CONCLUDING REMARKS

After the detail study of the MP, it seems that Purāṇas are not only the treasures of interesting stories but they described the scientific attitudes of the Universe and proved with the help of the ten incarnations of Lord Viṣṇu.

In the first chapter, introduction of Purāṇas is supported by etymology of Purāṇas, pañcalakṣaṇas of Purāṇas, other references of Matsya found in Sanskrit literature, these are mentioned to prove the antiquity and popularity of Purāṇas. Age of Purāṇas is discussed with the different opinions of scholars.

Importance of MP, avatāravāda, Matsya avatāra, and conversation of Manu-Matsya, these points are described in detail. Dasāvatāras of Viṣṇu are compared with the evolutionary developments of animals. A brief introduction of Vedavyāsa is given as he was the partial incarnation of Viṣṇu and without whom we could not study the Purāṇas.

In the second chapter, origin of the Universe is explained with reference to mythology and western literature. Manu asked Lord Matsya to enlighten him on the problems of cosmogony, universal dissolution, divine genealogies, etc. then the Lord proceeded to expound the world-egg theory or the Birth of the Brahmāṇḍa. This philosophy is explained in the form of Golden-Egg i.e.
Hiraṇyagarbha. He is the World Soul (Mahān Ātmā), the Cosmic Egg, that arises out of cosmic waters and engages Himself in the creation of forms and beings. He is the First Born (prathamaja), who manifests forms that are already contained in Him.

To show the evolution of Matsya, based on Darwin’s theory of evolution, geological history of the animal kingdom is determined. Fossils study is essential to look back into history.

Flood legends of western countries support the Hindu concept of, Ekārṇava samudra and formation of the sun and moon and other creatures. Afterwards, conservation and development of Matsya [Śaphari] protected by Manu, in different habitats, is compared with the modern species found in different aquatic places.

The third chapter contains the selective references, besides Purāṇas literature, mainly Jyotiṣa śāstra, Āyurveda and Matsyadeśa from MBh. Jyotiṣa śāstra prefers, Mīna rāśi is the one important zodiac sign amongst twelve zodiac signs. In the Āyurveda, the different types and uses of Matsyas according to their size and habitats are mentioned. Matsyas [people] were brave and important community in the period of MBh, as a region of Bhāratavarṣa was known by this community as ‘Matsyadeśa’.

In the fourth chapter, fish and whale, morphological information of fish and whale is discussed regarding to Zoology. There are many types of fish, which are similar to the fishes described in Āyurveda. Fishes having special features, adaptations are
mentioned here. They are important source of food for world that’s why economic importance, their medicinal uses, and their significance in aquatic ecosystem, are explained in detail. Here, types of whales, special features and behaviors are discussed in brief.

In the fifth chapter, modern relevance of Matsya with whale is stated on the basis of some comparative observations. Here, it is an attempt to show some characteristics of Matsya creature, giant appearance, a great speed of swimming and power of longest migration between Polar Regions.

Every animal has its right to live its life on this earth, but due to selfishness of human, whale hunting is increased at pick level and some of whales are extinct now-a-days. Whale hunting along with hazards such as ocean noise, ship strikes, pollution, unsustainable fishing practices, oil and gas development and climate change continues to be a threat to theses intelligent creatures, which play a significant role in ocean ecosystems.

Collisions with ships and entanglement in fishing gear threaten the North Atlantic right whales with extinction, while the critically endangered western North Pacific whales are at serious risk because of intensive oil and gas development in its feeding grounds.

Many conservation acts and commissions are implemented to save the whales. Hundreds of whale conservation societies, volunteers and research institutes work together to protect these whales. Rescue teams of scientists and experts save the
disentanglements of whales from last thirty years. The scientific
information can lead to better protection for the whales and their
habitat along with increasing our understanding of whales in general.

From the overall study of the ‘evolution of Mastya’, one
may remark that –

• *Purāṇas* were not a closed literature like the *Vedas* or
  *Upniṣadas*, but there was something in them with the
  possibility of endless augmentations of literature.

• *Purāṇas* are the mythological texts, which explain the great
  Universal truths in the form of historical narratives, stories,
  legends and dialogues. These *Purāṇas* are for the benefits of
  common people who would find the arguments and concepts of
  the *Vedas* difficult to understand.

• The *Vedas* and *Purāṇas*, together have created a coherent and
  supportive network of values and ethics and of a way of life
  itself. *Vedas* and *Purāṇas* are not only the origin of Indian
  culture, religion, philosophy, but also are the origin of social,
  political, and the most important thing they cover all the facets
  and teach human beings to bring togetherness with neighbours
  and our selfsoul.

• *Purāṇas* have preserved a wonderful record of spreading
  religious movements, Indian etiquettes and knowledge of earth
  evolution i.e. *srṣṭi-vidyā*. 
• The *Vedas* and *Purāṇas* together have created a coherent and supportive network of values and ethics and a way of life.

