



**Centre for Comparative Literature  
Bhasha Bhavana  
Visva-Bharati**

**Embassy of the  
Republic of Costa Rica  
in India**

# **The Mahābhārata in Costa Rica: From Bookstores to Classrooms and Beyond**

**a lecture by**

**Dr. Roberto Morales Harley**

**Director**

**Department of Classical Philology**

**University of Costa Rica**

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**Time: 11 AM**

**Venue: Room No. 305**

**Bhasha Bhavana**

**Visva-Bharati**



## Abstract

This paper focuses on the role that the *Mahābhārata*, as a masterpiece of world literature, has played over the past century in Costa Rica, mainly among scholars at the university level, but also among the wider population. To that end, three sections are offered, covering, first, the availability of the *Mahābhārata*, whether in its entirety or in the form of isolated sections, as reading material for the Spanish-speaking public of Costa Rica; second, the research on the *Mahābhārata* in the University of Costa Rica, as well as the different perspectives about the text that it has taken; and third, the telling detail of a staging of the play Battlefield, which is based on the *Mahābhārata*, to commemorate one hundred and twenty years since the inauguration of the National Theater of Costa Rica.

## About the Speaker

M.L. Roberto Morales-Harley specializes in Sanskrit language, Sanskrit epics, and Indian studies in Costa Rica. He holds degrees in Classical Philology, Classical Literature, and Languages of the Ancient World. He is Associate Professor at the School of Philology, Linguistics, and Literature, from the University of Costa Rica, where he teaches Sanskrit language and literature. Currently, he is also Director of the Department of Classical Philology at said university.

