Preface

The title of the thesis sufficiently explains that the work deals with the dramatic tradition of India with special reference to the plays of Girish Karnad.

Girish Karnad stands on the threshold of the existential era in the modern Indian drama, which has found its stalwart in Rabindra Nath Tagore, who bridged the nineteenth and twentieth century developments and created a new stream.

The work involves the study of the Indian classical tradition of drama. Tradition implies movement, action through time, performance, traditions-religious or literary and established ways of thinking doing things.

Indian dramatic tradition owes it origin to Bharatmuni's Natyasastra, which offers a comprehensive scheme and structure of drama and technique of performance. As compared to the western drama, the Indian has been specially rich in artistic production and performance.

The various aspects of the dramatic text – Natyā Sastra have been studied. The creation of the Natyaveda by Brahma and the creation of Natyasastra by Bharata have been dealt with. The work later deals with the Sanskrit dramatists and their works. The tendencies and the other aspects of Sanskrit drama have been focused. Its decline due to various invasions and conquests has also been mentioned.

As it is a study of Girish Karnad, aspects of Indian English writing have been studied. The British rule brought with itself a new stream of writing- Indo-Anglian writing. The tendencies of the Indo-Anglian dramatists have been traced which provided base
for the study. Girish Karnad was brought up in the atmosphere provided by his predecessors.

Girish Karnad and his contemporaries have carried forward the legacy of the past along with new experiences, influences and interaction with global community. The work further deals with the play of Karnad. In order to have clear understanding of the tendencies of Karnad the themes have been studied under the following heads – The mythic, the historical and the socio-cultural. Girish Karnad has great insight of human nature especially of the modern man. He feeds his readers with the psychological truths of modern man in the present social settings, with his roots attached to the long past Indian tradition.

Karnad has been fascinated by myths and this provides him opportunity to explore into man’s psyche. As a writer of modern sensibility he has related the historical episodes to contemporary situations. The Socio-cultural themes in his plays provide him opportunity to portray the evils in the social order.

The Indian aspect is highlighted in his plots, which are basically Indian and are in accordance with the principles of Natyasastra. The language and his style of writing is Indian. The various expressions in his plays have been studied to bring out the Indian traditional aspect Karnad is one of the leading playwrights who has provided a unique combination of the Indian and western techniques in his plays. The research work has probed in to this area with a view to determining Girish Karnad’s contribution to the Indian English drama as well as Indian classical tradition.