• Amongst 18 *Purāṇas* with the help of the ten incarnations of Lord Viṣṇu, MP is the most valuable *Purāṇa* because *Matsya* incarnation is the first incarnation of Lord Viṣṇu from His 10 incarnations i.e. ‘Daśāvtāras, which show the geological development of animal kingdom, vertebrates to mammals. This development explains why the Lord appeared firstly in *Matsya-avatāra*.

• The concept of *Ekārṇav Samudra*, why Viṣṇu is called *Nārāyaṇa?* How *Manu* protected the tiny living fish? How Śivā destroyed the Universe and how new life is created from the Golden Egg? These and many other similar problems of symbolism have been faced in the present study explaining the terminology of the MP.

• The remarkable appearance of Lord Viṣṇu is considered as persevere of Universe. *Purāṇas* are not only the treasures of interesting stories but they described the scientific attitudes of the Universe and proved with the help of the ten incarnations of Lord Viṣṇu.

• Destruction and creation of the Universe [Golden Egg] indicates the birth and death cycle of each and every living thing, which is the basic principle of environment [जातस्य हि भूतो मृत्युः भूतं जन्म गृह्य चा].
• The word "bṛa" means "bursting out or bringing forth" and "ahm" means ego. Brahma is therefore he who brings forth many "ahms" or egos or beings into this world using his divine power and matter and pouring life (breath) into them. Hiranyagarbha is not an eternal being, but comes into existence at the beginning of creation and becomes dissolved in Iśwara at the end of creation.

• He is the Sūtrātman (the soul of a necklace) the thread on which all beings and all the worlds (the world of the devas, of the ancestors, of the humans, of the demons etc) are strung like beads in a necklace.

• Golden Egg or Brahmatāōōa floated in the water which is the same with that of Matsyāōōa- the fish egg. Here, there is similarity in the birth of the Universe and the birth of fish– the first unit of animal kingdom. Not only this, but there is very close resemblance between the developing child in the womb called fetus and the Brahmatāōōa.

• Geological studies explain the different period-zones, where growth of animal kingdom is shown clearly, which states the fishes at the bottom level while human or whales [mammals] are on the uppermost level. The same principle is observed in the concepts of Dasāvatāras and proved that Purāṇic writers were familiar to the world of science.
• Flood legends around the world are similar to the Matsya incarnation concept of Hinduism.

• To show the unique place and importance of Matsya in Sanskrit literature, *Jyotiṣa śāstra*, *Āyurveda* and *Matsyadeśa* from MBh, are included.

• Fish has important role in the balance of nature and food web. It is the main unit of aquatic ecosystem. MP also shows the conservation and awareness of environment by protecting the tiny fish [*Śaphari*].

• To determine the scientific description of fish and whale and to understand the composition of these modern species with that of ancient species described in Sanskrit literature the comparative study is undertaken.

• *Matsya* Incarnation has relevance with the modern whales on the basis of its body structure, giant appearance and great power of swimming and fighting in the deep ocean. This incarnation is also relevant with fish because Lord *Viṣṇu* appeared first in the form ‘*Śapharii*’ in the hands of *Vaiśaśvata* Manu.

• However, the whales and dolphins are related with the human, as they are main food source for their life. These animals have important place in their different cultures and traditions of many communities throughout the world. Now-a-days, these
marine mammals are useful for the scientists to study the bottom of the ocean.

- The Universe is originated from the water deluge. According to embryology, embryo develops in the fluid of mother’s womb. This proves that the new creation always originates from the water in the form of fish tadpole like structures.

- From the Śaphari in Manu’s hand upto the giant Matsya incarnation at the time of deluge symbolizes the fish as first level of animal development while giant Matsya incarnation symbolizes the last level of animal development.

- Matsya incarnation was nothing but the ‘Whale-avatāra’ of Viṣṇu, it may not be false if one considers, and now-a-days, also considered as whales are the Divine Incarnation having Divine powers, extraordinary intelligence and great affinity towards humans.

- Where there is end of animal kingdom, that species is saviour during the dissolution and again there is new creation from the water dissolution. That means, this death and birth cycle starts from fish and ends with whale, which resembles the evolution of Matsya up to the whale according to MP.

- Origin of whales is still unknown, so if it is said that whales are the Divine Incarnation, and whales are the only creatures, which will survive at the time of deluge in future, then it should not be wrong.
Scope of the further research

_Purāṇas_ are the real sources for the study of Indian cultures, philosophy, and tradition. But scientific attitudes and comparative study of _Purāṇas_ are still neglected by the scholars. _Purāṇas_ can be studied with different views. There is a scope of further research in _Purāṇas_ like _Vāyu Purāṇa_ and _Agni Purāṇa_. The concept of time [kālganāṇā], solar system history of flora and fauna, these topics of _Vāyu Purāṇa_ can be studied with the modern relevance. MP also has topics like architecture and flora and fauna. The geographical survey of _saptadwīpa_, mountains and rivers, can be studied for the further research on the basis of _Purāṇic_ literature.