CHAPTER III
LAND AND PEOPLE OF MANIPUR
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3.1 Introduction

Manipur is one of the states of India. For the exquisite natural beauty and splendour of the state, it has been described variously by different persons - Mrs. St. Clair Grimwood described it as: "A pretty place, more beautiful than many of the show places of the world."¹ Sir Ch. J. Lyall, in his introduction to Hodson's Meltheis described it as "As an oasis of civilization and organised society."² N.N. Acharyya explains Manipur, as "the town of jewels."³ The defeated Japanese Mr. G. Evans and A.B. James also described Manipur as 'Tokane no hana' (a flower on lofty heights), beyond one's reach.⁴ Srimati Indira Gandhi while inaugurating the state of Manipur on the 21st January, 1972 at Imphal expressed that Manipur as 'a land of jewels' will glorify the beauty of India just like a jewel its lustre around it.

3.2 Land

There are various opinions regarding the origin of the name of 'Manipur'. In ancient times it was known by different names. The Ahoms called it 'Makeli', the 'Cachar's, 'Magli' and the old Awamese 'Moglan'.⁵ The Shans and Pongs of Upper Burma, with whom she had political and cultural contacts called her 'Cassay' the Burmese, another
eastern neighbour and rival power called her 'Kothe' perhaps derived from 'Cassay'. Her indigenous names of the land as 'Kanglei (Paik)', 'Poirei (Paik)' and 'Meitrobok'. The name of the land as Manipur was first officially introduced in the early eighteenth century during the reign of Hinduized Garibaniwaz (1709-48). In the coins issued by Jai Singh and his successors also the term 'Manipureshwar' that is Lord of Manipur was found inscribed. From that time onwards there was no other changes in the name of Manipur.

3.2.1 Location

Manipur is situated in the North-Eastern part of India as shown in Map 1. It is bounded on the North by the state of Nagaland, on the south by the state of Mizoram, on the east and south-east by the country of Myanmar (Burma) and on the west by the state of Assam. It has a borderline of 854 kms. of which 352 kms. are international border with Myanmar (Burma). It lies in between latitude 23.83°N to 25.88° and longitude 93.03°E to 94.78°E.

3.2.2 Area

According to the 1981 Census report of India, Manipur has an area of 22,327 sq.kms. The whole area is broadly divided into (1) valley and (2) hills. The total area of the valley is 2,238 whereas the total area of the hills is 20,089. That means approximately only one tenth
MAP 1 Manipur, Administrative Units and location of the State in the Indian Union.
of the area of Manipur is in valley. The flat, alluvial and oval shaped Imphal valley is just like the bed of the cradle all around by hills.

3.2.3 Physiography

The altitude of the Imphal valley is 790 metres above the sea level while the hills rise upto 3000 metres above the sea level. But the average elevation of the valley of Manipur is 750 metres and the average elevation of the hills is 1600 metres above sea level. Map 2 shows the physiography of Manipur. Generally, the surface of the earth in Manipur slopes down from the north to the south. As a result most of the major rivers in Manipur except Leimotak flow from the north to the south. The Barak river which is the largest and longest river of Manipur starts from the north hills and flows towards the south. The important tributaries are Irang, Makru, and Tulfal. The Imphal river which is also known as Manipur river also starts from the north and flows towards the south through the main valley of Manipur. The important tributaries are Thoubal, Irl and Khuga. The other important rivers of Manipur are Nambul, Chakpi, Sekmai, Tulfang, Lockchao, Taret, Maklang, Namphang and Akung. These rivers not only distribute water to the inhabitants but they make the land fertile. The rivers of Manipur may be grouped into three systems. They are: (a) the Barak system, (b) the Manipur system and (c) the Chindwin system. Map 3 shows the rivers of Manipur.
There are many lakes in Manipur. However, mention may be made of only Loktak. Loktak is not only the biggest lake in Manipur but also the biggest fresh water lake in the whole eastern India. "The size of this lake varies from 64 sq. kms. in the dry season to about 104 sq. kms. during the rainy season."\(^{11}\) In an average it is 8 kms. wide and 12 kms. long. This lake is situated in the Bishnupur district as shown in Map 3.

There are many hills in Manipur. According to the drainage pattern the hills are broadly divided into two parts: (a) Manipur Eastern Hills and (b) Manipur Western Hills. The highest peak of Manipur is Mount Japovo (3,105 metres above M.S.L.). It is situated at Mao near Nagaland Manipur border.\(^{12}\) The other important peaks of Manipur are Tenipur (2,994 metres), Khayangbung (2,883 metres), Leikot (2,831 metres), Tamphaba (2,664 metres), Koubru (2,652 metres) and Sirol (2,664).

