CHAPTER – 7

Summary and Conclusion

Bishnupur District was formed after 1981 census, out of Manipu Central District under the Manipur Government Gazette Extra-Ordinary No. 7 dated May 24, 1983. {Government of Manipur Secretariat, Revenue Department Order No. 6/1/73-R (Pt. VII), dated May 24, 1983}. It is located in the South-West of Manipur Central Valley area. It is geographically situated between 24°10' and 24°45' North latitude and 93°45' and 93°52' East longitude. The total area of this district according to 2001 census is 496 Sq. Km comprising an urban area of 37.02 Sq. Km. and rural area of 458.98 Km. The altitude is 822.18 m above MSL (Mean Sea Level). It is bounded by Thoubal District in the East, Imphal West District in the North, Partly by Senapati District and Churachandpur District in the West and Churachandpur District in the South.1

Bishnupur is situated 27 Km. away from Imphal on Tiddim Road, the National Highway No. 150. Bishnupur is the district headquarters of Bishnupur District. The oldest name of Bishnupur is Lamangdong. This district is also the birth place of Khamba and Thoibi, the legendary romantic duo of the Manipuris. The important places of attractive tourist spots within the District are as follows:

1. India Peace Memorial, Maibam Lokpaching is a historic site on Tiddim Road. It is known as Red Hill No. 2926 at 16 Kilometres South of Imphal. This is one of the three hillocks in and around which the fierce historic battle of Maibam Lokpaching during the Second World War were fought.

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2. Loukoipat is a small lake situated 27 kilometres away from Imphal on Tiddim Road at Bishnupur. It is bounded by small hillocks on all sides. The Loukoipat was a marshy land. The present condition of the lake is the result of the artistic aspiration and constructive attitude. It is under the care of a Managing Board with the Deputy Commissioner of Bishnupur District as Chairman. The Ecological Park has given an impetus to the beauty of this lake.

3. The Lord Vishnu Temple is situated near the C.I. College at Bishnupur and 27 Kilometres away from Imphal on Tiddim Road. This temple has been a place of unique character from the tourism point of view. Non-stop flowing of domestic visitors has been usual sight at the place.

4. Loktak Hydro-Electric project is located 39 kilometres South of Imphal, Capital of Manipur, the 105 MW Loktak power station is supplying power to Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Tripura. Today this power station is the wheel churning out all-round prosperity and development of Manipur. Now, it needs improvement for wearing and tearing of machines.

5. Sendra Tourist Home is a small hillock in Loktak Lake and lies at a distance of 2 kilometres from Moirang Town. Since the late fifties, this hillock has been connected with the main land (Moirang) by a motorable road. The tourist home has a cafe and makes an ideal look-out for the picturesque Loktak Lake all around.

6. Champu Khangpok Village (floating huts) is situated in the midst of Loktak Lake. The village consists of a number of dwelling houses and made of bamboo and reeds with thatched roof and mud-plastered wall built on small patched of age-old accumulation of water hyacinth and aquatic plants locally known as phum. Fishing is the only occupation of the villages and they maintained only the nucleus of the family, that is needed for their occupation. Small dugout canoes are the only means of transport.

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7. I.N.A. Memorial, Moirang, the Indian National Army founded by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1943 outside India’s border launched India’s last struggle against the alien rulers under the banner of that Government for the emancipation of our Motherland India and hastened India’s freedom. The Victorious Indian National Army hoisted the tri-colour flag of the Azad Hind Govt. at the sacred spot of Moirang Kangla for the first time on the Indian soil on 14th April, 1944. Now, this site should go down in the history of India as the first shrine of India and ever symbolising Unity, faith & sacrifice and a place of pilgrimage for all lovers of freedom.

8. Ithai Barrage is a part of the Loktak Multi-Purpose Project. The barrage is meant for a permanent water body maintaining its level normally at 768.5 m in Loktak Lake for power generation under the Loktak Hydro Electric project.

9. In the South eastern corner of Loktak Lake is located the unique “Keibul Lamjao National Park”. Perhaps it is the only floating National park in the world. It covers an area of 40 Sq. km. It has distinct geographical zones, (i) Phumdi area *i.e.*, floating portion covering 26 Sq. km. and (ii) Water body area surrounding the floating portion. Keibul Lamjao is the home of the rare species of brow-antlered deer locally known as “Sangai”. In order to preserve this rare species of animal Keibul Lamjao is today a game Sanctuary.

   With an area of Bishnupur District of 530 Sq. km. comprising an urban area of 34.4 Sq. km. and a rural area of 495.6 Sq. km. in 1981 census, 496 Sq. km. constituting an urban area of 37.02 Sq. km. and a rural area of 458.98 Sq. km in 1991 census and 496 Sq. Km comprising an urban area of 37.02 Sq. Km and a rural area of 458.98 Sq. Km according to 2001 census.
It constituted 2.37 per cent in 1981 census, 2.22 per cent in 1991 census and 2.22 per cent of the total geographical area of Manipur according to 2001 census. Bishnupur District is the smallest district of the existing nine districts in Manipur.

Bishnupur District is administratively headed by a Deputy Commissioner also known as District collector/Magistrate. There is a Revenue Commissioner who looks after the four valley districts including Bishnupur District. At the Sub-Divisional level, there is the Sub-Divisional Officer and below him at the Sub-Deputy Collector. The office of the Sub-Deputy Collector is the smallest administrative unit.

