PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Urbanisation is a phenomena, which is part and parcel of economic development. It generates a substantial proportion of total jobs and provides a significant contribution to national economy. As a result new towns are coming up, already existing commercial and industrial towns are expanding to accommodate the continuing influx of rural population. In this scenario urban governance has assumed increasing importance as the capacity of a city is contingent upon its ability to govern the cities. In the long history of local governments in India, 1st June 1993, has made a land mark, as it is on this day, that the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA), 1992, came into force. The 74th Constitution Amendment Act aimed to accord a constitutional status to municipal bodies by initiating a process of democratic decentralization.

The act provided statutory definition of the urban local bodies of different categories, stipulating the requirements of their Constitution and composition as well as outlining the domain of their powers and functions. It provided the framework for establishing a process of democratic decentralisation of the planning and development of urban areas. The 74th CAA thus ushered in a new era in the history of urban local governments in the country. It is a pointer to the determination of the state to bestow power to the people to plan for themselves and participate in the decision-making process.

With the 74th CAA, 1992, all state governments passed the conformity legislation by 31st May 1994. Karnataka Government though unable to meet the
deadline set by the 74th Amendment Act, amended the Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act in October 1994. Though all the provisions have not been implemented, some of the provisions have been brought into force. The present work is an attempt to study critically the working of the Bangalore Municipal Corporation from 1990 to 2006 since decentralisation process began from 1990 onwards.

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