PREFACE

This thesis is an attempt to study political development in Manipur 1984-2002 in a detailed manner. The study of political development in particular and electoral politics in general has played a vital role in a democratic set-up. The political development of Manipur can be understood through elections and formation of governments.

This thesis is a modest attempt to analyse the political development in Manipur through the elections, voting behaviour and formation of governments during the periods under study.

The thesis consists of six chapters including both introduction and conclusion. The first chapter “Introduction” deals with the political conditions of Manipur under British rule and after Independence; movement for responsible government; political status of Manipur, 1949-1972 and statehood movement.

The second chapter deals with political parties in details. The chapter presents the general features of political parties with more emphasis on regional political parties; ideologies and principles; and organisational structures in North-East India.

The third chapter examines electoral politics in Manipur based on the elections of 1984, 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2002. Different aspects of electoral politics like selection of candidates; election manifestoes; different political parties; election campaigns; election meetings and house-to-house campaigns, etc. are analysed here.
The fourth chapter analyses the voting behaviour in different elections of Manipur with emphasis on aspects like party ideology and principle; personality; sex; blood relationship; locality factors; educational qualification and money factor, etc.

The fifth chapter presents an extensive analysis of the formation of governments of 1984, 1990 1995, 2000 and 2002 based on the nature of coalition ministry; dissident politics; personality factors; leadership issues; and the role of national and regional political parties.

The sixth chapter “Conclusion” sums up the elaborate assessments made in the previous chapters. It also summarises the research findings and observations without any bias.

In this study historical, analytical, behavioural and scientific methods have been adopted. The work is based mainly on primary sources supported by secondary sources and interviews with prominent candidates of various political parties, prominent political leaders and intellectuals.