Bishnupur District remained as a Sub-Division under Manipur Central District according to 1981 census as against two Sub-Divisions, viz., Bishnupur and Moirang Sub-Divisions in 1991 census and there were three Sub-Divisions, namely, Nambol, Bishnupur and Moirang Sub-Divisions in 2001 census. There were Six Sub-Deputy collectors circles in 2001 census as against four Sub-Deputy Collectors in 1991 census. The numbers of towns and villages as per 2001 census are 7 and 48 respectively as against 7 towns and 45 villages in 1991 census and 6 towns and 47 villages according to 1981 census.

Bishnupur District can be divided into three parts i.e., Valley/plain area, area under water and area covered under hillocks and forest.

The major portion of the area of Bishnupur District is covered by the plain area. Unlike the great plain of India, Some hillocks are scattered here and there in the plain of Bishnupur District.

The Bishnupur District is full of many lakes, marshes and swamps, such as Loktak Pat, Sanapat, Kokpat, Ngakrapat, Yetnapat, Laisoipat, Loukoipat, etc. The shallow areas of these lakes are dried up during summer months and expanded during rainy months.
The hillocks and forest have an area of about 3.59 Sq. Km. Some of the notable hillocks are Lokpaching, Loukoiching, Khongjaingamba Ching, Mantha Ching, Chingfu Ching, Sendra Ching, etc. Large populations living in and around the hillocks are benefited by the hillocks’ resources for their construction of house materials, roof, firewoods, etc.

The Bishnupur District is drained by Nambol River, Oinam River, Yangoi River, Khujairok River, Thongjaorok River, Potshangbam River, Ningthoukhong River, Sunushiphai River, Naransheina River and Moirang River. The types of River system of Bishnupur District is of lower course and seems only depositions of upper courses. Thus, peneplain, floodplain and deltas are formed. All rivers are rainfed from hills located at the west of the Tiddim Road and flow towards the east falling into the Loktak Lake.

In the context of forest, there are four reserved forests and one protected forest in Bishnupur District. It covers only 3.59 Sq. km. consequently, it is poor in forest resources. Major forest products like timber are imported from the neighbouring Hanglep area of Churachandpur District. The minor forest products like canes, bamboo, fibres, gums, resins, honey, wax, sands, stones, etc., are available in the district.

Bishnupur District enjoys an equable climate though it admits of some variations in different parts of its three Sub-Divisions. They are Nambol, Bishnupur and Moirang Sub-Divisions. Most of the places in the valley of the state have a cool and pleasant climate and Bishnupur District being a plain area enjoys a pleasant climate. Influenced by the Loktak Lake, the lands surrounding the lake are foggy in the winter mornings but can never be said too cold. The cold season lasts from November to February and January is the coldest month. The temperature rises from March onwards and the day temperature is the highest in April and May. But during this hot season, the cool breeze comes down from the hill ranges of west and south and refreshes the inhabitants of the district.
Bishnupur District enjoys an adequate amount of rainfall. The district a part of the state receives rainfall mainly from June to September every year. The monsoon season from June to September, which extends upto October, sometimes, accounts for a little over half the annual rainfall. Sometimes a considerable amount of rainfall accompanied with thunderstorm occurs in April and May.4

The population of Bishnupur District according to 1961 census was 78,853, 1,08,306 in 1971, 1,41,150 in 1981, 1,80,773 in 1991 and 2,08,368 in 2001 census. Rapidly growing population requires large investments in Social infrastructure and diversion of resources from directly productive assets. Owing to scarcity of resources it is not possible to provide educational, health medical, transport and housing facilities to the entire population. However, just to expand job facilities to these unemployed and underemployed people growing up with a rapidly increasing population, it is necessary to encourage some small-scale and cottage industries in the district based on local resources.5

The distribution of population of a country in different categories of production process is termed as occupation. The occupational structure of the labour force can be classified into three i.e., the primary sector, secondary sector and tertiary sector.

In the structure of occupations of Bishnupur District, the largest share of the labour force is in the primary sector and then, the tertiary sector followed by the secondary sector.

The density of population of Bishnupur District was 226 persons per square kilometre as against Manipur’s 64 persons per square kilometre according to 1981 census. It recorded an increase to 364 persons per square kilometre while that of the population density of Manipur was 82 persons per square kilometre in 1991 census.

Again, the density of population of the district was 420 persons per square kilometre as against 103 persons per square kilometre for Manipur state as per the result of 2001 census. Thus, it is obvious that the density of Bishnupur District looks much denser than the state average.

According to 2001 census, the total population of Bishnupur District is 2,08,368 consisting of 1,04,550 males and 1,03,818 females. As many as 1,33,627 persons consisting of 67,009 males and 66,618 females live in the rural areas while 74,741 persons consisting of 37,541 males and 37,200 females in the urban areas of the district.

According to 1981 census, the rural population of the district was 66.78% and 33.22% in urban population. As per the result of 1991 census, the distribution of population was 65.06% in rural and 33.94% in urban areas. According to 2001 census, 64.13% was in rural and 35.87% in urban areas. It is observed that the percentage of population of Bishnupur District in rural areas is more than that in urban areas.

The sex ratio of Bishnupur District since 1981 to 2001 censuses was above state average and it was 992 in 1981 census, 984 in 1991 census and 993 females per thousand males in 2001 census respectively.

