

## PREFACE

The land of unspoilt and enchanting natural beauty of exotic flowers with its majestic and gigantic guardian deity Mount Khan-chen-dzo-nga, Sikkim in its developmental process was initially a feudal monarchy, later it was a protectorate of India followed by associate status and finally to become a part of India in the year 1975. This transition, over the years, from one stage to the other exhibits the growth of not only an effective social system but to build a strong democratic political system. This transition has further made the rulers and the people to act effectively in both social and political life to accelerate the process of development. The basic issue in the process of transition is to fuse and integrate components of the indigenous culture with the standards and practices of modern democratic life. If we theorise the political process in Sikkim it focuses on political developments, nation building, popular participation, tradition in modernity, identity, protection and unity of the three ethnic communities. The objective of the present study is not theory building but exploratory in order to understand the socio-political developments of Sikkim. The study and analysis of this work covers the period between the Twelfth ruler-Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal (1963) through the politics of integration and restoration of democracy under the leadership of Shri Pawan Chamling's Sikkim Democratic Front which is in power. Traditionalism and constitutional protection of Sikkim are continuing in the political process of Sikkim in the functioning of the Executive, Administration, Panchayatiraj, Legislature, Electoral process and Judiciary since 1975. By and large, this work focuses on developments in Sikkim in the socio-economic fields and political arena which ultimately tries to protect democracy, basic rights and identity of the people of Sikkim.

In fact, I am highly obliged to Dr. Manas Chakraborty, Reader and Head, Department of Political Science, University of North Bengal for his exhaustive and scholarly guidance and supervision on this thesis which helped me to bring to its final shape for submission. His personal attention and care, ably guided me at every step. Also I thank all the members of faculty of Department Political Science, North Bengal University in helping me in the project. Some aspects of the study I have already published in both local newspapers and national magazines and periodicals which have inspired me to complete and present it.

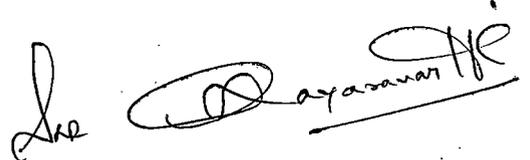
It is my duty to express gratitude to Padma Vibhushan Shri Kazi Lhendup Dorji, first Chief Minister of Sikkim (Post Merger) and Shri B.B. Gooroo, former Chief Minister of Sikkim (and Political Advisor to the Honourable Chief Minister of Sikkim Shri Pawan Chamling), a mobile library and a seasoned statesman of Sikkim for helping me with materials and information to complete this work, in spite of their tremendous pre-occupations. My thanks are due to Chief Justice R. Dayal and the Honourable High Court of Sikkim for having provided me with ample information and necessary materials.

I am grateful to Dr.C.B.Sunwar, former Principal, Sikkim Government College, Tadong for having instigated me to complete this Ph.D work and extended help in many other ways.

I express my gratitude to the present principal Dr. S.K. Pradhan, Shri M.A. Safi, Librarian, Shri Anjan Chakraborty and Shri C.Das Lecturers of Sikkim Government College for all their help. I record my thanks to my mother Smt. K.R Kaamakshi, my elder brother Shri K.R Ramakrishnan, Scientist , CECRI, my wife Smt. L. Padmavathi, Sr. Audit Officer (Admn.), O/o AG (Audit), Sikkim and my daughter Ms. K.C.Archana who have constantly encouraged me to get this work completed which has been kept pending since long.

My special thanks are duly recorded to my son Mr. K.C.L. Narasimham, a student of B.E.(Mechanical), Jabalpur Engineering College in composing the thesis alongwith the help of Shri M.V.S. Manian, The Mountain Institute, Gangtok, Shri N. Radhakrishnan, AAO, O/o the Sr. DAG (A & E), Gangtok, Sikkim, Shri Arjun Sharma and Shri Ganesh Gurung of Sikkim Government College. I would also like to thank Shri S. Murugesan, A.E, (RDD), Government of Sikkim and Shri D. K. Sekhar of Tadong for providing me with moral support in this regard.

Lastly I thank the Almighty of all religious faiths of our sacred Country and the World at large for having blessed me to complete the work and submit the thesis to North Bengal University for the award of Doctor of Philosophy.



(K.R. CHAKARAVARTHI)  
Deptt. of Polititcal Science  
University of North Bengal  
P.O. NBU, Pin – 734430  
INDIA.