Physiographically Manipur can be divided into the following regions:
### Regional scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Order</th>
<th>Second Order</th>
<th>Third Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manipur Hills</td>
<td>a) Manipur Eastern Hills</td>
<td>i) Ukhrul Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Manipur Western Hills</td>
<td>(ii) Tengnoupal Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>i) Mao Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) Sadar Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(iii) Tamenglong Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(iv) Churachandpur Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manipur valley</td>
<td>a) Manipur valley North</td>
<td>(i) Imphal Plain East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Manipur valley south</td>
<td>(ii) Imphal Plain West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(i) Bishenpur Plain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barak Basin</td>
<td>a) Barak Basin</td>
<td>(i) Thoubal Plain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(i) Barak Basin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2.4 Climate

Manipur has a salubrious climate. As the tropic of cancer passes just at the south of the state it has Sub-Tropical Monsoon. The land is neither too hot nor too cold. As the valley is surrounded by mountain ranges the hot air of the valley is transformed into moderate by the cold winds swept from the hills and vice-versa. Generally wind blows from the south-west to the north-east. The maximum hot temperature is in Jiribam and the maximum cold temperature is in Ukhrul. The variation is mostly caused by the altitude. The temperature in Manipur varies from 0°C to 35°C.
Rainfall in Manipur is relatively high and widespread. Foreigners suffer much from bronchial affections, doubtless owing to the waterlogged soil.\textsuperscript{13} The average annual rainfall in the state is 200 cms. Table 1 shows the distribution of rainfall as recorded in the four major centres of Manipur in 1989.

\begin{table}
\centering
\begin{tabular}{lcccc}
\hline
\textbf{Month} & \textbf{Imphal} & \textbf{Wangbat} & \textbf{Timsong} & \textbf{Thanion} \\
\hline
January & 1.00 & 5.20 & Nil & Nil \\
February & 17.80 & 35.70 & 16.60 & 24.80 \\
March & 30.40 & 58.00 & 68.40 & 53.20 \\
April & 266.60 & 231.20 & 90.10 & 116.80 \\
May & 86.20 & 90.10 & 251.80 & 308.40 \\
June & 144.20 & 116.80 & 379.20 & 330.60 \\
July & 440.40 & 293.40 & 469.20 & 400.90 \\
August & 75.00 & 98.50 & 731.20 & 691.50 \\
September & 112.00 & 30.30 & 424.00 & N.A. \\
October & 206.80 & 201.80 & 278.20 & 175.80 \\
November & 10.00 & 1.00 & 13.80 & Nil \\
December & Nil & 11.80 & 3.60 & 1.50 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Monthly Rainfalls in Important Centres in Manipur 1989 (in mm.)}
\end{table}

There are four important seasons in Manipur. They are as follows:

1. Winter season or cold season (December to February)
2. Summer season or Hot season (March to April)
3. Rainy season or monsoon (May to September); and
4. Season of Retreating monsoon (October to November).

3.2.5 Transport and Communication

Manipur is isolated from the neighbouring states by the hill ranges on all sides. The hill ranges surrounded the valley. The major transport facilities available in Manipur are roads and airways. However, since March, 1990 some portion of Jiribam has been connected by railways. Waterways in Manipur is quite negligible. The total length of roads in Manipur was only 1705 kms. in 1962 and rose to 2599 kms. in 1972, 3728 kms. in 1981 and to 5,409 kms. in 1989.\(^\text{14}\)

Manipur is connected with the neighbouring states of India and the country Myanmar by National Highways as shown in Map 4. It is also connected with the other states of India by airways.

The National Highway No. 39 which starts from Kumargaon (Assam) and ends at Moreh the border town of India near Myanmar (Burma). The distance from Imphal to Dimapur the railway station of Nagaland by this road is 215 kms. This portion of the road is Imphal-Dimapur Road. The distance from Imphal to Moreh is 110 kms. only. This portion of the road is known as Indo-Burma Road.
National Highway No.53 is considered as another life line of Manipur. Because next to N.H. 39 it takes a major role in the transportation of goods and people in between Manipur and the other states of India. This road is known as the New-Cachar Road. This road is directly linked with Silchar of Assam. The total distance from Imphal to Jirighat the last town of Manipur near Cachar (Assam) is 224 kms.

The other important roads are Tiddim Road, Ukhrul Road, Tamenglong road and Sugnu Road. The Tiddim road connects Imphal with Singhat. The important towns passes by this road are Bishnupur, Moirang and Churachandpur. The distance from Imphal to Churachandpur is 64 kms. Ukhrul Road connects Ukhrul with Imphal. The distance from Imphal to Ukhrul is 78 kms. Tamenglong can be reached from Imphal through new-Cachar Road and N.H. 39. The distance from Imphal to Tamenglong through New-Cachar Road is 157 kms. The so called Imphal-Tamenglong Road goes via Kangpokpi, an important bus-station at National Highway No. 39. The distance from Kangpokpi to Tamenglong is 112 kms. Sugnu Road is diversion road from Indo-Burma Road near Kohching. The distance from Imphal to Sugnu is 75 kms. This road is extended upto Mombi-Tera another 17 kms. from Sugnu.

Airways connect Imphal with other states of India. There is daily boeing services between Imphal and Calcutta via Silchar. There is daily boeing or air-bus service between Imphal and Delhi via Gauhati and Bagdogra. There is also tri-weekly Vayudoot service between Imphal and Dimapur.
Without the Inner-Line Permit issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, South Block, New Delhi-11, no foreign tourist is allowed to visiting Manipur via Nagaland require Inner-Line Permit issued by the Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Dimapur. If the Indian tourists who came to Manipur through other ways want to go back to their hometowns by N.H. 39 through Nagaland have to take the Inner Line Permit from the Deputy Commissioner, Imphal. the office at Babupara deals it.

There has been steady growth in the postal and telecommunication facilities in Manipur. Table 2 shows the growth of postal and telegraphic facilities in the state in different plan periods.

