

# DAILY POST

DAILY FROM: NEW DELHI | CHANDIGARH

SUNDAY  
3 AUGUST 2014  
VOLUME 1  
ISSUE 338

www.dailypostindia.com

# on sunday

## SOULMATTERS

### The Essence Of Uddhava Gita



M M GOEL

The present world of materialism with consumerism and commercialisation is full of miseries and calls for lessons from the wisdom in the epics. There is a strong case for spiritually guided materialism flowing from Bhagwad Gita justifying 'needonomics' confining to

the needs of the people only. There is no room for greed which is the cause of causes for miseries in all aspects of life. Uddhava Gita also known as Hamsa Gita consists of Krishna's final discourse to Uddhava before his worldly avatar and lila to completion. The part of Bhagavatam from Chapter 6 to Chapter 29 is popularly known as Uddhava Gita.

The Gitas that find place in Srimad Bhagavata such as the Uddhava-Gita, the Rudra-Gita, the Bhikshu-Gita, the Sruti-Gita, the Hamsa-Gita. The names Uddhava Gita and Hamsa Gita are popularly interchangeable but Hamsa Gita also specifically denotes a subset of the Uddhava Gita and the Bhagavata Purana proper. Hamsa is a metaphor for the Paramahansa as well as a natural teacher of grace evident in nature. The Hamsa often written Hansa is a swan or goose, often considered to be the Mute Swan. It is used in Indian culture as a symbol and a decorative element. The term 'Gita' means literally 'song' in Sanskrit Devanagari.

It is said that Indra and the Gods visited Lord Krishna in Dwarka and requested him to return to heavenly abode. Lord Krishna assured them that he will be leaving the world very soon and returning to heaven. Hearing this, Uddhava begs Krishna to take him along. Lord Krishna then gives a discourse to Uddhava. In essence it is the same as Bhagwad Gita. But instead of a battle field setting where Krishna urges Arjuna to kill his enemies as a part of his duty, here the same philosophical doctrines are explained in a more somber atmosphere.

We need to understand that although Uddhava Gita contains instructions similar to those imparted to Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra; it also contains very confidential teachings that are not available even in Bhagwad Gita. The five truths that embody the teachings of Bhagwad Gita—supreme lord, living entities, material nature, time and activities—are fully elaborated upon in the Uddhava Gita with practical application in life for salvation.