

## PREFACE

This Śākta Upapurāṇa named Mahābhāgavata which preaches pure unswerving devotion to Śakti or Devī emphasizing Her Splendour and considering devotion to Śakti to be more efficacious than the devotion to its possessor either Viṣṇu or Śiva indicates the development of pure devotion to Devī that had reached its acme at the time of its composition. Its gaining popularity as a purāṇa is inferred from Brhaddharmapurāṇa's considering the Mahābhāgavata as a Mahāpurāṇa and plagiarizing many verses from it over and above imitating its language and contents. Observing the above facts, I thought it worth its while to undertake a critical study of this Purāṇa and to make good its deficit.

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