

# CHAPTER – IX

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### MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION(s)

Tiny State Sikkim is often referred to as the Switzerland of the East. It is mainly because of the simplicity of the people and the natural beauty that glorify its uniqueness. The topography is rough and the hair pin bent roads are difficult to negotiate unlike plains. But, it is exactly due to its original geographical and topographical features that Sikkim finds its place amongst the must-visit tourist destinations of India.

The findings reveal(s) that a Small Kingdom, ruled by the Chogyal dynasty over three centuries, came to an abrupt end in 1975 and democracy was ushered in. The Colonial administration had little influence in this region, but the Indian Independence in 1947 brought a sense of self rule and freedom among the mass. The Constitution of India was amended in 1975 and Article 371 F of the Constitution as a special provision was designed especially for providing Constitutional protection for the State of Sikkim. The Government of India did not use any forceful means to uproot the Monarchy in Sikkim as in the case of Princely States of India, it was a popular revolution that led to the abolition of Monarchy in Sikkim. Gradually, an educated class and elites emerged craving for the administration and self governance that culminated to combine individual and collective responsibilities. The historically significant Revolution of 1973, the Constitutional Amendment Act, 1974, the Constitutional Amendment Act, 1975 and Referendum of the People in 1975 nullified the powers of the Monarch. Ultimately, more than three centuries old Monarchical institution came to an abrupt end.

The major Political Parties before merger were: -

Sikkim National Party, Sikkim Congress Party, Sikkim Janata Congress, National Congress Party, etc.

They demanded for the electoral reforms and to do away with the communal voting system and introduction of the system of 'one man, one vote'. It is essential here to mention some of the prominent political leaders

and revolutionaries of pre-merger and post-merger period of Sikkim. They are namely, C. S. Rai, C. D. Rai, Tashi Tshering, Sonam Tshering, Cap. Dimik Singh Lepcha, L. D. Kazi, D. B. Tiwari, Rashmi Prasad Alley, Dorjee Dadul, Tika Lall Niroula, Biraspati Parsai, Chandra Lall Sharma, Krishna Lall Dahal, Namgyal Tshering, Nayan Tshering Lepcha, Chuk-Chuk Sangderpa, Changchup Bhutia, Abichandra Kharel, J. Ratna Bahadur Khatri, Buddhiman Rai, Katuk Lama, Ongdi Bhutia, K. C. Pradhan, Nahkul Pradhan, Nanda Lal Sharma (Panchakotay), Garjaman Gurung (related between 1974 & 78 for 1<sup>st</sup> Sikkim Legislative Assembly and not present Minister G. M. Gurung, HRDD), Nar Bahadur Bhandari, R. C. Poudyal, B. B. Goroong, N. B. Khatiwada, Dorjee Tshering Bhutia, D. K. Bhandari, D. N. Tewari, Karma Peda, K. N. Upreti, S. M. Limboo, Pawan Chamling and others. .

Further, the research study reveals the fact that Sikkim Janata Congress, National Party and Sikkim State Congress (between 1973 and 1975) played a vital role for establishing the future democratic institutions in Sikkim. These Political Parties and the leaders were pro-people and struggled for establishing a democratic rule in the State. During this period, the socio-economic condition of the majority of the people was poor and a counted few were the advantaged ones in terms of wealth. In other words, there was a wide gap between the rich and the poor. That gap is being narrowed now with the advent of democracy and a democratic force in terms of the rule by elected popular Governments is another finding of the present study.

Another analysis of the research study is the role played by Kazi Lhendup Dorjee Khangsarpa and Nar Bahadur Bhandari seemed to be consonance with regard to pro-merger and anti-merger. The study also attempts to focus on the integration of Sikkim with the Indian Union as a Primary Objective. But, in later years, Bhandari took the stand against merger of Sikkim with India and called Kazi Lhendup Dorjee Khangsarpa (L. D. Kazi) as *Desh Bechuwa* (The man who sold the Country). Furthermore, a comparative analysis of Article 370 and 371 F reveals the fact that Sikkim does not command the same status with that of Jammu & Kashmir. However,

Articles 370 and 371 F can be narrated as Constitution within the Constitution of India. The old Laws and in particular Revenue Order No. 1 (1897 & 1917) safeguard the rights of the Sikkimese Bhutia-Lepcha with regard to the possession of their landed properties.

Sikkim, after the merger, is now like any other Indian State with regard to the institutional framework, structure of the organs of the Government like Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, Bureaucracy, Block Development Offices (The Block Level Administrative Centres) and grassroot level Zilla Panchayat and Gram Panchayats for local administration and devolution of Powers so as to deliver the goods for the rural people. By and large, the administration is smooth to satisfy the expectations of the people. The Law and Order situation is handled properly and Sikkim is a terror Free State.

Since, Sikkim is a border State where enough care is taken with regard to the territorial limits of the State in the midst of Bhutan, Nepal, Tibet (China) borders as well as preventing infiltration and insurgency in the State. However, a strategy is necessary to find out an alternative for the National Highway – 31A. The present Government under the leadership of Pawan Chamling is working towards meeting the demands of the people with utmost dedication and sincerity. There is a tremendous progress in the socio-economic condition of the people of Sikkim from 1994 onwards as compared to 1979 to 1993 with regard to sanitation, drinking water supply, roads, footpaths, electrification, infrastructure, LPG gas connections, educational facilities from School level to College level and University level, employment opportunities, forestry, animal husbandry, horticulture, floriculture, agriculture, tourism, planning and beautification of towns, hospitals, industries, modernization of housing facilities, capacity building programme for the educated youths etc. The Green Mission is aimed at making Sikkim a green garden State and more beautiful with aesthetic look, as eco-tourism destination, stabilizing the slopes and roads by way of soil conservation and rejuvenation of the dried out waterholes and disaster management.

