UNIT 2 MUSIC THROUGH AGES

Structure
2.1 Introduction
   Objectives
2.2 Shikshaa Literature
2.3 Puraanic Period
2.4 Epic Period
2.5 Summary
2.6 Self Assessment Questions
2.7 Answers

2.1 INTRODUCTION
The music tradition starts from the Vedic period. Music has its origin in the Saamveda, which is a collection of hymns from the Rigveda. We find gradual development of music through ages. In this context we are putting forth here the valuable contribution of the corrumgerea.

Objectives
After studying this Block you should be able to:

a) understand the history and gradual development of music in ancient times.

b) know the basics of Hindustani music.

2.2 SHIKSHAA LITERATURE
The Shikshaa literature plays an important role in defining the highly developed form of music. The most important Shikshaas are the Naradi Shikshaa, Panini Shikshaa and Yagnavalkya Shikshaa which provide abundant information regarding the origin of svaras, vedic svaras, svaras of laukika gaana – the secular music. The Aranyakas and Upanishads practiced meditation on the Vinaa. The human body created by God was called as Gatra Vinaa and the man made Vinaa was called as Maanushi Vinaa.

2.3 PURAANIC PERIOD
Next appears the Puraanic period where music became both devotional and secular in character. A distinctive improvement upon the vedic music was evident. The Puraanas were supposed to have been composed by the sage Vyas. Almost all the Mahaapuraanas and Upapuraanas contain plenty of material and references to the art of music and dance. The most important Puraanas is the Vaayu Puraana since it deals with technical aspects of music like graamas, murchanaas, taanas, alankaaras, varnas etc.

2.4 EPIC PERIOD
The next important period falls under the Epic Age. The great epic Ramayana of sage Valmiki in Sanskrit language is a poem set to music which is the oldest next to Saama
Veda. The art and the science of music had attained high standard during this period. The fact that Lava and Kusha, sons of King Rama, sang together in unison proves verses were set to particular melodies and rhythmic patterns. The musical composition was called by the name Geetee. Music and dancing enjoyed a prominent place in the life of common people. Valmiki had a definite idea of aesthetic appeal of musical composition: a composition was expected to sound pleasant and sweet, whether it was recited or sung, capable of arousing the recognised sentiments, at least one or two out of the rasas, and should be sung in three speeds along with the accompaniment of a stringed instrument.

2.5 SUMMARY

The origin of Indian music is traced to the Sama Vedic chants. In the post-vedic period we see its development are found in the Shiksha and Puranic literature. In the Epic age music became devotional in character. As Hindu culture had its roots in spirituality, so music became a powerful medium to get Moksha which means liberation from the bondage of birth and death.

2.6 SELF ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

1. Fill in the blank spaces with the appropriate words given below:

(sanskrit, devotional, Naradi, vedic, Samveda, secular, geetee, taan, Panini, alankar Yagnavalkya)

a) The ancient grantha Ramayana was written in ______.

b) In Puranic period music became both ______ and ______ in character.

c) The three most important Shikshas are the ______ Shiksha, ______ Shiksha and ______ Shiksha.

d) ______ and ______ were mentioned in Vayu Purana.

e) In Epic period the musical composition was called by the name ______.

2. The veena created by human being is called gatra veena.

3. The Purans were supposed to have been composed by sage Valmiki.

4. Panini was associated with Shiksha literature.

5. Gram and Murchana were discussed in Vayu Purana.

Terminal Questions

1. Write 5 to 6 lines on the evolution of music in ancient India.

2. Light upon the music culture in Ramayana by sage Valmiki.

3. Describe briefly three most important shikshas.

2.7 ANSWERS

Self Assessment Questions

1. a) Sanskrit

   b) devotional, recular
c) Naradi, Panini, Yagvalkya

2. F
3. F
4. T
5. T

Terminal Questions

1. The origin of Indian music is traced to the Saama vedic chants. In the post vedic period we see the most important emergence of the sapta swaras- sa, re, ga, ma, pa, dha, ni. Next important points in the development are found in the Shiksha and Puraanic literature. But the most significant contributions in the development of come from Bharata in 5 and Matang in 6 century. Bharata's greatest contribution is to link music to rasas and by Matang's time the art of raga singing was well established.

2. In epic period the musical composition was called by the name Geetee. Music and dancing enjoyed a prominent place in the life of common people. Valmiki had a definite idea of aesthetic appeal of musical composition: a composition was expected to sound pleasant and sweet, whether it was recited or sung, capable of arousing the recognised sentiments, at least one or two out of the rasas, and should be sung in three speeds along with the accompaniment of a stringed instrument.

3. The Shikshaa literature plays an important role in defining the highly developed form of music. The most important Shikshas are the Naradi Shiksha, Panini Shiksha and Yagnavalkya Shiksha which provide abundant information regarding the origin of svaras, vedic svaras, svaras of laukika gaana - the secular music.