**Table 2**

*Development of Postal and Telegraphic facilities in Manipur*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At the end of</th>
<th>No. of Post Offices</th>
<th>No. of telegraph offices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Plan (1955-56)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Plan (1960-61)</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Plan (1965-66)</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Plan (1973-74)</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Plan (1977-78)</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Plan (1984-84)</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source:

*Pre-Budget Economic Review of Manipur, 1989-90.*

Manipur has a medium wave radio station and television transmission tower. Both are located at Imphal. Through these mediums Manipur gets the latest information from different parts of the world.

3.3 People

There are different theories regarding the origin of the Manipuri's. According to the geologist and the Manipuri Purans, Manipuri was one full of water. According to the geological calculations this was happened no long before 100 million years. "The water flew through Ngaprum/Chingjeng (saddle) and Ngara Chingjeng to Leimetok river." So people become settled in high level areas.

According to the Manipuri Purans, nine Labningthous (Gods) and seven Labnuras (Goddesses) were first settled on 64 hillocks of Manipur. One day Lord Shiva with his consort, Parvatii landed on the top of the Nongmoljing hill to play Rasa Lila (Dance) in the valley of Manipur. By that time the valley was under water. Lord Shiva made a hole by his trishul (spear) at Chingnunghout (making hole at hill) and drained the water. Some of the Manipuriis believed that the origin of the Manipuri dance was that of the God Shiva and the Goddess Parvatii.

In course of time a group of people headed by Poirotton settled in Manipur. Manipuri Purans called it Poirotton Khunthokpo. According to McCulloch: "The origin of the Manipuri is obscure. From the most credible traditions, the valley appears originally to have been occupied
by several tribes, the principal of which were named Khumal, Luwang, Molrang and Meitel, all of whom came from different directions. In course of time the Meitel subdued all the tribes and the name Meitel has become applicable to all. Later on they were converted into Hindu.\textsuperscript{16} The term 'Meitel' according to T.C. Hodson has been derived from Mi = Man and thei = separates.\textsuperscript{17} The Kshatriya princes of the Aryan race once passed through Manipur into Burma in pre-historic times. The evidence of this is that the direct route from Manipur to Burma near Kabo valley is known as Mauria, the dynasty of emperor Asoka. Some of them were settled from that time.\textsuperscript{18} The observation made by James Johnstone in this regard may be mentioned. He says: "The Manipuris themselves are a fine stalwart race descended from an Indo-Chinese-stock with some admixture of Aryan blood derived from the successive waves of Aryan invaders that have passed through the valley in pre-historic days."\textsuperscript{19}

Though Manipuris is considered as Mongolian by some of their face and stature are just like the Aryans. "The Manipuris are decidedly a muscular race . . . they are generally spare in habit of body, and fat people are rare. They have good chests and well-formed limbs. Generally they are cleanly and they bath their bodies frequently. The woman have a disagreeable habit of cleaning their hair with putrid rice water, which if not carefully removed by washing, leaves a very offensive smell. Their houses are kept clean."\textsuperscript{20}
Manipur has many spectacular contributions to the world culture. Special mention may be made of Manipuri dance, Weaving, Laisharaoba and Polo. In the words of Jawaharlal Nehru "Manipur is a land of dance and music and the birthplace of Polo."  

Agriculture and cottage industry are the main occupations of the people. Handlooms and handicraft products of Manipur are famous in India. Most of the Manipuri ladies know how to weave and embroider the cloths. E.W. Dun remarks: "It would be difficult to find a more industrious women in India than the Manipuri women."  
The embroidery works of the Manipuri women are divers and excellent. The women enjoy a fair amount of freedom. They are very hard workers and share the burden of the family with the male members. The men have aptitude for craftsmanship. T.C. Hodson also said - "the women hold a high and free position in Manipur, all the internal trade and exchange of the produce of the country being managed by them."  

The people of the present Manipur can broadly be divided into - (1) Manipuri and (2) Non-Manipuri. The Manipuri is composed of four major groups of people. They are:

1. The Meiteis - Major segments of the people are Hindus. They are the original inhabitants of the valley of Manipur. They constitute about 50% of the total population.
2. The Hoes - Major segments of the people are Christians. They are categorised as tribals. They are the original inhabitants of the hills of Manipur. They constitute about 25% of the total population.

3. The Pangals - They are Muslims. Most of them were immigrated from Bengal during the kingship of Manipur. The immigration started from the beginning of the 13th century A.D. The term pangal is derived from Bangal means the people of Bengal. These Muslims are known as Meitei Pangal. They constitute about 10% of the total population.

4. The Bamans - They are Hindu Brahmins. They were immigrated from different states of India during the kingship of Manipur. The immigration started from the 15th century. These Brahmins are known as Meitei Bamon. They constitute about 5% of the total population.