Moreover, Sikkim has the potential to generate over 8,000 megawatts of hydel power. If this entire potential is developed, the State will earn the distinction of being a power surplus State. In addition the sale of the surplus power will provide adequate revenues to undertake developmental programmes for the People of the State, particularly those living in rural areas. Therefore, the SDF Government will earn the credit of generating surplus power and to supply to other parts of the country or to the neighbouring areas. However, the state Government should undertake the commissioning of such projects very carefully keeping in view all the important factors.

Further, this research study highlights the fact that the first democratic Government of Kazi Lhendup Dorjee Khangsarpa (L. D. Kazi) played a very important role in establishing the democratic set up in Sikkim and also the integration of Sikkim into the Indian Union in 1975. But, it came to an end in 1979 which paved the way for N. B. Bhandari and his Sikkim Janata Parishad to come to Power and the slogan which his party made was that "To get back Sikkim for the Sikkimese". He put forward his efforts so as to bring rapid socio-economic development in various sectors of the State. The Government in the Centre started pumping massive fund in the Five Year Plans and Annual Plans of the State. There was, no doubt, however, some major progress in the State owing to flow of the enormous outlay provided for its planned economic development, but was not found to the extent, it should have been practically.

N. B. Bhandari and D. K. Bhandari (wife of N. B. Bhandari) should be saluted for the recognition of the State's *lingua-franca* viz., Nepali Language commonly spoken by all people of Sikkim and to get its Constitutional recognition as well as inclusion in the VIIIth Schedule of the Constitution of India on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1992.

Further, the subsequent rule by B. B. Goroong and S. M. Limboo as Chief Ministers was nothing but a passing phase. However, it was significant with regard to the CBI case against Bhandari by B. B. Goroong and implementation of Mandal Commission's recommendations for introduction of

Other Backward Classes people in the State by S. M. Limboo. The Most Backward Classes was introduced by Pawan Chamling.

Since 1994, the SDF Party which came to power under the leadership of Pawan Chamling is quite significant so as to project an all-round development in various fields. It stands for the Government of 'BARE FOOTED PEOPLE', and to call "JANATA RAJMA JANTAI RAJA" (in a popular regime, people reign supreme).

As a matter of fact, we find democracy in true sense of the term and socio-economic developments at par with other States of India. Pawan Chamling is responsible for long cherished desire of the people so as to bring a revolutionary change in the higher, collegiate and University level education in terms of introducing and establishing Sikkim Manipal University, Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology, Sikkim Manipal Medical College and Central University in the name of Sikkim University, Eastern University for Integrated Learning in Management, ICAI University, Polytechnics and Training Institutes, etc. His efforts, vision, mission and dreams have come true to build a strong democracy.

To reiterate, the research study reveals the fact that one of the most important achievements of Pawan Chamling's rule is strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Block Development Offices with adequate and decentralized powers. The fourth estate has also shown a tremendous improvement in order to voice public opinion and freedom of expression of their thoughts through the print and electronic media.

Sikkim is a small State and is striving hard to develop further in terms of socio-economic and political arena along with its natural beauty. One thing we should remember here that terrorism is unheard. Sikkim is Plastic free, litter free, spit free, crime free, eco friendly and also known as lush green State of India including 40% seat reservation in Panchayati Raj Institution for

women empowerment. But, peace is an essence of Sikkim and it is because of concerted efforts of Pawan Chamling and his succeeding Governments.

Furthermore, the study reveals the fact that the role of opposition parties is very negligible, however, they should work constructively with positive attitude so as to uplift the socio-economic condition of the people of the State and also strengthening the democratic values. It is also found in the research study that a healthy work culture amongst the people and the Government employees and the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) with good leadership quality seem to be fast growing. The Government's policy towards Government employees is always positive.

Moreover, the Human Development Reports, the Vision Documents and other efforts of the Government of Sikkim further add to fulfilling the dreams of Pawan Chamling so as to make Sikkim a model and "One of the Best States of India". For which all walks of life irrespective of caste, creed, colour, sex, race, religion, culture and languages in Sikkim should come together to project the future image of our beautiful Himalayan State Sikkim as one of the most peaceful States of India.

Further, it is a great boon for the three ethnic communities of Sikkim viz., the Lepcha, the Bhutia and the Nepalis for having been exempted from the perview of the Indian Income Tax 1961 and Sikkim Income Tax, 1948 with effect from June 16, 2008. That is to say, "NO PEOPLE OF SIKKIM ORIGIN HAS TO PAY INCOME TAX AT ALL". This tax exemption will give Sikkim people a relief and is a significant achievement of the Sikkim Democratic Front Government under the able leadership of Pawan Chamling.

The representation to the newly declared tribals of Sikkim namely, the Limboos and the Tamangs still remains unsolved. By and large, Sikkim from 1975 to till date is highly developed when compared to Sikkim before Merger period.