In Bishnupur District, the populations of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were respectively 0.83 per cent and 2.95 per cent according to 2001 census, as against 1.29 per cent and 5.30 per cent of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively in 1991 census. Further, population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constituted 0.15 per cent and 2.76 per cent respectively to the total population of district in 1981 census.

The workers in Bishnupur District since 1981 to 2001 censuses indicate that the proportion of workers to total population of the district slightly decreased from 47.15 per cent in 1981 census to 44.36 per cent in 1991 census and 43.05 per cent in 2001 census.
The Primary, Secondary and Tertiary workers in Bishnupur District:

In the district, agriculture including fishery and animal husbandry is the most important primary occupation. 61.42% of the main workers were engaged as cultivators and 5.99% as agricultural labourers in 1981 census, 55.89% as cultivators and 10.71% as agricultural labourers in 1991 census and 31.26% as cultivators and 7.51% as agricultural labourers in 2001 census.

Workers in the secondary sector, i.e., household industry workers in the district in 1981 census constituted 11.25%, 10.95% in 1991 census and 7.33% in 2001 census.

Tertiary workers in the district in 1981 census constituted 21.34%, 22.45% in 1991 census and 53.90% in 2001 census respectively.

The age structure of Bishnupur District of Manipur has also been categorised according to the age groups as 0-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60+: ⁶

According to 1991 census records, children in Bishnupur District in the age group of 0-14 years were 34.4% of the total population with 50.4% males and 49.6% females. The number of persons in the age group 15-59 constituted 58.9% the total population in the district and 51.1% males and 49.9% females. Thus, the old people above 60+ years were 6.63% of the total population including 53.1% males and 46.9% females.

As per the result of 2001 census, records of Bishnupur District in the age group of 0-14 were 32.55% of the total population with 51.15% males and 48.85% females. The number in age group 15-59 constituted 59.63% of the total district population comprising 49.66% males and 50.34% females. The age above 60+ years was 7.82% of the total population comprising 50.10% in males and 49.90 females.

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Literacy plays an important role in the Socio-economic development of the region. The literacy rate of Bishnupur District was 34.00% in 1981 census as against 54.94% in 1991 census and 67.63 in 2001 census. Thus, the literacy rate recorded an increasing trend from 1981 to 2001 censuses.

In Bishnupur District, there were 22513 occupied residential houses and 23108 households in 1981 census as against 27299 occupied residential houses and 29726 households in 1991 census. According to 2001 census, no occupied residential houses were found and 35303 households were available. Both occupied residential houses and households showed an increasing trend from 1981 to 2001 censuses.

Further, the work participation rate of Bishnupur District was 47.15% in 1981 census as against 44.36% in 1991 census and 43.05% in 2001 census showing a declining trend.\textsuperscript{8}

A fluctuating participation rate of males could be observed. It was 48.88% in 1981 census, 45.56% in 1991 census and 48.09% in 2001 census.

It could be observed that a declining trend occurred in respect of participation rate of females also. The participation rate was 45.40% in 1981 census as against 43.15% in 1991 census and 37.97% in 2001 census.

Thus, the trend of male and female participation rates in Bishnupur District was both a declining one although male participation rate was more than female participation rate from 1981 to 2001 censuses.

\textsuperscript{7} Census of India, 2001 census: District census Handbook, Bishnupur: Directorate of census operation, p.35
\textsuperscript{8} Census of India, 2001 census: Final population total, Bishnupur District, p.7
Agriculture and allied activities constitute the single largest source of livelihood of the majority of the rural masses and is the mainstay of the Bishnupur District's economy. Agriculture sector contributes a major share to the total district domestic product and employment. In fact, the district domestic product fluctuates depending on the performance of agricultural sector. Despite the crucial importance of this primary sector in the district's economy, the irregular and erratic behaviour of the monsoon accompanied with inadequate irrigation facilities has resulted in severe fluctuations in agriculture production. Though, agriculture has been practiced since early times yet it is poorly developed and of subsistence type. The output per unit of hectares is quite low.

Most of the land is cultivated only during the rainy season which is evident from the single cropping of rice. Although in the recent years, rapid strides have been made in the agricultural sector and emphasis has been laid on the introduction of High Yielding Varieties, improved practices, application of fertilizer and plant protection measures and also on the adoption of new technology there is still scope for extension to more areas. As a result, the district has made significant progress in the field of agriculture.

The allied activities like animal husbandry, Dairying, Goat and Sheep husbandry, Piggery, Poultry and Fishery have supplemented to diversify the rural economy of Bishnupur District. Fishery is an important source of income for the people in the district and schemes for development of pisciculture and pisciflora have been taken up in and around the Loktak Lake.

Land use pattern refers to the use of land by man, as surveyed and mapped in a series of recognised categories. In the district, land utilization has been going on along economic, geographic and demographic dimensions.

Land utilization data were furnished by the Revenue Department which together with those of the earlier years for the valley areas has thrown some light on the problems. During the surveys it has been observed that the present system of land use in Bishnupur District is mostly in the opposite direction of fertility and conservation of the soil and also against the preservation of the resources on land. Most of the rivers sides are enclosed for local benefits, even embankment are destroyed and river sources are blocked. The natural drainage system and the major rainwater stocks at different places are damaged for expansion of agricultural land, village and industrialisation. The existing cultivable areas is very small and negligible.\(^{10}\)

The total geographical area of Bishnupur District is 49600 hectares according to 1991 census. It does not changed upto 2001 census.