The Meiteis are divided into seven clans. In Manipuri, clan is known as Salai or Yek. "The advent of Hinduism had assigned Gotras to these clans and in the process the preachers of Vaishnavo cult were responsible for usurping for the Meiteis the best lot of the prevalent gotras among the Hindus." Names of the seven Salais or Yeks and their equivalent gotras are as given below:


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Salai o YYek</th>
<th>Name of the Gotra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Ningthouja (earlier known as Mangang)</td>
<td>Sandilya (Brahmins gotras)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Khumal</td>
<td>Madhugellya / Madgollya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Luwang</td>
<td>Kashyap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Angom</td>
<td>Kausika but some follow Bharatdowaj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Molrang</td>
<td>Atreya but some follow Angiros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Khoba-Nganba</td>
<td>Bharatdowaj-Nolmisha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Sarang-Leishangthem</td>
<td>Bashistha but some follow Bharatdowaj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(earlier known as Chenglet)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each of these Salais or Yeks consists of a number of sub-groups called Yunnaks or Sagels. The names of Sagels or Yunnaks were also conferred by the kings to the Brahmins and the Muslims at the time of their conversion into Manipuri.

The Non-Manipuris are broadly divided into two groups. They constitute about 10% of the population. They are:

1. The Indians - The Indian citizens who are inhabitant of Manipur and not belonged to the above groups of persons are colloquently known as Mayangs by the Manipuris. They are mostly Marwaris, Bengalis, Punjabis and Biharis.

2. The Foreigners - Some illegal immigrants like Nepalese, Bangla Deshis, Chinese, Burmese etc. are also inhabited in Manipur.
CHART NO. 1

CLUSTER OF PEOPLE IN MANIPUR

People

- Manipuri
- Non-Manipuri

Hao Meitei Meitei Pangal Meitei Indian Foreigner
(Tribals) Damon (Muslims) (Hindus) National 1. Nepalese

Ningthou- Khumal Luwang Angom Moirang Khaba Sarang-Leishang-
ja, Mangang (103 (56 Yum-(52 Yum- (66 Yum-
(116 Yum- Yunnaks)naks) naks) naks) naks) (20 (44 Yunnaks)

Scheduled Tribes
1. Aimol 16. Maram
2. Anal 17. Maring
3. Angami 18. Monsang
5. Chothe 20. Faite
7. Hmar 22. Raite
8. Kabui 23. Sakti
10. Koirao 25. Simte
11. Koirang 26. Tangkhul
12. Kom 27. Thadou
13. Lamgung 28. Vaiphei
14. Lusai (Mizo) 29. Zou
15. Mao

Non-Scheduled Tribes
1. Kamei
2. Kharam
3. Khari
4. Kuki
5. Lengmei
6. Maola
7. Paola
8. Paomei
9. Rongmei
10. Semei
11. Tarao
12. Tedimchin
13. Teijang
14. Thangal
15. Zeliangrong.
3.3.1 Population

According to the 1981 census, Manipur has a population of 14,20,953 Table A shows the area and population of Manipur by districts in 1981 Census.

The literacy percentage of Manipur according to the 1981 Census is 41.35 as against the all-India average of 36.20. The percentage of urban population to total population in Manipur is 26.42 against the all-India average of 23.31. About 54% of urban population is concentrated in the Imphal District alone and another 32% in the other two valley districts of Bishnupur and Thoubal. The overall growth rate of population in Manipur is very high during the past three decades. In 1961 the population of Manipur was only 7,80,037 and it was increased to 10,72,753 in 1971 and to 14,20,953 in 1981 respectively. The estimated population of Manipur as on 31st March, 1991 and 2001 are respectively 18.27 lakhs and 22.75 lakhs.
### Table 3

Area and population of Manipur, 1981 Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of District</th>
<th>Senapati</th>
<th>Tamenglong</th>
<th>Churachandpur</th>
<th>Chandel</th>
<th>Imphal</th>
<th>Bishnupur</th>
<th>Thoubal</th>
<th>Ukhrul</th>
<th>Manipur</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Item</strong></td>
<td><strong>Unit</strong></td>
<td><strong>No.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sq.km.</strong></td>
<td><strong>No.</strong></td>
<td><strong>No.</strong></td>
<td><strong>No.</strong></td>
<td><strong>No.</strong></td>
<td><strong>No.</strong></td>
<td><strong>No.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Geographical Area</td>
<td><strong>Sq.km.</strong> 3,271.0</td>
<td>4,391.0</td>
<td>4570.0</td>
<td>3,313.0</td>
<td>1,201.0*</td>
<td>530.0</td>
<td>507.0*</td>
<td>4,544.0</td>
<td>22,327.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Area</td>
<td><strong>No.</strong> 90.0</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>1.0*</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>26.1*</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>151.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Area</td>
<td><strong>No.</strong> 3,282.0</td>
<td>4,385.9</td>
<td>4,555.2</td>
<td>3,312.0*</td>
<td>1,144.0</td>
<td>495.6</td>
<td>480.9*</td>
<td>4,539.0</td>
<td>22,175.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td><strong>No.</strong> 1,55,421</td>
<td>6,22,89</td>
<td>1,34,776</td>
<td>56,444</td>
<td>5,56,146</td>
<td>1,41,150</td>
<td>2,31,781</td>
<td>82,946</td>
<td>1,42,0953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Population</td>
<td><strong>No.</strong> 80,583</td>
<td>31,538</td>
<td>69,875</td>
<td>29,174</td>
<td>2,79,488</td>
<td>70,843</td>
<td>1,16,232</td>
<td>43,273</td>
<td>7,21006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Population</td>
<td><strong>No.</strong> 74,838</td>
<td>30,751</td>
<td>64,901</td>
<td>27,270</td>
<td>2,76,658</td>
<td>70,307</td>
<td>1,15,549</td>
<td>39,673</td>
<td>6,99,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Population</td>
<td><strong>No.</strong> 9,631</td>
<td>4,281</td>
<td>25,159</td>
<td>7,678</td>
<td>2,02,476</td>
<td>48,886</td>
<td>73,528</td>
<td>5,823</td>
<td>3,75,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Population</td>
<td><strong>No.</strong> 1,45,790</td>
<td>58,008</td>
<td>1,09,617</td>
<td>48,766</td>
<td>3,53,670</td>
<td>94,264</td>
<td>1,53,255</td>
<td>77,123</td>
<td>1,045,493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density of Population</td>
<td><strong>Sq.km.</strong> 48</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>463.1</td>
<td>266.1</td>
<td>457.0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td><strong>P.C.</strong> 31.03</td>
<td>36.38</td>
<td>44.85</td>
<td>34.23</td>
<td>50.18</td>
<td>34.00</td>
<td>32.43</td>
<td>41.99</td>
<td>41.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Literacy</td>
<td><strong>No.</strong> 41.08</td>
<td>46.44</td>
<td>52.99</td>
<td>42.71</td>
<td>62.91</td>
<td>47.67</td>
<td>47.19</td>
<td>52.09</td>
<td>53.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td><strong>No.</strong> 20.20</td>
<td>26.06</td>
<td>36.09</td>
<td>25.16</td>
<td>37.28</td>
<td>20.22</td>
<td>17.58</td>
<td>30.99</td>
<td>29.06</td>
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<td><strong>No.</strong> 271</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>16,153</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>17,753</td>
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<tr>
<td>Castes Pопn. Scheduled</td>
<td><strong>No.</strong> 1,05,655</td>
<td>29,259</td>
<td>1,16,254</td>
<td>38,430</td>
<td>17,996</td>
<td>3,895</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>74,238</td>
<td>3,87,977</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** * Provisional

