Chapter VI

CONCLUSION

In this research work an investigation has been done on the history of Sirsa. Sirsa is not only important place in Haryana but also one of significant places of North India. The articles collected from this area like coins, archives records, statues, architecture, metal idols, iron apparatus, gazetteers, the statistics collected by British officials and other evidence prove that Sirsa was one of the ancient cities of India which went on making progress with passage of time. A great change has taken place here since its establishment. There is a great difference between Sirsa before independence and Sirsa after independence. These changes were important not only on the national level but also on the state level of Haryana. In this century of change and transition, Sirsa passed through many social political, economic and educational periods which were multi-faceted.

Sirs a is one of the main historical cities of India which is situated on national highway no 10 from Delhi to Fazilka and on the broad gauge railway line from Rewari to Bhatinda. This city was founded by the King Saras in the year 1357. Gradually it became popular by the name Sirsa that is still today, at that time it was a famous and prosperous place in North India. Due to its prosperity and excess of wealth, it remained a
centre of attraction for the invader kings. After winning over Bhatnagar (Hanumangarh), Tamburlaine moved towards Fatehabad and Tohana via Sirsa. It had also been a victim of greedy conspiracies of Mahmud Gaznavei Emperor Prithvi Raj Chauhan had defeated Mohammed Gauri twice here and Mohammed gauri had to run away to save his life.

During the period of Shershah Suri, this city was made the headquarter by Raja Kalyan Singh after the defeat of the king of Jodhpur. In 1783, the south-west part of the present Sirsa was ruined completely due to some natural calamity. This area is now called ‘THER’ or mound. In 1838, the foundation of the present Sirsa was laid by Captain Thoresvy and the prominent traders from near by areas were invited to establish their business centers here. From 1858 to 1883, this city was the headquarter, With the passage of time, there were many changes in the social, economic and political conditions of the area. The contribution of Sirsa in the revolution of 1857 was quite prominent. Through the Britishers had compute control over Sirsa in 1818, it was only in 1837 that well established rule here could be set up. The flame of rebellion here sparked just three days after the first spark of freedom struggle appeared in Meerut on May 11, 1857. In this area, the trumpet of freedom struggle blew so fast that it appeared that the public here had already a feeling of resentment against the British rule and the flame of rebellion had been simmering in the hearts of people for a long time. A strong rebellion
arose as it got an opportunity. Later on this area had a prominent role in all aspects of the freedom struggle and movement.

The people from Sirsa participated dictively in the Indian National Movement under the leadership of All India Congress. The political activities in Sirsa had already gained momentum with the establishment of Congress in Dec 1885. The Local Leaders from Sirsa had started attending the annual sessions of Congress every year. In the beginning of the 20th Century the political activities and national movements were carried on under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Azad, Maulana Mohammed Ali, Devdas Gandhi and Murli Dhar etc.

The people of Sirsa took active part in all the movements initiated by Congress like the Swadeshi Movement, Rowlett Satyagrah, Non-Cooperation Movement, Movement against Simon commission, Civil Disobedience Movement and Quit India movement. The ideology of Subhash chander Bose and the activities of Azad Hind Fauz also affected the People of Sirsa and they also joined activity the Azad Hind Fauz. Pandit Prabhudayal Sharma, Sh Jai Narayan and Laxmi Narayan Periwal were made office bearers, and they also gave their contribution in the freedom struggle. A part from this, Sirsa also led a major role in then politics of Punjab and of ilnionist party. In 1937 and 1946, the local leaders Rai Sahib, Atma Ram and Ch Sahib Ram Chautala won elections for Punjab Legislative Assembly. Sirsa was affected by partition of India
after independence. These effects were visible on the political, social and economic levels. The political activities went on as usual in Sirsa after independence. In making the demand for a separate state of Haryana, the role of Sirsa was quite praise worthy. Ch Devil Lal as was associated with this movement. He organized many meetings and took out processions. The team of proven freedom fighters from Sirsa, which included freedom fighters of Azad Hind Fauz held a meeting on April 8, 1974 and established their separate organization. This meeting was presided over by Sh. Laxmi Narayan Periwal. This association was named – Tehsil Freedom Fighters Association Sirsa. The office bearers of the association were elected for the first time. These were – President Bhagwat Swaroop Sharma, vice president Sh Ram Swaroop Kagdan, Secretary General Sh Pat Ram Verma and Treasurer Sh BudhRam Panwari. On Sept 1 1975, Sirsa was given the status of district and again elections were held to set up the District Freedom Fighters Associations Sirsa.

It is clear from the various chapters of this research work that there have been great changes in Sirsa from 1803 to 2000. In Jan 1800, a British army official George Thomas, whose headquarter was Jahajgarh (Rohtak) attacked Sirsa. He had already established his rule on Hansi and Hisar in 1799. The vast and strong fort of Sirsa was at that time in the hands of Bhatties Muslims. Here also George Thomas triumphed. The reign of Thomas then went to the marathas for some time and then went
with the East India Company in 1803. The period of transition started in Sirsa. In 1818, the Britishers defeated the Nawab badly. There were some quarrels and small fights between the Britishers and the Sikhs of Patiala for some time, but in 1837, the Britishers had complete control over Sirsa city and the whole area.

The foundation of the present Sirsa was laid by Captain Thorsevy who exhorted the traders from near by areas to settle in this city. From 1858 to 1883, the present town was the district head quarter. It was made a Tehsil as a part of Hisar District. Then it was given the status of subdivision, and on Sept 1, 1975 it was declared a district.