Apart from the land use pattern, the average size of operational holding in Bishnupur District is low. This small size of operational holding has created problem. For convenience of analysis, the problems can be grouped under three heads as:

(a) Natural problems

(b) Socio-economic problem and

(c) Technological problems.

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\(^{10}\) Dr. Biren Thokchom, 1998: Land use and cropping pattern in the Manipur state, New Agriculturist, An International Bi-annual Journal of Agriculture, Allahabad, India, p. 93
Increase in agricultural production depends to a large extent on the availability of water. Irrigation is the most important infra-structure need for the modernisation of agriculture. High yielding varieties of seeds require not only more water but also more rounds of irrigation.

In Bishnupur District, there are two kinds of irrigation project. They are Minor and Major Irrigation Project. This Minor Irrigation Project in the district comprised:

(1) Surface flow Project (i.e., pucca dam) and
(2) River Lift Irrigation.

The Major Irrigation project in the district is Loktak Lift Irrigation Project. However, the irrigational facilities in Bishnupur District are still low and uncertain.

There are two sources of natural irrigation in the district. They are:

i) Surface water and
ii) Ground water.

Surface water includes river flow water in the natural lakes, ponds, artificial reservoirs, etc. It is provided by flow water of rivers. The Valley Rivers and Manipur rivers are only the existing source of surface water in the district.

Ground water is the water stored in the womb of nature. The problem faced in the use of ground water is the cost involved in lifting it up with the help of mechanical devices. The scope for ground water in the district is however quite limited.

Heavy rainfall during monsoons not withstanding, most villages face severe water shortage during dry season. The womenfolk tread long distances, spending much time and energy to fetch water for domestic needs of their families. Villages lack of water supply facilities. To overcome the above n and reduce drudgery of women, a simple, reliable and environmental
friendly, low cost technology of harvesting rainwater from roof called Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting system is promoted.

The Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting System can be constructed by rural artisans and maintained by the users. The organisation for Rural Development and Economic consciousness proposed to implement a community based rooftop rainwater harvesting system from 740 families in Bishnupur District which face acute water storage. It shall also provide Socio-technical and programmatic support. Therefore, this system will be more beneficial to the people of the district if it can be properly implemented.

Cropping pattern means the proportion of areas under different crops at a particular period of time. A change in cropping pattern means a change in proportion under different crops. Cropping pattern describes what crops are grown in a particular location as well as how and why they are grown. The cropping pattern of Bishnupur District is mainly influenced by the natural, social, historical factors. In addition, the Government can also effect the change in crop pattern through its agricultural policy. The cultivation in Bishnupur District is almost entirely of mono-cropping pattern. Paddy is the main crop growing in the district.

In Bishnupur District, rice sown is classified into three categories. viz.,
(1) Broadcast (Punghul)
(2) Broadcast into water (Pamphel)
(3) Transplantation method (Aringba)

“Punghul” is sown in the months of March and April and harvested from August to September. In other words, it is known as dry sowing of paddy. “Pamphel” is sown in the months of May and June and harvested in October to November and it is known as wet sowing. On the other hand “Aringba” is adopted in a large variety of low and upland areas of Bishnupur District. It is harvested from November to December.
The intensity of cropping in the district is low. However, there is a good scope for a change from mono-cropping to double cropping in the paddy fields by supplying irrigation water from the mountain gift drainage, flowing in the district.

The principal crops in the district are Rice, Maize, Wheat, Pulse, Oilseeds, Sugarcane, Potatoes, etc. Cultivation of rice is most predominant in the district's agriculture. Rice is staple food of the people of the district and is grown in a predominantly mono-cropping farming. The area and productivity of rice in 1986-87 were 19.00 thousand hectares and 27.75 thousand metric-tonnes respectively as against 26.17 thousand hectares and 78.94 thousand metric tonnes respectively in 2004-2005.

The Production of maize in Bishnupur District is low. The total area under maize was about 0.70 thousand hectares and total production was 1.17 thousand tonnes in 2004-2005.

Wheat is not cultivated widely in the district: The total area under wheat was 0.20 thousand hectares and total production was 0.51 thousand.

The total area under pulse was 4.18 thousand hectares and total production was 3.17 thousand metric tonnes in 2004-2005.

The production level of oilseeds in the district is low. The total area under oilseeds was 5.77 thousand hectares and total production was 4.52 thousand metric tonnes in 2004-2005.

Sugarcane is grown in different parts of the district. The total area under sugarcane was 1.40 thousand hectares and total production was 75.00 thousand metric tonnes in 2004-2005.

The total area under potatoes was 1.22 thousand hectares and total production was 10.19 thousand metric tonnes in 2004-2005.

Utilizations of chemical fertilizers available in the district are Urea, Dia Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Murite of Potassium (MOP), Rock Phosphate (R/phos), Single Super Phosphate (SSP) respectively. The fertilizers
consumption has increased. Urea is more consumed in the district and next to Dia Ammonium Phosphate.

Livestock wealth is one of the important industries to agriculture in the district. It is found to be very an important source of income generating activities and security of life. According to the Livestock Census conducted in 1984 Census, it was recorded as 107163, 112250 in 1987, census, 88580 in 1992 census, 70067 in 1997 census and 71595 in 2003 census respectively. The trend of livestock population in Bishnupur District is thus declining from 1984 to 2003 censuses.