**Source:** Manipur at a Glance (District-wise), 1987.

**Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Govt. of Manipur, Imphal.**
3.4 Education

Before the advent of writing education in Manipur was imported orally and practically. In this system of education the guru/teacher recited the texts and performed the art or skill and the disciple/student repeated the same.  

3.4.1 Formal education

There was no satisfactory record of school in Manipur till the end of 18th century.

The seed of the new form of education, was first sown by Captain Gordon when he organised a Primary education centre in Manipur in the beginning of the 19th century. However, due to untimely death of Capt. Gordon, the seed could not germinate and it decayed without bearing any fruit. In 1982, Major General W.E. Nuthall, the then Political Agent, opened a school at Imphal with English language as the medium of instruction. However the most remarkable in the History of Education in Manipur is the establishment of Johnstone School in 1885. Upto the year 1924, the Bengali language and the Bengali script was taught in Johnstone school and in this year, the Calcutta University conferred recognition to the Manipuri language in Bengali script upt Matriculation examination. Now the school is in the rank of a Higher Secondary.
After the successful establishment of the Johnstone School some more schools were established in Manipur in between 1893 and 1941. No school was however established during the II World War period. The air raid at Imphal on 10th May, 1942 and 20th April, 1943 were great havoc. There were full of anxiety to all the people of Manipur during those days. After the resumption of normalcy in 1944, the schools became refunctio-
ing.

In 1946 Maharani Dhano-Manjuri Devi donated a sum of Rs. 10,000/- and established a college in her name at Imphal. Dhano-Manjuri College (D.M. College) was the first college in Manipur.

At the time of India's Independence in 1947 there were only 278 primary schools in Manipur with 25400 students in the enrolment. The number of schools then rose to 3214 with more than 2,42,610 students in the enrolment in March, 1987. In 1955-56 there were only 23 High/Higher Secondary Schools in Manipur. The number then rose to 379 in 1986-87. In 1947 there was only one college in Manipur. In 1990 the number of colleges rose to 36. All the colleges are affiliated to the Manipur University. Besides, there are another 13 private colleges permitted by the Manipur University. The J.N.U. Centre of P.G. Studies, Imphal was converted into Manipur University on 5th June, 1980. In 1987-88, four Navodaya Vidyalayas have been established in 4 districts of Manipur. Except Tamenglong at present there are Navodaya Vidyalayas in all the districts of Manipur.
3.4.2 Non-formal education

Only formal education cannot cover the whole population under universalization of elementary education. The gap of education left by formal education may be filled up by non-formal education. There are various non-formal educational programmes in Manipur. Mention may however be made of the Balwadi, Angalwadi and Adult Education.

The main objective of Balwadi and Angalwadi is to impart education to the pre-school children. Both aim at integrated development of children physically, intellectually, mentally and socially. A child upto the age group of 6 years may avail of such type of education. "From the year 1966 onwards, Balwadi centres had been introduced in Manipur under the scheme of Urban Community Programme. A Balwadi Centre was established in each Municipal centres are sponsored by different departments, like Social Welfare, Arts and Culture, State Social Welfare Board, Manipur State Council for Child Welfare, Central Social Welfare Board, Delhi etc. "Beginning from the year, many Angalwadis have been set up in Manipur under the scheme of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)." Education by Angalwadi is also extended to all women between the age groups of 15 to 45 years by importing health education.

