

CHAPTER - 5

Findings and Conclusion

The developments in the post merger Sikkim is remarkable in the socio-economic and political fields.

The Governance in the democratic framework has seen the successful functioning of the Governmental organization and administration.

The participation of the people in the democratic process and electoral politics shows an upward trend and people are happy with the democratic system in Sikkim.

Article 371F is strictly observed in order to protect the local interest and sentiments of the people alongwith their identity, in spite of the fact Sikkim becoming a member of North Eastern Council.

The political developments have contributed to political modernization and the developments in post merger period are conspicuous and are to the expectations of the people of Sikkim.

The voting pattern and participation of the people in various assembly and parliamentary elections is showing an upward trend and the people of Sikkim have gained tremendous political consciousness and awareness.

The administration in the state of Sikkim has shown a marked improvement and streamlined the administrative processes in the state.

The inclusion of Tamangs and Limboo in the Scheduled Tribes demands reserved seats in the state legislative assembly. This was not foreseen by both

Government of India and Government of Sikkim. Similarly, if Rais, Gurungs and Mangers are included in the scheduled tribes the problem of reservation will further get complicated because the total number of seats in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly which is fixed at 32 and the reserved Tribal BL seats are fixed at 12 and which cannot be changed under no circumstances while the reserved seats for Nepalese still remaining unsolved.

To sum up, India's endeavour of saving and protecting Sikkim from feudal monarchy to establish democracy and merger of Sikkim with the Indian union is complete. It was India's cross border democratic experience to infuse courage in the minds of the people and create political awareness among them. The method adopted by India in the process is a transition without affecting the sentiments of the people of Sikkim, identity of the Sikkim, traditional customs and socio-economic and political institutions. The people of Sikkim are at home to promote happiness and peace both within and outside. It means one finds changes in the pre merger and post merger Sikkim as because socio-economic and political developments are increasing without affecting the culture and identity of the State.

The democratic movement in Sikkim started with the advent of political parties and in the revolutions of 1949 and 1973. Since the rule of British-India, establishment of protectorate status, associate status and finally Sikkim becoming part of India are the historical events, which remain vivid and conspicuous to protect and save Sikkim. Even during the rules of Namgyal dynasty Sikkim was not a sovereign state, as it had to depend heavily upon India, because of Sikkim's topography, climatic conditions and lack of resources.

Since 1973 the democratic trends and tendency have started growing strongly ultimately resulting in the fact that Sikkim became a part of the Indian federal polity.

The merger with India is conditional and which is being well reflected in article 371 F of the Constitution. In spite of the fact Sikkim became the 22nd state of India still it remains the youngest beautiful border state of India.

The Working of Executive, Legislature, Judiciary and Bureaucracy have imbibed the typical Indian democratic trends keeping up the culture, traditions and identity of the people and their sentiments.

In the process of political dynamics the analyses of Electoral behaviour reveal the increasing political sentiments and participatory tendencies.

In the post merger period the democratic trends of the people rejected dictatorial rule of N.B. Bhandari. Remembering the contributions of L.D. Kazi the basic principles of democracy is being maintained. The overthrow of N.B. Bhandari reflects the establishment of democracy in the true sense of the term.

Since the Democratic System was nullified in the newly founded state of the Indian Union, Pawan Chamling since 1985 stands for the cause of restoring democracy and today democracy in Sikkim is fully restored. Identity of Nepalese Bhutia and Lepcha remains unaffected along with their culture, traditions, religion and sanctity. By and large one finds developments in regard to Sikkim in the rule of Sikkim Democratic Front under the leadership of Pawan Chamling and the progress made by the state of Sikkim is far better than any other sister state of India. Both political and social mobility are showing an upward tendency.

The basic issues and problems are still confined to removal of poverty and illiteracy in Sikkim, guarantee for social justice and removal of economic disparities, protection of sovereignty and integrity of the country, Condemnation and opposition to anti-national and terrorist activities, empowerment of women and 33% of reservation in the Assembly and Parliament, oppose corruption and

casteism, make Sikkim a producing State, save natural resources and make Sikkim self-reliant, tribal status to left out communities, to include Nepali Community in Minority list, to put Sikkim in the world tourist map, environmental conservation, sound economic policy, to ensure materialistic prosperity, decentralization of power, thrust on bio-technology, Human development and restoration of reserved seats for Nepali community in the Sikkim legislative Assembly as it was existing before 1979. No sooner the Limboos and Tamangs are declared as Scheduled Tribes of the State of Sikkim, the proposal of delimitation of Assembly constituencies has become a debatable question and burning issue.

Still some of the areas need more attention to uplift Sikkim and to equate it with other States, in particular in the fields of industry, education, health and employment.

Coming to peace, nature of people and politics of the state of Sikkim, it is, the most peaceful state on the face of earth promoting religious tolerance, secularism, communal harmony. Strikes, bloodshed and terrorism are unheard in the last 28 years projecting itself as a model state of India. The present leadership of Pawan Chamling has planned development programmes to Indianise Sikkim.

Lastly, national political parties have no place in Sikkim in spite of the fact earlier Sikkim Sangram Parishad defected to Congress-I and now Sikkim Democratic Front is a party to the NDA Government. National Political parties are yet to organize themselves with locally based strong leaders to establish and strengthen themselves in the state of Sikkim. It is also essential for national leaders to visit Sikkim often to establish national political parties to motivate and activate in the state.