CONCLUSION
Maldives is an archipelago of 1,190 small coral islands, of which only 200 are inhabited. The islands are grouped into 26 natural atolls. However, for easy administration, they are divided into 20 administrative units or atoll. Maldives became fully independent, outside the Commonwealth, on July 26, 1965. After independence, the Country abandoned the Sultanate system and became a republic again on 11 November 1968. The political system and governance in Maldives from 1968 to 1998 has seen many ups and downs. The study has covered 30 years of Maldives existence as an independent nation. The year 1968 signifies the Country’s emergence as a republic, and in 1998 Maldives adopted a new constitution. The country has a cohesive society and is not confronted with the problems of divisiveness. The nature of society of the country was very traditional but it has changed over the years. However, religion, culture, language and regional variations are still playing a great role in unifying the different communities in Maldives. It has always maintained the political, social, and cultural uniqueness, with interrelations between the islands and atoll. But it would do well to recognize that in the process of modernization, social tensions are bound to arise. The country’s governance must be sensitive to this rising tension. Maldives is not developed because of lack of trained manpower.

From 1968 onwards, the political system in the Maldives has passed through many phases. The country has centralized political structure. It has a presidential form of government. The President is the Chief Executive and controls the entire constitutional machinery, including the legislature and judiciary. The process of effective decentralization has necessitated additional institutional networks, and it is necessary to get the centre’s support to help distribution as well as coordination of powers from the top to the bottom. The President is the Head of State and Head of the Government.
The administrative framework of the country is divided into three levels: the island, the atoll, and the national government. Each island is under the control of an island Chief, (Katibu), who is appointed by the central Government. The Atoll Office controls the island Office. The President appoints the Atoll Chief and the Ministry of Atoll Administration oversees the atoll affairs. The Central Government has established radio and other communication links with all islands. The President provides the policy guidance and directions to each Atoll Chief, who can be removed by the President.

The administrative justice is undertaken in accordance with Islamic law. The President appoints the Chief Justice and other Justices of the High court. The President is the head of the Judiciary. It means that the President is the highest authority of administering justice in the country. The independence of the judiciary is essential to ensure that those facing charges do so in the absence of the possibility of political bias.

Maldives has a unicameral legislature, the People’s Majlis. It consists of 50 members: the people directly elect 42 members for a five-year period and the President nominates eight members. Apart from Legislative functions, the People’s Majlis elects the President by a secret ballot and nominates him for endorsement by the people in a national government.

This study has tested the following hypotheses:
Firstly, a centralized political system in atoll states can bring about more political stability at the cost of freedom and open competition for power. The political system and government in Maldives is different from other countries in South Asia. It will be right to say that a centralized political system in Atoll State like Maldives can ensure political stability, but this is possible only at the cost of freedom and open competition for power. A centralized political leader always thinks of overall development of the country; so if the people of Maldives are more concerned about development and economic survival then they have to accept a centralized political system, if not it will be very difficult for economic survival. Centralization of power is workable in Maldives because it has been a unitary and a presidential form of government from the very beginning. The
Centralization of power is better in Maldives considering the geographical point of view. The numerous coral islands separated from one another makes it impossible for decentralization of power. A small population and land area lack of appropriate personnel, and few services are possible for high degree of centralization in the administrative set-up of Maldives. Even the Maldives present constitution does not provide for a strong local government set-up. Administrative decentralization and some rudimentary elements of local representation can’t be witnessed in Maldives. The national government controls the local administration.

Secondly, participatory institutions tend to be weak in atoll states because of underdeveloped political culture resulting from the State controlled electoral process. Even problem is there for participatory institutions; it tends to be weak in Maldives because of underdeveloped political culture resulting from the State-controlled electoral process in the Maldives. Participatory institutions have to be more independent from the State.