The municipal council was established in Sirsa in 1860. Its Population as per the census of 1901 was 15800. It went of increasing and as per the census of 1971, it was 48808. The limits of the town were widened vide notifications of state government no 3266-S.C.75/8994 dated 2.12.75 and 18/1194 C-TT dated 16-01-1997. Many colonies surrounding the town were included in the limit of the municipal council of Sirsa. As per birth and death statistics, its population rose to 1, 71, 724 by 28-2-2000. As it was the headquarter and progressive town, there was progress all around and in all spheres. The population grew and with it the development works also increased.

After Sirsa was raised to the status of district, many elements like culturalisation, modernization, institutions, industrialization and the
spread of modern education affected the various social instructions, social setup and way of living. This change appeared due to some internal and external reasons. Changes were visible in social institutions like religious classifications, caste system, rural management, family establishments, status of women, way of living, dresses, jewellery and other customs. There were two bases for this social change after independence. First was the increase in self confidence among the people due to their direct involvement in the administration. The people heaved a sigh of relief with the formation of the constitution and its implementation. The other base was the activities of the people who gave new directions to the changes in social life. The conditions of the common people improved with the progress in the field of education with the efforts of government machinery, the growth of modern technical education, mechanization, the use of fine seeds and manure, proper irrigation, the spread of cooperative movements— all helped in changing the mutual relations of the farmer, landlord and money lender. The efforts of Ch. Devi Lal and government officials affected the agricultural aspect and helped in increasing production. The number of animals also increased. Due to less revenue, the agriculture sector helped all the sections to make progress in all fields. The modern technical education also had its effect on agriculture sector. Later on changes appeared in trade and commerce also. The various factors responsible for the development of trade and industry in Sirsa
were the growth of capital, efforts of officials and non – officials, the spread of communications system, establishment and development of mandis, the cooperation of improvement trust, increase in the demand of industrial output, the establishment of new modern markets, etc.

It is also apparent from the present research that there were changes in the field of education along with social and religious changes. The new education system was developed. The institutions like Arya Samaj, Sanatan Dharam Sabha, many others contributed in the spread of education. There was great development in the level of education. Between the period 1975 to 2000, many primary schools, middle schools, high schools and colleges were started that led to the progress in educational field. Many libraries were set up which heightened the interest of the people in education. There was a revolutionary change in education and modern education developed. Along with the progress in education, many other institutions helped in improving the social conditions of Sirsa. The level of education remained a quite high.

Along with changes in educational field there were economic changes also. In this period of transition, changes were visible in agricultural, industrial and trading fields. In the beginning of the 20\textsuperscript{th} century, the agricultural condition was purely on traditional basis. The methods of agriculture used were those of middle ages. The economic conditions of farmers as well as some landlords were of low level. The
agriculture produce was very small and only traditional harvests were made. During the period of development, there was increases in the rise of land capable for agriculture production. The irrigation system was improved with the help of officials and non-officials. Modern instruments and machinery were used for agriculture. The barren land and the forest area were converted into agriculture land. Due to these reasons, the size of agriculture land increased.

During this period of transition, the farmers started producing sugarcane, cotton and fruits along with the traditional harvests. The Control of moneylenders on the land lessened due to the efforts of the government, the development of Cooperative movement, and awakening among people due to modern education. The economic condition of the farmers improved considerably due to increase in the size of agriculture land and produce, cash harvests and development in the fruit production.

In the twentieth century, there was progress and changes in the industrial and business fields. In the beginning the industries were almost nil in Sirsa and whatever trading was done here was of articles of daily use and simple food items. After that many cottage as well as big industries were set up. The cottage industries set up were of separating of seeds from the cotton, flour mills, rice sheller, cereal making, sugar mill, cotton mill, making of wooden articles, ice factory, metal boxes making of iron boxes, eatable oils etc. First of all Gopi Chand Textile Mill was
set up in Sirsa. Later on Jagdamba paper Industry Pvt Ltd was set up and this led to the development in industrial field. Many industries and factories had been set up in Sirsa by the year 2000. The number of registered factories in Sirsa was 92 and the listed factories was 31, leading to a total of 123 by year 2000. During the research it was observed that the industries developed much in Sirsa.

The internal as well as external trade developed in Sirsa due to increase in agricultural output and the establishment of small scale and big industries. The setting up of Mandis in the nearby areas of Sirsa helped in promoting business and trade. The local production was first collected in these Mandis and then exported and imported through these mandis. Mainly rice, cotton, gram, textiles output, gur and iron pipes were exported from Sirsa whereas salt, jute bags, kerosene oil, iron and steel, seeds and manure, and other raw material were imported. The development in the transport and communication system benefitted the trading activities. Along with development in trade and commerce, the banking system also expanded in the district. Thus the position of Sirsa in the industrial sector was quite high.

In conclusion it can be stated that there were many changes in Sirsa during the transition period. At some places these changes were in full and at other places they were partial. Culturalisation, urbanization, modernization, development of education, social religious movements etc
became the main basis of social change. Changes in economic conditions resulted due to the efforts of Municipal committee, Improvement Trust and Market Committee. Change in agriculture set up was mainly due to development of irrigation system, increase in the size of farming land, use of modern technical instruments, increase in agriculture output and development in animal husbandry Changes in trade and commerce were due to establishment of many small scale and high industries, development of means of communication and transport, setting up of business centers, progress in banking system and modern import and export methods.