The Veterinary Office, Bishnupur District was opened in the year 1985. The district veterinary officer is the head of the office. The department is responsible for the matter of production, preservation, protection and improvement of livestock by way of protecting the livestocks from Epidemic diseases and health care, management, proper feeding and nutrition, genetic improvement, etc. It is providing adequate avenue for self-employment and income generation by way of helping rearing/farming livestock for the educated unemployed youths, thereby, in turn promoting production of animal origin food in the district.

The department is also look after the health care of the livestock through the network of its various Hospitals, Dispensaries and Aid centres. The department is also extending training of farmers in the rearing and management of livestock through its extension programme by providing practical facilities in its various livestock farms.11

There are two types of fish farm in the Bishnupur District i.e., Public farm and Private farm. In the district, there are three Public farms i.e., District Level fish seed farm located at Ningthoukhong, experimental fish farm located at Takmu and Regional Pengba Seed farm at Haotak.

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Private farm is undertaken by the individual or registered societies. The most successful farm is ring bund in the region. The type of fish farm is suited on the bank of Loktak and quite profitable. The district has vast fishery resources with a number of important lakes, rivers and streams comprising 30,000 hectares out of which 1000 hectares has been developed. Loktak Lake and the small lakes are the main fishery resources of this district.

The Fish Farmers' Development Agency was established in 1986 aiming to uplift the socio economic condition of fish farmers of this district.\textsuperscript{12}

The present level of production of fish in Bishnupur is 5270 Metric Tonnes as compared with 17600 Metric Tonnes of Manipur State during the year 2003-2004.

Electricity is available in all the existing 7 towns and 43 villages which were electrified in Bishnupur District according to Bishnupur District., \textit{At-A-Glance}, 2004.

Electric power, which is one form of energy, is an essential ingredient of economic development and, it is required for commercial and non-commercial uses. Commercial uses of Power refer to the use of electric Power in industries, agriculture and transport. Non-commercial uses include electric power required for domestic lighting, cooking, use of mechanical gadgets like the refrigerators, air conditioners, T.V. etc. With the growth of population and with the increase in the use of modern gadgets in daily life, it is quite natural that the demand for electricity for domestic use should grow at a fast rate.

It may happen in Bishnupur District that maximum consumption of energy is by domestic consumers. The total consumption of energy in the district increased to 15.0691 million units in 2005-06 from 13.3257 million units in 1993-94.

\textsuperscript{12} Bishnupur AT-A-Galance, 2005 District Administration, Bishnupur District, p. 17.
In the district, electricity is generated by the Loktak Hydro-Electric power stations of 132/33 KV (kilo volt) and 33/11 KV with capacity of 2x10 MVA and 3x3 MVA (Mega Volt Ampere).13

Road transport is the only mode of communication and backbone for development and growth of Bishnupur District. The Bishnupur District, Public works Department is responsible for the creation and development of Road Infra-Structure, augmentation, and maintenance of the created assets in the district. This is done through,

(i) Prime Minister’s Gram Sarak Yojna
(ii) Annual plan works of the state
(iii) Centrally sponsored scheme and
(iv) Maintenance works.

The total length of road in Bishnupur District is 400.29 Kilometres in 2004-05. Out of the total length of roads about 39.60 Km. is National Highway, 55.07 Km. is Major District Road, 45.41 Km. is other District Roads and 260.21 Km. is Inter village or Panchayat Roads.

However, the percentage of Black Topped Surface is quite limited and a large percentage of the total length is still unsurfaced. Moreover, most of the existing black topped surface roads are in a deteriorated condition and they need improvement.

All towns are connected by surfaced roads and not less than 90% of the villages are connected by Jeepable road. The Tiddim Road, National Highway No. 150 connects the District Head Quarter with Imphal on the North and with Churachandpur on the south.
The Bishnupur District Transport office was opened on 22nd July, 1992. In view of the geographical feature of Manipur, road transport is the only cheapest and quickest means of transport for the district. The total numbers of different types of vehicles registered in 2004-05 were 329. Out of these, 87 were trucks, 2 were Buses, 33 were Jeeps, 26 were Cars, 6 were Tractors, 19 were Auto-Rickshaws, 145 were two wheelers.

As many as 87 trucks were registered in 2004-05 as goods vehicles and 33 Jeeps have been used for transportation of goods in Bishnupur District as against 12 trucks and 13 Jeeps in 1994-95 and 12 trucks and 3 Jeeps were in 1992-93. The main conveyance is the bullock carts and power tractors in the Bishnupur District. Even in the markets of the district, agricultural produces are mostly brought by the women folk on their heads, which is the more common characteristic feature in the district. In Bishnupur District, the bullock carts are common in rural areas for transporting agricultural produces from the field to their respective homes and the market.

In Bishnupur District, Extra-departmental Branch office, Bishnupur under the Head Office, Imphal had been converted into a Sub-post office (Non-combined) on no loss basis by diversion of one clerk from Head Office, Imphal with effect from 1/11/1965.13

By 2003, there were three sub-post offices and 37 extra-departmental branch post offices in the district. The three sub-post offices are:

(1) Nambol Sub-Post Office
(2) Bishnupur Sub-Post Office and
(3) Moirang Sub-Post Office.

