **any two** from the following: 15X2= 30
  - a. What is world literature? How does such an idea help in our understanding of Comparative Literature? Answer with relevant literary examples.
  - b. Discuss how the epic narrative establishes an idea of the 'epic hero' through its use and arrangement of different motifs. Substantiate your answer with reference to the essay and texts in your syllabus.
  - c. In what ways does the *Meghnadvadh Kavya* illustrate a history of literary contact between the 'East' and the 'West'? Discuss with close reference to the text.