

## CHAPTER - II

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### 1. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for research shall undertake to trace the political and constitutional history in the pre-merger period from the rule of the last Chogyal – Palden Thendup Namgyal and also the circumstances which led to the merger of Sikkim with India in the name of ‘Politics of Integration of Sikkim with the Indian Union’. Secondly, the transition from feudal Monarchy to Democracy in the post-merger period of Sikkim for building up democracy and strengthening the democratic forces and institutions in terms of role played by Government of India, local leaders and political parties of Sikkim. Yet another thrust area of the theoretical framework of the research programme would be to focus on the entire effort to bring Sikkim in the national mainstream of India without disturbing the age old traditions, ethnicity, ethnic complexity, culture, old laws, constitutional safeguards, identity of the people of Sikkim, political structure and the state as a whole in the light of basic issue and problems of the people.

### 2. Research Questions:

- ❖ To what extent the transformation and changes from feudal monarchy to democracy has contributed to build democratic institutions in terms of various revolutions and movements in Sikkim?
- ❖ How far and to what extent the democratic institutions have started functioning successfully in achieving the aimed goals and objectives of democracy in Sikkim?
- ❖ To what level and extent the people of Sikkim at all level participate in particulars at the grassroots level in building up democracy?

- ❖ To what extent Article 371 F of the Constitution of India is able to protect the rights and safeguards to the people of Sikkim and democracy besides maintaining the identity of the people of Sikkim and their culture, traditions and customary laws in spite of the fact of Sikkim becoming a Member of North East Council?
- ❖ Whether democratic and political developments in Sikkim have contributed to the political modernization alongwith a comparison of developments in the pre-merger and post-merger Sikkim?
- ❖ What is the extent of voting pattern, voting behaviour to indicate the political awareness, consciousness and political process relating to electoral politics in Sikkim, as because voting is the most important process of political participation in democratic societies.
- ❖ To what extent administration in the State of Sikkim has help developed to improve the quality of life through decentralization and democratization processes?

All the above question for investigation may try to reveal that before merger of Sikkim, the rules of various Maharajahs and British rule showed a slow process of development. The real socio-economic developments and political transformation took place in the post merger period. The focus of the popular governments has been to promote the quality of life of the people and to build strong democratic institutions in Sikkim. Though plural in character the society of Sikkim, the efforts are being put to bring them together to lead a peaceful life with the help of democratic institutions and processes. Facilities in various fields like administration, governance, education, agriculture, secular character etc. have started growing. The primary objective of the proposed theoretical aspect of the study is to examine the changing functions of the government and the role played by political leaders, political parties and popular governments in the state of Sikkim to evaluate the effectiveness to promote welfare and developmental activities over the years. By and large, it is

to analyse the overall developments since merger to present day in the young state of the Indian Union, namely, Sikkim. Hypothetically, it is to trace the changes and developments of Sikkim in the post merger period and finally the process of bringing Sikkim into the mainstream of national life of India. Perhaps it has been achieved and today Sikkim stands as the most peaceful state of the Indian Union as compared to other sister states of India.

### **3. Data Collection**

Data for the present study have been collected through both, primary and secondary sources.

The primary sources are: Government records, reports, notifications, official publications, manuals and other unpublished materials.

The secondary sources are: books, news papers, periodicals (local and national) and other articles relating to the study area.

The empirical aspect of the study are based on personal interviews with unstructured informal questionnaire and if needed administering prepared questionnaire and schedules with the local people, officials, political leaders, legislators of the state of Sikkim.

### **4. Data Analysis**

Data for the present study have been analysed manually and with the help of desk calculator.