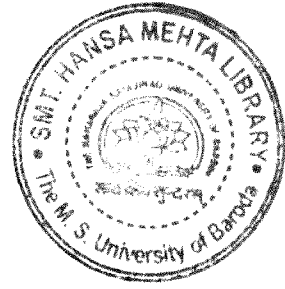


From My Heart



I sincerely owe the completion of this work to the two most important women in my life.

First, to my mother Srimati Prasanna Kumari Devi, who did not like it when I abandoned my Ph. D at an advanced stage to join the IAS, particularly since she carried a regret that her husband Sri Mohapatra Nilamani Sahu, the great litterateur himself, could not complete his Ph.D due to difficult family circumstances. She used to ask me several times, if I could take it up again and complete my Ph. D. To her, I owe this and hope it would make her happy and free of that regret.

Then I owe this to my companion, closest friend and wife Anjali Mohapatra, who always wanted and kept reminding me to take up my doctoral assignment and complete it. Never to give up on her reminding skills, I have no hesitation to state that I would never have been able to do this work at this stage in my career, had it not been for her unrelenting persistence to encourage and remind me.

Very sincerely, with all the regards and love I hold for these two most important women in my life, I dedicate this work to them, for whatever worth it is.