There are various Adult Educational Programmes. Such education are imparted to the age groups of 15-35 years. " In Manipur Adult Education began from 1962 when the Social Education Unit was set up in the Direc-
However, the full-fledged Department was set up in the year 1980. The Department is now implementing the programmes by running six State Adult Education Projects (SAEPS) with state fund and six Rural Functional Literacy Projects (RFLPs) with Central fund. The SAEP are in the districts of Imphal, Bishnupur, Thoubal, Churachandpur, Tamenglong and Ukhrul while the RFLPs are in the districts of Imphal, Thoubal, Senapati, Ukhrul, Chandel and in the sub-divisions of Jiribam, Tipaimu ch and Tousem.

3.5 Political Administration

The political administration of Manipur is closely related with the natural divisions of the land into Valleys and Hills.

There was no regular history of Manipur before 33rd A.D. In 33rd A.D. Pakhangba became the first king of Manipur. "For efficient administration king Pakhangba divided the land into four Panas (divisions), the Ahallup Pana, the Naharup Pana, the Laipham Pana and the Khabam Pana." However, Pakhangba was not the king of the whole Manipur as the other parts of the Valley and the Hills were ruled by the kings and the chiefs respectively. The valley belong to seven kings and the hills to several chiefs. There were kings and chiefs in the following areas - "From Pumlun along the Thoubal Turel basins upto Andro and Molrang Prem belonged to Khumi; Moirang to Longjing Achnaba to Koubu to Lu-wang; Pukhoo to Chalow to Angom and the remaining portion of the valley along the drainage area of Iril, Thoubal and Nambul rivers between Nongmaijling and East of Lambhel to Mitaya (Ningthouja or Mangang), Khabanganba
and Chenglei. As for the Hills the South and the South West to several Chiefs of Khongjais, West and North West to several chiefs of Kabulis, North to Mao, Moram, Angami etc., North and North East to Tangkhuls and East and South East to Maring, Chiru, Anal etc. After several encounters amongst the kings and chiefs for supremacy, the Meiteis gradually absorbed the other principalities within their fold. King Pakhangba, the first monarch of the Meitei and the founder of the Ningthouja Salai (Clan) initiated the process of assimilation and the process was completed by the succeeding generations. Thus with the vertical integration of the seven salais (clans) into a single national unity, the evolution of the Meitei nation which had started since the dawn of history was completed during the time of King Chorai Rongba (1698-1709). The hill chiefs were gradually brought under the control of Mitoyia kings. Gambhir Singh completely subdued almost all the hill chiefs. Manipur was then brought in or about the beginning of 19th century under the sovereignty of one king. The Treaty of Yanadaboo which was between the British and Burmese on February 24, 1826 recognised Gambhir Singh as the king of Sovereign manipur. During his reign the boundary of Manipur was extended upto Ningthee turel (Chindwin river). Without the knowledge of the king the Kabo valley a fertile land near Ningthi river was handed over to Burma by the British Government in 1834. In 1953 i.e. after India's independent Pandit Nehru the first Prime Minister of India permanently transferred the Kabo valley to Burma. Thus the boundary line between India and Burma was settled.

"Manipur was subordinate state under the British Paramountcy, as the Manipuris were defeated in the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891. The
British Paramountcy over Manipur lapsed on 15th August, 1947 with the passing of the Indian Independence Act, 1947 by the British Parliament.\textsuperscript{37}

A rule, called 'Rules for the Management of Manipur' was introduced in 1907. The rule was reformed in 1919. The last amended rule dated 14th September, 1935 was in force till India's Independence. His Highness was empowered to veto any Darbar resolution. The then Darbar was like the present day Cabinet of Ministers and the Maharaja, the present day Governor.\textsuperscript{38}

The outbreak of the IInd World War effected Manipur administration from 1942-45. However, it paved the way to modern administration. A constitution making committee was constituted on 20th January, 1947. The committee submitted a draft constitution to the king on 26th July, 1947 which was later became the Manipur State Constitution Act, 1947. Maharaja Bodhachandra Singh dissolved the Manipur State Darbar on 1st July, 1947 and in place of the Darbar the 'Manipur State Council' was instituted. Mr. F.F. Pearson, the then President of the Darbar was appointed as the first Chief Minister of Manipur on 1st July, 1947. Most of the Darbar members became members of the council of Ministers.\textsuperscript{39} On 13th August, 1947 the Maharaja dissolved the council and a new 'Interim Council' was brought into existence at 7.15 a.m. of 14th August.\textsuperscript{40} Maharaja Priyobrata Singh, the younger brother of the then Maharaja became the Chief Minister.

In the morning of the 15th August 1947, the Maharaja observed the India's independence by unfurling the Indian National flag and the
Manipur Maharaja's flag bearing Pakhangba (old Manipuri Royal Emblem) side by side at the Kangla.  

The Manipur State Constitution Act 1947 was approved by the Maharaja in early 1948. In April 1948, the Manipur State Election Rules 1948 was adopted. The election of the State Assembly was held in 1948. The election was a long process. It began on 11 June 1948 and was completed on 30th June 1948 in the valley. Results were announced on 14th July. The election in the hills took place on 26 and 27 July and the results were announced on 6th August 1948. The elected members of the Assembly were sworn in 18th October, 1948 at the Manipur State Darbar Hall. From this election onwards the people feel themselves participated in the state administration.

