Local Self Government, chronologically as well as conceptually, is the starting point of democratic institutions. It has been at work in one form or the other in India, England, U.S.A. and France, though its infra-structure, mode of working and scope of authority has been different in different parts of the world. In most of the countries it has come down as a legacy of the past. The purpose of this study is to trace the origin of these local bodies and their typical institutions, and critically examine their growth and operation till its culmination into the KAVAL Towns of Uttar Pradesh. KAVAL is a made-up word obtained by joining the first alphabets of Kanpur, Agra, Varanasi, Allahabad and Lucknow. These are big metropolitan towns being marked and distinguished by their population, territory and complexity of peculiar problems, political, social, economic, financial, demographic, etc.

To begin with, in this work, Local governments in U.K., U.S.A. and France have been examined in their historical perspective. Further on, history of local self-government in India has been traced. The study of KAVAL Towns has been undertaken and the causes of its failure are objectively analysed. The approach of India's leadership and its attitude towards the local government as a whole is found to be unrealistic. Continuous failure of local self-governing
institutions after a long process of trial and error has not convinced the leadership of its futility throughout the country. An attempt has been made to examine the universal, though partial, failure of local bodies in spite of the existence of local self government institutions in almost all the democracies of the world. In introductory chapter, history of local governments in U.S.A., U.K. and France has been traced as models. In chapter second, the evolution (legal as well as administrative) of local self government in India has been examined and causes of its pathetic failure have been analysed.

The special problems of big cities in the industrial areas have been analytically examined in the third chapter.

The fourth chapter concerns with the administrative and political issues of the KAVAL towns.

The financial constrains often faced by KAVAL towns have been delineated with its prospects in the fifth chapter.

In the sixth chapter, each Municipal Corporation has been dealt with separately in terms of area, population, economic status, climatic conditions, literacy, language, etc.

The conclusion sums up the accounts of previous chapters and makes suggestions for a smooth functioning of these municipal corporations. A detailed bibliography is given in the last. The appendices include a list of Municipal Corporations in India, district maps and personal interviews.
of various elected representatives of the municipal corporations. It has been discovered unmistakably that the human failure involved in the functioning bodies of KAVAL Towns has repeatedly come to the fore but remedial steps have not been taken to bring about change in policies — political, economic, developmental, bureaucratical and so and so on and so forth.

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