

## PREFACE

The district administration in India is a British legacy. The East India Company created some sort of administrative unit in the year 1772 for their administrative convenience that can be treated as the genesis of district administration in India. And in due course of time it becomes the most experienced and the most experimented administrative unit. The administration in India cannot be thought of without the presence of the districts even after the more or less successful working of the grass root level democracy.

On the other hand, the concept of development in India is relatively a new concept. However, the history of India experienced some development programmes, but those were carried out by the rulers at that time. But the institutionalised implementation of the development programmes is only seen in India during the post independence period. Actually, the concept of development administration originated by the Comparative Administration Group, led by Fred Riggs during the mid of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to combat the spread of Marxism in the then newly independent States in all over the world. Many of the third world countries, at that time, adopted this concept of development administration to make the government pro- people. And India was not an exception to this direction.

Switching over to the story of Sikkim, we can see that it enjoyed independent status even during the rule of the British in India. However, it had to depend on the foreign power for its existence from the time of its inception. And ultimately, this small Himalayan landlocked State had to merge with India and be the 22<sup>nd</sup> constituent state of Indian Union. Being one of the constituent states of India, Sikkim had started enjoying the programmes, policies and institutions those were going on in India and started experiencing the concepts like democracy, development and decentralisation.

