FOREWORD

Nepal is a landlocked country in the Indian subcontinent of South Asian region. It has immense strategic importance as it shares borders with China in the north and with India in south, east and west. Thus, it acts like a buffer state between the two Asian giants – India and China. But, the events of the year 2006 and thereafter have sparked off great interest of political scientists in this small Himalayan country.

The main objective of study behind the present research thesis, "Nepal: Monarchy to Democracy" is to study deeply and analyse the dramatic change and the radical shift in governance, i.e. from monarchial to republican democratic system. Nepal had been one of the oldest monarchies and the only Hindu state in the world. When such a State, disposes off its centuries old monarchical system and declares itself a secular state, it arouses great curiosity and compels a student of political science to investigate the pros and cons of this drastic transformation. The present thesis has traced the evolution of Nepal as a nation state, i.e. from the pre historical era till the abolition of monarchy and establishment of an absolute democracy. A detailed analysis of the two popular movements in the history of Nepal – People's Movements of 1990 and 2006 has been also done.

The present thesis also illustrates in details the various Constitutions that governed the country at different points of time – the Constitution of Nepal, 1948, the Constitution of Nepal 1951, the Constitution of Nepal 1959, the Panchayat Constitution of 1962, the Constitution of Nepal 1991 and the Interim Constitution of Nepal 2006. The first Constituent Assembly of Nepal was vested with the task of promulgating a new democratic Constitution for Nepal, but it failed to meet this objective and was dissolved. The present thesis investigates the reasons for its failure and the working a democratic governments since 2006. The formation of the new Constituent Assembly, and possible remedial measures have also been described.

Conducting a research and writing a thesis is like an intellectual mission, which, by no means, can be accomplished in the capacity of a research scholar alone. In my mission too there has been support of many persons, who have helped me to attain my goal.
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Family is the first school of an individual. Whatever a person becomes, whatever he/she achieves, each and everything bear an imprint of the values that one learns in his/her family. My family has played a pivotal role in my mission and I must extend my heartfelt thanks to them. In case of parents, it is natural for them to raise their children educate them and make them sensible and good adults. For me, this responsibility was shouldered by my maternal grandparents and their family. I have no words to express my gratitude towards my late maternal grandparents (my Nana-Nani): Smt. Maya Devi Trivedi and Sh. Maharaj Narain Trivedi who raised me as their own child and took all pains for my education and upbringing. Grandparents is just a word, they were my parents in practice. I am indebted to my aunts (Masis) Ms. Nisha Trivedi and Ms. Neeta Trivedi for constantly motivating me and also keeping me relieved from household chores so that I could devote all my time and energy to research work. They are my biggest support in life and I have no words to thank them.
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(Palu Joshi)