Sardar Patel was the first Home Minister and in charge of the Ministry of states of Independent India. He was responsible for the integration of the princely states which were left independent after the lapse of paramountcy with the Indian Union. Maharaj Bodhachandra Singh in accordance with the people of Manipur agreed to the proposal of Sardar Patel. Ultimately, the 'Manipur Merger Agreement' containing nine articles was signed at Shillong on the twenty first day of September, 1949 by Maharaj Bodhachandra Singh on behalf of Manipur and Nepal Pangunni Menon, Advisor to the Government of India, Ministry of States on behalf and with the authority of the Governor General of India. The agreement became effective from 15th October, 1949. It is a landmark in the political history.
of Manipur. On this day the Manipur legislation was dissolved. Major General Rawal Singh the then Dewan was re-designated as the first Chief Commissioner of Manipur. "He exercised all the executive powers of the Maharaja. He issued an order at noon of the 15th October, 1949 wherein he notified the taking over of administration of Manipur. The Government of Manipur was henceforth known as Manipur Administration. Government servants under the State Government were absorbed in the Manipur Administration."^45

"Under Part 'C' State Act, Manipur was declared as a Part 'C' state with effect from 1952 till it became a Union Territory in 1957. Under the Constitution of India the first general election was held in Jan., 1952 on the basis of adult franchise."^46

Under the Union Territories Act of 1956 Manipur became one of the Union Territories of India in 1957. A Territorial Council was constituted with the Chief Commissioner at the head of the administration. The second election to the Territorial Council was held in 1962 and Government of India agreed to convert the Territorial Council into the Territorial Assembly with a Council of Ministers to assist the Chief Commissioner in July, 1963."^47

Till 1969 Manipur was treated as only one district territory. The territory was divided into 10 sub-divisions. On 14th November, 1969 the Manipur territory was re-organised into 5 divisions and 25 sub-divisions. The districts were - (1) Manipur Central, (2) Manipur East, (3) Manipur
West, (4) Manipur North and (5) Manipur South. Along with the re-organisation the status of the Administrator was also raised from Chief Commissioner to Lieutenant Governor with effect from December 19, 1969.

In 1971, the Re-organisation of the North East India Bill was framed and enacted in 1972. In accordance with the Act Manipur became a full fledged state of India. On the 21st January, 1972 Manipur State was formally inaugurated by Srimati Indira Gandhi at Imphal. The Statehood of Manipur was proclaimed by the President of India as follows:

"Whereas by virtue of the provision of the North Eastern Area (Reorganisation) Act 1971 (81 of 1971) a new State of Manipur is formed on this 21st day of January, 1972. The total members of the Legislative Assembly was also increased from 30 to 60.

"In view of the special nature of the problem of the hill population, the Manipur (Hill Area) District Council Act, 1971 was passed by Parliament. By the said Act the hilly districts have been granted autonomous status on the pattern of six scheduled of the Indian Constitution.

On 13th May 1974, the district of Tengnoupal (Now Chandel) comprising of 3 hill-divisions of Manipur Central District was inaugurated.

"Till the 1981 Census of India, there were only 8 Administrative Districts in Manipur. But on 25th May, 1983 the then Manipur Central
District was reorganised into 3 districts namely - (1) Imphal, (2) Thoubal and (3) Bishnupur. "At present, there are 8 districts, 30 sub-divisions and 64 administrative circles. Each districts was placed under one Deputy Commissioner who is an I.A.S. Officer each sub-division under one Sub-divisional Officer who is I.A.S./M.C.S. and each circle under one Sub-Deputy Collector."\(^5\) Besides, in Manipur, at present, there are 31 Community/Tribal Development Blocks. Each Block is under one Block Development Officer. Map.1 shows the Administrative Divisions of Manipur and Table.4 shows the districts, sub-divisions and blocks of Manipur. The first 3 districts in the following table are in the valley and the remaining 5 districts are in the Hills. The Blocks in the valley are Community Development Blocks and the Blocks in the Hills are Tribal Development Blocks.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Sub-Division</th>
<th>Community/Tribal Development Block</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Imphal</td>
<td>i) Imphal East I</td>
<td>i) Imphal East I</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ii) Imphal East II</td>
<td>ii) Imphal East II</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>iii) Imphal West I</td>
<td>iii) Imphal West I</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>iv) Imphal West II</td>
<td>iv) Imphal West II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>v) Jiribam</td>
<td>v) Jiribam</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Thoubal</td>
<td>i) Thoubal</td>
<td>i) Thoubal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ii) Kakching</td>
<td>ii) Kakching</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Bishnupur</td>
<td>i) Bishnupur</td>
<td>i) Bishnupur</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ii) Moirang</td>
<td>ii) Moirang</td>
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<td>4.</td>
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<td>i) Tamenglong</td>
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<td>ii) Nungba</td>
<td>ii) Nungba</td>
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<td></td>
<td>iii) Tousem</td>
<td>iii) Tousem</td>
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<td>iv) Tamei</td>
<td>iv) Tamei</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Senapati</td>
<td>i) Kangpokpi</td>
<td>i) Kangpokpi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ii) Sakal</td>
<td>ii) Sakal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>iii) Tadubi</td>
<td>iii) Tadubi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>iv) Paomata</td>
<td>iv) Paomata</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
<td>i) Churachandpur</td>
<td>i) Churachandpur</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ii) Singhat</td>
<td>ii) Singhat</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>iii) Thanlon</td>
<td>iii) Thanlon</td>
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<td>iv) Henglep</td>
<td>iv) Henglep</td>
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<td>v) Parbung</td>
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<td>vi) Samulomlan</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Ukhrul</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>iii) Kamjong</td>
<td>iii) Kamjong</td>
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<td>iv) Phungyar Phaisat</td>
<td>iv) Phungyar Phaisat</td>
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<td>v) Kasom Khullen</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Chandel</td>
<td>i) Chandel</td>
<td>i) Chandel</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ii) Tengnoupal</td>
<td>ii) Tengnoupal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>iii) Chakpikarong</td>
<td>iii) Chakpikarong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.6 Language and Literature