Out of 37 extra departmental post offices, 7 are in Nambol Sub-Post Office, 12 were in Bishnupur Sub-Post office and 18 are in Moirang Sub-Post Office.

There were 15085 enterprises as per Economic Census 2005 registering the total employment as 28378. Out 15085 enterprises operated in Bishnupur District, 81.1 % enterprises were found engaged in non-agricultural activities and the rest of 18.9 % were recorded to be engaged in agricultural sector.

Moirang, Ningthoukhong, Bishnupur and Nambol are the four flourishing trading centres of the district. The local products specially fish, fox nut (Thangjing), Potato, Cabbage, Chilli, Water chest nut (Heikak), Bamboo shoot (Soidon/Soijin), tree bean (Yongchak), Nungtengkot, Cane and Bamboo works, etc., are produced in these centres.

Education is the most powerful instrument not only for personal realisation but also for national development. Taking into consideration the close link between education and development, an attempt was made to reveal the educational background of the people and their relative positions and status in the society of Bishnupur District.

By 1993-94, the number of schools in the District (including Government, Aided and recognised schools) was 334 with an enrolment of 41,819 students. Thus, the numbers of High/Higher Secondary Schools were 45 with an enrolment of 13,717 students, 45 Middle/Junior High School with an enrolment of 9,233 and 153 Lower Primary Schools with an enrolment of 9235 students.

In 2003-04, the number of schools in the District (including Government, Aided and Recognised schools) was 351 with an enrolment of 59540 students. Out of these schools, 57 were High/Higher Secondary Schools with an enrolment of 22,634 students, 65 were Middle/Junior High School with an enrolment of 15,170 students and 229 were Lower Primary/Primary/JB/UJB
schools with an enrolment of 21,736 students. Most of the schools of Bishnupur District are not upto the expected standard.

There are seven colleges in the district. Among the seven colleges, three are Government Colleges i.e., Nambol L. Sanoi College, C.I. College and Moirang College, one Government Aided College i.e., Thambal Marik College and three are Private Colleges i.e., Mangolnganbi College, S.K. Women’s College and Kumbi College. All the Colleges have three years degree courses non-residential where co-education is imparted to students from different parts of Bishnupur District.

Some other training programmes are also organised in the district. The guidelines of National Literacy Mission and State Literacy Mission Authority, Manipur, the General Body Meeting of District Literacy Society, Bishnupur District held on 28/8/2002 resolved to implement the total Literacy Campaign Programme in the district to impart Functional Literacy to adult illiterates in the age group of 15 - 35 years. The District Literacy Society, Bishnupur District started its survey work in fullswing from the month of January 2004. According to the field survey 20,819 adult illiterates were found out of whom 7950 were males and 12869 were females. There were 105 scheduled tribe adult illiterates (47 males and 58 females) and 342 scheduled Caste adult illiterates (145 males and 197 females) from the whole district. For this, the ongoing scheme of Total Literacy Campaign programme is fruitful and eradication of adult illiteracy in the Bishnupur District becomes a possibility.

Health plays a great role in Socio-economic development of the people and its importance was recognised during the earlier plans. Health is wealth. Development of basic health Services is not merely extension of health services but it has got various social goals, such as improvement of the quality of life and provision of maximum health benefits to the greater number of people.
The District Level Health Administration is organised under the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) as head who is assisted by District Level Programme Officers. The District Health Organisation is responsible for implementation of various health programmes under primary health care through a network of various health care centres and hospitals in the district.

Medical and Health facilities of Bishnupur District are provide mainly by the state Government. In 1980-81, there were 10 primary health sub-centres, 2 primary Health centres. But in this district, community Health centre and District Hospital were not available.

In 1981-82, there were 11 primary Health sub-centres and remained the same as against 16 primary health sub-centres and rest remaining the same in 1982-83.

By 1983-84, there were 19 primary Health Sub-centres and rest were same. In 1984-85, there were 24 primary Health sub-centres and the remaining were the same.

In 1988-89, a District Hospital was established and there were 33 primary Health sub-centres, 5 primary Health centres. However, the community Health centre was not found.

Further, in 1993-94, there were 32 primary Health Sub-centres, 5 primary Health centres, 2 community Health centres and 1 District Hospital. The position did not change from 1993-94 to 2004-2005 in the Bishnupur District. Besides, there were 36 doctors, 16 pharmacists and 62 nurses/ANM working in the district and treated 53016 patients in 1993-94 as against 36 doctors, 22 pharmacists and 46 nurses/ANM working and treating 66005 patients in 2003-04.

Family welfare programme is being implemented purely on central assistance as 100% centrally sponsored scheme (C.S.S.) without any share from the state Government. The Bishnupur District Family welfare Bureau exists as a separate administrative and financial unit at the district level since 1997. However, the various programme activities and services delivered by this
department have been implemented at the block level in total integration with the health department. Further, the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) staff and NGO's in the district are partners in the implementation of the programme.

There were three Rural Family Welfare Centres (RFWC) under family welfare Department, Bishnupur. They are Rural Family Welfare Centre, located at Nambol, Rural Family Welfare Centre at Bishnupur and Rural Family Welfare Centre at Moirang. Pulse Polio Immunization (PPI) is being taken up by the family welfare department with the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) staff and Medical Department through the District Hospital. Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and Primary Health Sub-Centres of the District.

