Federal-State relations constitute an important field of inquiry to the student of political organization and public administration. In recent years the boundaries of federalism have been shifting under the impact of national and international forces. There is today an urgent need for a re-definition of federal-state relations in all federations.

The New Constitution of Independent India which became operative in January 1950 sets up a federal relationship between the Union Centre and the States. The constitution has fixed up the broad contours of the Union-State relations. An inquiry is made in these pages into the nature of these relations in the field of Legislation, Administration and Finance. In order to place these relationships in their proper setting a brief historical account of the Indian Constitutional development from the early days of the British rule has been given. Union-State relations have been examined in the light of the experience of other federations and of the prevailing conditions in India. They have also been examined in the light of the principles of Centralization Vs. decentralization and Unitarism Vs. federalism. The inquiry is confined to the provisions of the New Constitution. Even after two years of working, the Constitution
remains a closed book in as much as most of its provisions have not yet become subjects of judicial interpretation. The form as well as the content of the Union-State relations are bound to be altered as time passes by conventions established by political practice, the decisions of the Supreme Court and the conduct of the people. It may be that a decade hence we will be in a position to pronounce on the nature of these relations. But even a theoretical study of them based upon the constitutional provisions is certainly worth the serious attention of any student of political organisation. Wherever possible future trends have been indicated. Time must show whether these anticipations are right.

In the preparation of this thesis I have utilised the data I collected from the books, reports, journals and other unpublished sources available in the big libraries of India, the National Library, the National Archives and the Library of the Indian Council of World Affairs.

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T. R. Narayana Rao
Mysore
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(T. S. Narayana Rao)
Department of Politics, University of Mysore.