SYNOPSIS

Volume I

Chapter I - INTRODUCTION

Section 1 - Concept of Purāṇa -
Importance of Purāṇic Studies - Purāṇa - meaning, definition and characteristics - Need for critical edition -
The Br. P. as a Purāṇa; its place, etc. - Date of the Br. P. - Home of the Br. P.; Saura-Purāṇa, an upapurāṇa of the
Br. P.

Section 2 - Formal Study -
Information about the Br. P. gathered from (i) Printed editions (ii) Catalogues of manuscripts and (iii) Nibandha-works. - Description of the Br. P. from the point of view of (a) form (b) Interlocutors and (c) Story - links -
Conclusions.

Chapter II - SUMMARY OF THE CONTENTS

A chapter-wise summary of the contents of the Br. P. is given in this chapter.
Chapter III - SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Introduction - Concepts of Varna, Jāti and Caste -

Chapter IV - MARRIAGE, FAMILY AND POSITION OF WOMEN

Marriage - Introduction, terms to denote the idea of marriage - Purpose of marriage - Qualifications of the bride and bridegroom - Age of marriage - Types of marriage: (i) Monogamy, (ii) Polygamy, (iii) Polyandry - Eight forms of marriage - Limitations of marriage - relationships - Marriage ceremony - Concept of Niyoga - Incestuous unions - Kinds of Sons.

Family:- Introduction - Position of son - Status of the father - Brothers - Son-in-Law.

Position of Women:- Introduction - Woman as daughter - Woman as wife - Power of Pativrata - Woman as mother - Position of a daughter-in-law - Position of a widow - The Custom of Satī - Women and religion - Women and Śūdras - Women not to be killed - Women and fighting - Seclusion of
women - Views about women's nature - Attitude towards women captives - Woman's share in patrimony.

Chapter V - SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE

Introduction - Food and drinks - Dress and decoration - Music and dancing - Measurements - Metals - Art and architecture - Popular customs, superstitions and beliefs - Honouring the guests.

Chapter VI - MYTHOLOGY


Demons and Sages.

Chapter VII - RELIGION

Introduction - Concept of worship of various Gods, Viz. (i) worship of Kṛṣṇa, Balarāma and Subhadra (ii) Nṛsimha

Chapter VIII - PHILOSOPHY


Volume II

Chapter IX - GEOGRAPHY

Introduction - Identification of some Geographical names.

Chapter X - ETHNIC DATA

Introduction - Identification of some ethnic names.

Chapter XI - POLITICAL STRUCTURE

Introduction - Theory of divine origin of king -

Chapter XII - DYNASTIC DATA

Introduction - Dynastic data as given in the Br.P.

Appendix 1 - Difficult and obsolete words.
Appendix 2 - Some Linguistic and literary aspects.
Appendix 3 - Metres used in the Br. P.
Appendix 4 - Metrical analysis.
Appendix 5 - A List of some Alamkāras.
Appendix 6 - A List of Subhāsitas.
Appendix 7 - Flora and Fauna.
Appendix 8 - Geographical and Ethnic Data in the Br.P.
Appendix 9 - Chart of Ethnic Data provided by various Purānas.
Appendix 10 — Genealogical tables as obtained from the Br.P.
Appendix 11 - Alphabetical list of hells.
Appendix 12 - A List of verses quoted from the Br. P. in different works.