Water is a basic necessity of life and one of the essential services rendered by any state is safe drinking water supply and vital human needs for health and efficiency. The rural water supply facilities are provided to the people in the rural areas of Bishnupur District under centrally sponsored Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).

As per 2001 census, the total population of Bishnupur District was 2,08,368. Out of it the population of rural area was 1,33,627 and the balance of 74,741 was urban population. The total number of villages of Bishnupur District was 48. A recent, water supply survey conducted by the Public Health Engineering Division, Bishnupur District in rural areas, identified 48 villages with a population of 1,33,627. Out of them 16 villages with a population of 41,473 were identified as Not covered (NC), 21 villages with a population of 63,377 as partially covered (PC) and 11 villages with a population of 28,777 as fully covered (FC).
Thus, owing to increase in population, the requirement would have become more day by day. At present the water supply management is not satisfactory. The position of water supply in the rural areas of Bishnupur District is still worse.

In the Bishnupur District, there has not been any detailed exploration of minerals. It is not known whether there is any useful mineral in the District. However, mention may be made of sand and stone which are extracted from Thongjaorok and Khuga rivers, etc. for the purpose of roads, dams, canals and buildings.

There is no large-scale industry at present in the district. One of medium scale, Sugar Mill at Kabowakching was coming up under the public sector in the district but is now given up. Another hand-made paper making unit based on water hyacinths has been proposed at Toupokpi. The present level of Industrial Development is confined to small scale and artisan-based decentralisation sector in terms of technology, investment limit, etc. The development of cottage and small-scale industries sector consists broadly of:

(i) Traditional cottage industries (viz., handloom, Khadi and village industries, handicrafts, sericulture and coir industry); and

(ii) Modern small-scale industries.

Out of them, handloom weaving is the single most important industry which gives employment to women in large numbers. Handloom products of this district find market in the other states of India and foreign countries.

The most important characteristic of the Bishnupur District economy is its heavy preponderance on agriculture. The economic situation in the district is closely associated with the performance of the primary sector. This dependence mainly on one sector is proving to be a stumbling block on the road to socio-economic progress.
Growth of new industries, notable of which is Tasar, is in infant stage. However, contributions made by different units like small scale industries, electricity, gas and water supply, trade, transport, etc., towards the district economy are noteworthy. The economy, of course, is not diversified. It is very backward. Therefore, cottage and small scale industries occupy an important place in the economic structure of Bishnupur District.

The main theme of the New Industrial Policy of Government of India is to develop the Cottage and small scale industries in the rural areas as well as in the towns and semi-urban areas of the country. The main aim of the new policy is to shift the focal points of development of cottage and small-scale industries to the district headquarters from the state capitals and cities. Establishment of a District Industries Centre (DIC) in every district is intended to provide all the services under a single roof.

The development of cottage and small-scale industries plays an essential part in connection with the progress of economic development in a region or a society. The development of small industries has been given increasing emphasis in India under the successive Industrial policy statements of the country right from the first policy statement of July, 1948 to that of August, 1991.

But the development of cottage and small-scale industries in Bishnupur District primarily consists of traditional handloom and handicrafts and a few small industries like cycle and scooter workshops, automobile repair shops, bakeries, carpentry and wooden furniture units, printing presses, rice mill, watch repairing, etc.

The major components of the strategy and salient features proposed in this sector (cottage and small-scale industries in Bishnupur District) are as here under:

(i) to generate opportunities for fuller and full-time employment by:
(a) revitalising and developing the existing traditional and other small-scale industries; and

(b) promoting intensive development of new viable small industries.

(ii) to raise the level of earnings of rural artisans, handloom weavers, craftsmen and others employed in these industries

(iii) to promote the growth of these industries in rural areas and small towns and

(iv) to reduce progressively the role of subsidies by providing these units for credit facilities and developing of skills, designs and marketing.

The main thrust of the policy will be the effective promotion of cottage and small scale industries widely dispersed in the rural areas. While the existing definition of small scale industry will remain, within the small-scale sector special attention will be given to units in the tiny sector, viz., those with investment in machinery and equipment upto Rs. 25 lakhs (since February 1999). While the number of industries reserved for exclusive development in the small-scale sector has been significantly expanded, the Government will also consider introducing special legislation for protecting the interest of cottage and small-scale industries with a view to ensuring that these activities which provide self-employment in large number get due recognition in industrial development. However, in the present context of globalisation, this policy of reservation has taken a back seat.

The present position of cottage and small-scale industries in Bishnupur District relates to the industrial status, the facilities given to small units, the present educational situations, the position of educated unemployed youths, etc. Examination of the present position is essential, as in the development of
cottage and small-scale industries, we have to view more carefully the progress made so far so that we can have an idea of the prospects and make reasonably accurate forecasts for the future. However, the emphasis on the locally available raw materials and the local market must stay.

A bank is a financial institution which deals in money and credit. When we say that a person deals in a commodity, what we mean is that he buys and sells the commodity. Likewise, when we say that the bank deals in money and credit, what we mean is that the bank buys and sells money and credit. By sale of money, what is meant is lending money to others while by purchase of money what is meant is borrowing money from others. In both the situations, the price of money is paid in the form of interest. Thus, the function of the bank is both to give as well as to accept loans and deposits. Alongwith this, the second important function of the bank is that it buys and sells credit. In other words, the bank buys the credit of its customers and sells its own credit to them. Thus, the important function of the bank is to transfer its credit to its customers and customers’ credit to itself.14

In the Bishnupur District, there are 8(eight) branches of banks of various types. Out of these banks, one is United Bank of India, one United Commercial Bank, three Manipur Rural Banks and three Co-operative Banks and they play an important role in economic development in the district.