There are various languages and literatures in Manipur. However, Meitei is the most advanced and Lingua-Franca language of Manipur. Only Meitei has its own script (local term = Mayek). Meitel Mayek (Meitei script) is not identical with any script of India. Most of the literatures from the 7th century to the 17th century were written by Meitel Mayek.

3.6.1 Language

There are various views regarding the origin of the Manipuri language. Manipuris are mentioned in the Shan chronicles so early as 777 A.D. Dr. G.A. Grierson grouped it under the Tibeto-Burman family. Although the Manipuris have become thoroughly subjected to Hinduism, they have not adopted any Aryan tongue. The ancient coins of Manipur, however, proved that the Manipuri alphabets known as Meitel Mayek were introduced as early as 6th century A.D. The initial letter 'Wa' was found inscribed in the bell-metal coin issued by king Wuru Konthouba (568 to 658 A.D.). Similarly the letter 'A' was found inscribed in the coin issued by king Ayangba (721-810 A.D.) The practice of depicting the initial letter of the name of the king was confined till the period of king Kulachandra (1890-91 A.D.)

The coins issued during the pre-Hinduism period differ from that of Post-Hinduism. Before the spread of Hinduism in Manipur the initial
letter of the name of the kings depicted in the coins were in archaic Manipuri script. Paikhomba (1666-97 A.D.) was the last king who issued the coins depicting the legend in archaic Manipuri script. King Garibniwaj (1709-48 A.D.) for the first time introduced to depict Nagori and Bengali scripts on the coins. Till the 18th century almost all the Manipuri literature were written in Meitei Mayek covering various subjects. At the instigation of Santidas Gosol, a preacher of Ramandi Vaishnavism King Garibniwaj blazed all the valuable literatures which were written in Meitei Mayek. Consequently from the 19th century, the Bengali-Assamese script became used side by side with the Manipuri script. But after 1891, the former gradually supplanted the latter. By the thirties of the 20th century, Manipuri script became almost obsolete.

From ancient times Manipuri has been the state language of Manipur. It has been proved by the coins, royal chronicles, edicts and copper plates discovered from different places of Manipur. During the 18th and 19th centuries the Government of Manipur used Manipuri Language as a medium of communication with other foreign powers like the East India Company. Even Bir Thandrajit Juvaraja wrote in Manipuri to the President, Lieutenant Colonel St.J.F. Mitchel of the Special Court on the 3rd June, 1891 seeking the permission of the latter for use of the competent lawyers from Calcutta for his defence in his trial by the special court. While communicating with the Manipur Government, the British Government of India used Manipuri.
Formal annexation of Manipur to the British Indian Empire after the conclusion of the Anglo-Manipur War, 1891 and the subsequent grant of Native State-hood (1891-1947) to Manipur by Queen Victoria did not effect the state language status of Manipuri. After the lapse of the British paramountcy over the Native State of Manipur on the 15th August 1947, the Manipur State Constitution Act., 1947 came into force significantly the Act also reaffirmed the state language status of Manipuri.\textsuperscript{55}

In 1963 the Manipur Legislative Assembly unanimously resolved to request the Indian Parliament for inclusion of Manipuri in the 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution as one of the national language of India. Besides, the people of Manipur are attempting from their best levels for the inclusion of Manipuri in the 8th schedule of the Indian constitution.

3.6.2 Literature

The history of Manipuri literature may broadly be divided into three periods viz. - (1) the Ancient period, from the remote past to the end of the 17th century, (2) the Medieval period, from the 18th century to the end of the 19th century, and (3) the Modern period, which began from 1891.

3.6.2.1 Ancient period

The earliest literature so far found is the copper plate inscription of the 8th century A.D. It was discovered by Shri W. Yumjao Singh, a
pioneering archaeologist of Manipur. Inspite of the limited number of books, the books of this period covered various disciplines. The literatures were written in Meitei Mayek without any paragraph. The books also did not bear neither the date of composition nor the author of the book.56

3.6.2.2 Medieval Period

This is another era in the history of Manipuri literature. During this period the Vaisnava sect of the Hindu religion influenced to the traditional culture, religion, social behaviour and literature. As mentioned earlier the old literatures were blazed and writing of new books in Bengali and Assamese script were started.

3.6.2.3 Modern period

After the contact of the Manipuris with the British in the 20th century A.D. the outlook of the Manipuris changed to a great extent. It paved the way for the coming of the modern period of Manipuri literature. To-day, more Manipuri literature is pouring into the libraries.

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