Preface
Uzbekistan which is known as hub of Central Asia due to its strategic location, rich historical and cultural heritage, vast natural resources and most importantly having a relatively well developed and self-sufficient economy in comparison to other Central Asian republics, is a key republic in the whole of Central Asia.

Having no experience of democracy in the pre-Soviet period, Uzbekistan went through socialist modernisation during the Soviet period. But the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the discrediting of the communist ideology left Uzbekistan in search of a model for the governance of the country. It is in this context that the thesis makes an attempt to study the process of democratisation in Uzbekistan. The study also tries to explore the suitability of the various models of democracy to the prevailing conditions in Uzbekistan. Efforts have been made to study the traditional Uzbek society which is hierarchical and patriarchal in nature, which was replicated in political life and whose impact can obstruct the development of democracy. The neo-traditional structure also did not change with the advent of independence as the nomenclatura managed to preserve its position. The condition under which the post-Soviet regime of Islam Karimov has been functioning has also been taken into account while discussing the various measures taken by the Karimov regime to make the whole process of democratisation effective. In its quest for democratisation, Uzbekistan's democracy faces numerous challenges like growth of ultra-nationalistic movement partly sponsored by the present regime, emergence of radical Islamic fundamentalist groups and the transitional nature of the Uzbek
economy. These above mentioned factors to a great extent act as hindrances to the democratisation process.

In the first chapter, an attempt has been made to study the democratisation process in a theoretical perspective. The nature of democracy, existence of various models of democracy and its suitability to the Third World countries have been explored. Also various factors which facilitate or hinder the process of democracy have been studied.

The second chapter tries to explore the process of political development in Soviet Uzbekistan, Major focus is laid on studying the socio-economic and administrative structure of the Central Asian region before the October revolution of which Uzbekistan was a part. This factor has been studied to analyse to what extent socio-economic structure hindered the process of economic development in Soviet Uzbekistan. Efforts have been made to study the political developments that took place in Soviet Uzbekistan and how the tribal - clan politics played an important role in Soviet Uzbekistan's politics despite the socialist system.

In the third chapter, impact of Glasnost and of urges for democratisation in Soviet Uzbekistan have been studied. Before analysing democratic development in Soviet Uzbekistan, its impact on the culture, renewed emphasis on writings of past literary Uzbek literary figures, language issues and growth of informal political groups have also been studied. In fact, all the above mentioned factors played a crucial role in the development of a liberal political culture in Soviet
Uzbekistan. In the fourth chapter critical analysis has been made regarding Uzbekistan’s quest for democratisation in post-Soviet phase various types of political models suitable. Uzbekistan in particular and Central Asia in general have been studied. The study also makes a comprehensive study of the democratisation process in other Central Asian republics in the post-Soviet phase. The study of democratisation in Uzbekistan has been divided into three different phases, i.e. Phase of Transition, Phase of Consolidation, and Phase of Development.

In the fifth chapter, various factors which hindered the development of democratisation and political pluralism have been studied. Among the factors, growth of ethno-nationalistic movements in Uzbekistan and various elements of ethno-nationalistic resurgence like rewriting history, attitude towards ethnic minorities under playing the soviet period achievements have been dealt with. The other important factors which hinders Uzbekistan’s quest for democratisation is the growth of radical Islamic group who remained dormant over a long period of time but increasingly asserted themselves in independent Uzbekistan. Another factor which has acted as an incubator to the growth of ethno-religious movements in Uzbekistan has been the poor performance of Uzbek economy. The study tries to conform to the following hypothesis:

- Democratic development in Uzbekistan is handicapped on account of lack of democratic traditions over a long period of history covering Khans to the present through the Soviet period.
• Strong survival of the clan, tribal and patriarchal intuitions pose a serious problem for the progress of democracy in Uzbekistan.

• Gorbachev's policy of Glasnost and Perestroika played an important role in raising the urge for democracy in Uzbekistan.

• In the post independence period, due to absence of the freedom of press and independent judiciary as well as absence of democratic culture, development of democracy in Uzbekistan for considerably long period of time.

In the background of increasing economic hardships caused by transition to market economy, the emergence of religious extremism has been inimical to democratic development in Uzbekistan.

In this study, attempt is made to analyse democratic development of Uzbekistan in the post-Soviet phase by following the historical and analytical methods. The study is based on primary source materials like various statutes, decrees and laws passed by the Uzbek Majlis by Uzbekistan as well as the reports published by the various parties of Uzbekistan. The study tries to analyse the constitution of Uzbekistan- both old and new. The study has also made use of the various parties and state documents including the writings of the Soviet leaders and post-Soviet leaders like Islam Karimov and other opposition parties. The study has extensively used secondary source materials, the articles, and commentaries published in various journals and newspapers. A number of books dealing with the democratisation and political developments have also been consulted.