Nāradasmṛti is one of the prominent legal texts as far as ancient Civil and Criminal laws and Judicial procedure are concerned. It occupies an unique place among ancient law texts. In fact it is the first independent text devoted purely to Vyavahāra. Nāradasmṛti, most probably was composed in 3rd century A.D. It has made remarkable improvement on Vyavahāra of Manusmṛti and Yājñavalkyasmṛti. The written law in all probability known as the court law comes to its real supreme status in this work. This is the only work of eminence that we have on the court of law. Uniqueness of this work is that, it discusses elaborately the study of law with all its aspects like Judicial procedure, Court of Justice, Civil titles of law and Criminal titles of law. All rules and acts are clearly laid down and are explained in such a way that even common man can understand its implementation. Another special feature of this work is that being pure Vyavahāra, it knows no friends and foes, no favours and hatred. It is most impartial, cool and certainly not sentimental.

Almost all the commentators of Manusmṛti and Yājñavalkyasmṛti considered Nāradasmṛti as an authoritative text on the Vyavahāra and quote profusely from it.
in their commentaries. More than seven hundred verses out of total one thousand and twenty-eight verses of this text are found quoted by different authors and commentators of śruti literature, which sows authoritative nature of this work.

This important epoch-making law text, till today has not received much attention from modern Indian and occidental scholars, which it really deserves. Except Dr. Julius Jolly's English translation, no substantial research has been done on this revolutionary śruti text. It's importance and original contribution to civil and criminal law is not widely known. The main aim of this independent research work on Nāradasmṛti is to bring out its significant contribution made to civil and criminal law of India, making indepth study of its all topics. To show its advancement made on Manusmṛti and Yājñavalkya-śruti, (on Vyavahāra), each topic of Nāradasmṛti is studied here in comparison with Manu and Yājñavalkya.

This thesis is divided into four parts on the basis of relevant subjects discussed in it. First part contains three chapters. It includes 'Introduction', 'Earlier State of Law', and 'King in Nāradasmṛti. In part second, there are two important chapters, viz., 'Legal Procedure' and 'Evidence'. Third part comprises
four chapters viz., 'Marriage', 'Inheritance', 'Debt', 'Assorted Civil titles in Nārada', and 'Civil titles in Nāradasmṛti concerning trade and monetary activities'. Chapter on assorted civil titles in Nārada contains, 'Deposits', 'Breach of Contract of Service', 'Resumption of Gifts', 'Boundary Disputes', and 'Transgression of Compat'. Similarly, Civil titles concerning trade and Monetary activities deals with, 'Partnership', 'Sales affected by another person than owner', 'Non-delivery of the sold chattel', 'Non-payment of wages', and 'Rescission of purchase'. Fourth part has two chapters, one is on criminal titles in the Nāradasmṛti, in which 'Heinous offences including theft', 'Abuse and assault' and 'Games' are discussed, and another is conclusion in which special contribution of Nārada to Vyavahāra is pointed out in brief. Two appendices are added in the end. First appendix includes definition of each title given by Nārada, which is special feature of this author, with English translation (J. Jolly's). Second appendix comprises prayers which are recited during the administration of ordeals.

This Research Work is mainly based on original Nāradasmṛti edited by Dr. Julius Jolly which is published under the title 'Institutes of Nārada', Asiatic Society, Calcutta, in the year 1885, and translation in English by
the same scholar published under the series 'Sacred Books of the East, Vol. XXXIII'. The translation of Minor Nārada by Dr. Julius Jolly and Sanskrit text of Nārada-smṛti, published by Sanskrit College, Calcutta, are also referred to. In case of Manusmṛti and Yajñavalkya-smṛti, original Sanskrit texts and authentic English translations are referred to and of which list is given in Bibliography.

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