PREFACE

The Purāṇas constitute a considerable part of the rich Sanskrit literature and their importance and relevance can be assessed in various dimensions. For a long time they were viewed only as explanatory treatises of Vedas in the form of myths and legends.

Modern studies on Purāṇas specially concentrate on Historical, Cultural and Social glimpses that are reflected in Purāṇa texts. The descriptions of the genealogy of the sages and kings in different Purāṇas have special significance in this regard. The Social, Cultural and Historical significances of the description of the genealogical data of these kings and Ṛṣīs have been highlighted in this thesis.

The thesis is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter is an overview of the earlier studies in the field of Purāṇas. The second chapter discusses the development of Purāṇic literature focusing the changing scenario in its nature and content. In the third chapter an analysis of the textual material and content of Brahmāṇḍapurāṇa is done. The fourth chapter deals with the genealogical data of sages and the Parśurāma legend seen in Brahmāṇḍapurāṇa. An in depth study of the genealogical records of royal dynasties recounted in Brahmāṇḍapurāṇa is carried out in the fifth chapter. The historical, social and cultural aspects reflected in the Vaṃśa and Vaṃśānucarita portions of Brahmāṇḍapurāṇa are traced out in the
sixth chapter. The concluding chapter comprises the findings of the Thesis.

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