Among them, two Nationalised Banks are United Bank of India and United Commercial Bank. The three Regional Rural Banks are Manipur Rural Bank, Nambol, Manipur Rural Bank, Bishnupur and Manipur Rural Bank, Moirang. Further, the three Co-operative Banks in the district are Manipur State Co-operative Banks at Nambol and Bishnupur town and the remaining one is Moirang Primary Co-operative Bank.

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Bank deposits in the district had increased from Rs. 287.22 lakhs as on 31/3/93 to over Rs. 473.62 lakhs as on 31/3/96. But during the next 3 years, deposit had risen to Rs. 900.79 lakhs as on 31/3/99, Rs. 1066 lakhs as on 31/3/04 and the deposit had slightly decreased to Rs. 1021 lakhs as on 31/3/05. Even now, there is lack of awareness of the usefulness of bank services in the villages of Bishnupur District. In the banked areas of the district also, new deposits have to be attracted and the existing depositors have to be motivated to increase their deposits for better standard of living. There was fluctuation in the priority sector lending during the period from 1993-94 to 2005-06. The relatively slow progress of advances to priority sectors is due to the fact that the bank officials from top to bottom were not imbued with the new objective of banking. At the same time, banks were also worried at the poor and unsatisfactory recovery performance of agriculture and allied activities and small scale industries in the district. Average population served by a bank in the district as on 31/12/1992 was 22,597, 22,597 as on 31/3/2000 and 26,046 as on 31/3/2004 respectively.
Some of the important findings that emerge out of the study are listed below:-

i) Agricultural backwardness in the district is mainly due to improper implementation of land reform measures, lack of irrigation facilities and problems of marketing and unsound credit facilities.

ii) Loss of fishery farms in the district due to frequent floods during June and July and scarcity of water during the months of February and March, though as natural phenomenon, can be corrected by using protective nets, proper fundings and the other modern devices.

iii) The number of landless workers increases owing to the growth of population and growing underemployment in the agricultural sector.

iv) Lack of electric power in the district for development of rural industries, and also non-availability of raw materials and other inputs for small scale industries because of lack of regular transport facilities, are found to be mainly problems of implementation of the plan programmes rather than of the planning process in so far as the problem of the district can be seen in the context of the State level plans and those of other districts in the State.

(v) A curious point which may be called even an irony in the planning process of Manipur in general and Bishnupur district in particular is inability to utilise the allotted funds in full at the close of the financial years. In other words, it means inability to achieve the financial targets of the plan programmes to say nothing of the physical targets which are more important. For example, in the State budget discussion of 2008-09, it was found that only about 47% of the plan funds given by the Planning Commission of India could be utilised because of lack of adequate feasible programmes/ schemes.
There are reports of the delay in the implementation of the schemes for agriculture and rural development of the Bishnupur District. Several cases were also found relating to the negligence of the government in the evaluation of the already started developmental works in the district.

Most of the rural roads, transports and communications and water ways of the district were not developed satisfactorily.

Tourist industry which has to play an important role in the development of the District is yet to be developed on a modern and commercial scale.

SUGGESTIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The State should make greater efforts to take timely action and introduce a system to improve transparency in public administration. A strategy for economic development should focus not only on what needs to be done, but also on how to ensure that action in practice. At the backdrop of such a strategy and also in the light of the important findings, the following suggestions are offered:

i) To intensify agricultural activities with the application of HYV seeds and sound credit facilities and other inputs.

ii) To develop irrigation and drainage system for extending the area under double cropping should be taken up on a priority basis.
iii) To adopt water conservation farming system in the formal areas must also be popularised through awareness programmes as well as provision of greater amenities through the DRDA.

iv) Priority should be given to developing rural based industries particularly in the production of goods using locally available raw materials like bamboos.

v) To improve co-operative organisations and self-help groups, efforts should be made to strengthen the organisational structure, management, efficiency and the integrity of these organisations not only as plan programmes but also as programmes of social upliftment.

vi) To develop fisheries, poultry, dairy, piggery industries, etc., the beneficiaries must try their best to achieve greater correspondence between their financial and physical targets.

vii) To check the population growth in the district, awareness of the benefits of family planning and the small family norms should be created among all groups of population living in the district by the concerned agencies of the government.

viii) To improve the existing historical monuments of the district for tourist attraction.

ix) To improve rural road, transport and communication system including the waterways of the Loktak Lake.
Thus, economic development in the Bishnupur District needs:

a) agricultural and rural development with the use of new technologies;
b) expansion of irrigation facilities for double and multiple cropping practices;
c) to adopt water conservation system for sustainable agriculture;
d) to develop rural industries;
e) to improve cooperative organizations and self-help groups;
f) to develop farming system particularly for fisheries, poultry and other animal husbandry;
g) control of population growth in the district;
h) to earn more income from tourist industry;
i) to improve the rural roads, including the waterways of the Lake area;
j) to improve the sound credit facilities.