Thirdly, people tend to accept a centralized political system if they are more concerned about development and economic survival. It is true that some factors are responsible for the spread of political discontent among a section of the political elite. The concentration of political and economic forces in Male has consequence in the contest for power. Hence, problem of governance in Maldives is more economic than political. National institutions of the country have to show a lot of efforts for good governance. It is a fact that without economic development political stability is not possible in the Maldives. The national economic institutions have to support and to work for government’s development policies and issues. The political institutions are required to play a positive role for the stability of the political system. Co-operation efforts are required between the Government of Maldives and national institutions of the country. Maldives has to insist upon a meaningful co-operation at the regional level to tackle the problems of national institutions for good governance.
Fourthly, centralization of power is possible in atoll states because mobilization of people for political reforms is difficult. The centralization of power is given importance in Maldives because the central authority tends to be strong under the atoll political system. It is also because of enormous challenges, perceived or real, to political order. Challenges are not merely political but also economic and military. Centralization is the only option in atoll-state of Maldives.

And finally, problems of governance in atoll states are more political than economic or cultural. Maldives is facing problems of governance. The geopolitical factor has also been the source of problems. The question of security and stability of the small Island-State to counter external threats has been the direct experience of all Maldivians. President Abdul Gayoom has survived three coup attempts. Hence, increasing the level of defence capability would involve an unnecessary risk for its security. It is recognized that a secure order in South Asia requires an extensive economic cooperation among the countries of the region. The vision of security for the democratic politics in Maldives has to take into account not only national security but also political, cultural, and economic security.

However, it is a fact that the country’s national security and development are totally dependent on good governance by the Maldivian leadership. The problems of governance in Maldives particularly from 1968 to 1998 are linked with the country’s security problems. The 1988 coup attempt was serious enough to ask for India’s military assistance. Hence, being a weak State in defence matter, without improvement on this matter, the protection and stability of the country is not assured.

Maldives President Mr. Gayoom himself has not been sensitive to the growing pro-democratic sentiments in the country from very beginning. The recent constitutional change has not fully created a space for competition for power within the democratic framework. How much will be true of the President’s recent constitutional reforms is dependent upon Maldives leadership now.
The President recently outlined historic and far-reaching constitutional reforms, which would amount to an overall modernization of the system of governance of the country. After more than 37 years of the Maldives history, the country's Parliament has allowed a multiparty system. The Maldives Parliament unanimously approved a resolution to allow political parties to seek recognition and contest elections, ending the no-party system in the nation. So the President has amounted plans to propose further consolidation of the Fundamental Rights of the people, though making the Human Commission an institution creased by the constitution.

It will be workable if the President's proposed constitutional reforms would be implemented in the country. It is very much important that the President outline his view that the People should be given a wider choice in electing a President, either by voting on a plural list of candidates endorsed by People’s Majlis, or by direct election without any role for the Majlis in the process.

It will be more democratic if the Maldives President will further democratize the People’s Majlis, with the abolition of the category of appointed members. Proportional representation is to be introduced, and the Majlis is to become totally independent of the executive. The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker should be elected by the Majlis members rather than by appointed persons. The judiciary system has to be stable in future and a Supreme Court is to be created as the highest court of appeal. The Chief Justice and other Justices of the Supreme Court should be appointed and dismissed on the advice of the Majlis, with the consultation of the judicial service commission.

Therefore, changing nature of political system and its acceptability in the country is dependent upon President Gayoom's recently proposed constitutional reforms in the Majlis. How much the Maldivian leadership is going to implement practically is dependent upon the pressure of democratic forces.

Finally, if the present constitutional provisions change then it can give more democratic spirit to Maldives. The direct election of the Maldivian President would, and then strengthen the accountability of the government to the people. Political restructuring
is necessary for good Government and political system. The post-colonial Maldivian political system requires proper democratic process. The time has come for new thinking in Maldives. A new approach and a new mind-set are necessary for the work ahead. Overall, it can be said that the country needs proper democratic set-up for the betterment of its political system and governance. Maldivian leadership can develop Maldives by brining in a more democratic set-up in the political system.