PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Man is more closely connected with the government in general and the local government in particular in the democratic form of government. Therefore, he has greater curiosity and interest about knowing the working of the government at different levels. The concept of social welfare and the welfare state accepted in India has increased the expectations of the people from the governments working at different layers. It is Public Finance, a developed branch of Economics is related to the operations of the government especially fiscal which greatly affects the welfare of the society as a whole. On this background my interest about this branch of Economics has been developed during my student days particularly at post-graduate level. This inspired me to undertake research for doctoral degree in the branch of Public Finance.

India is the largest country in the world having democratic form of government and federal setup of governance because of which there is a strong Central Government and many subnational governments alongwith greater number of local governments. They have been assigned a crucial role in achieving overall development of local areas as well as well being of the people. However, financial resources and powers to raise revenue available for them are inadequate and insufficient which has led to fiscal imbalance for this layer of government in India. This situation promoted me to take up research in the area of local finance.

Kolhapur is a well developed educational, industrial, trade and commerce, cultural, historical place and centre of political and social movements in the Western Maharashtra of the country. The city has played a vital role in the overall personality development of the present researcher especially during his student life which persuaded me to undertake research study on the finances of Kolhapur Municipal Corporation, a unit of urban local government in Maharashtra State.

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Kolhapur

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