PREFACE

It is well known that Manipur is the heaven of anthropologists and political hotbed to the masses. So my attempt to this work on "Political Status of Manipur (1891-1971)", especially on the identification of political system is a very recent phenomenon of pre and post merger periods. A few books had been written to analyse the political status of Manipur during the British rule and also about both pre and post merger period, still there is no concrete result of controversial issue like limited monarchy status, Merger vs Annexation and whether Manipuris are in Indian's independence or not. These are not mere questions which are asked to the minds of people but these are major factors to make Manipur as political hotbed, so my intention is to find out the real political system in which people enjoy their fundamental freedom and their rights.

With the consolidation of a newly born Indian Union, Manipur was brought within the fold of the union after the signing of the merger agreement by the representatives of the two Governments on September 21, 1949. The merger was not a smooth sailing business and later on it became a curious object of controversy, since the Manipuri's had a history of independence, a constitutional monarchy preceded by
governments under ‘Rule of law’ and had experienced as how to meet the challenge of the mighty British Crown at the peak of its power and had also taken up armed struggle three years after the World War II which had its operational theatre in itself. Inspite of its long experiences of existing as sovereign country, the merger was signed by maharaja under duress, which was not ratified by the Maharaja in council or by the legislature. The general feeling is that a constitutional head, who had political obligation to a constitution, lacked due political capacity to sign an instrument of merger in the absence of ratification by the constitutionally elected Assembly and plebiscite.

After 1949 Manipur became a part ‘C’ state within the Indian Union until 1963. That means Manipur was in the political status of Union Territory. After this, Statehood was in the hands of Manipuri people in 1972 by reacting on large scale against step motherly treatment of India with democratic means. But people have accumulated discontentment which has led to the launching of political movement with arms. Finding its root cause is always associated with the study of political status of Manipur.
For the sake of convenience, the thesis has been divided into six chapters on the basis of different elements of political status of Manipur. Chapter-I deals with conceptual study of political system. Mention has been made in this chapter about the monarchical form of government with sovereignty since 33 AD. Chapter- II deals with Manipur under the colonial administration of British. In which, all the movements for political survival and transformation of status are reflected. Chapter-III tries to throw light about important period of pre-merger political status with adoption of Manipur Constitution Act 1947 and formation of constitutional Monarchy in Manipur. Chapter-IV deals with crucial period of post merger political status. In this chapter the author highlighted changing political status i.e. part ‘C’ from sovereign country, then territorial council, Union Territory and granting of Statehood. Chapter -V is dedicated to the study of Manipur in the full fledged state. In this chapter the strained relationship with the centre, colourable legislation and its impact in the politico and economic condition of Manipur are analysed in deep. The sixth and final chapter which forms a conclusion of the thesis gives a summary of the preceding chapters. In addition, it also fulfills the stated aims of the study as well as substantiates the argument and propositions that the political status of Manipur seems to be erosion in the unmeaningful federal system of India.
I, as present author, used empirical analysis as good tool to find out the exact finding of the political status of this state for achieving the objectives of the work. The present study has to depend mainly on Government and official publications, documents like pamphlets, press notes, leaflets and other publications. Besides, quite numbers of abled person helped me in the subject, thereby; forming and supplementing a part of my field study were interviewed.