CHAPTER - 1

INTRODUCTION

Economic development is the primary objective of the majority of the World Nations. This truth is accepted almost without controversy. To raise income, well-being and economic capabilities of people everywhere is easily the most crucial social task facing us today. Every year, aid is disbursed, investments are undertaken, policies are framed, and elaborate plans are hatched so as to achieve this goal.¹

Economic development is defined differently by different economists. Economic development is regarded as a process whereby the real per capita income increases accompanied by reduction in inequalities of income distribution and greater satisfaction of the preferences of the masses as a whole.

Thus, Profs. Meier and Baldwin have defined economic development. “as the process whereby the real per capita income of a country increases over a long period of time”.²

Various theories of economic development suggest that capital formation is of crucial importance in the early stages of development. Any scheme of national economic development calls for the creation of infrastructural facilities. In the early stages of development, the scope for private capital and entrepreneurial talent is limited. Therefore, government’s initiatives to provide economic and social overheads become necessary.

Economic development leads to diversification and complexity in the economy. These tendencies generate, trade cycle, monopolistic tendencies and exploitation of labour and economic disequilibria such as unemployment. A new set of public services of remedial nature becomes necessary.³

Left to itself, the free play of market forces may not produce an income distribution which is in tune with the currently acceptable goals of socio-economic policies of a democratic government. A government may intervene, through fiscal means, to give the desired direction to the pattern of income distribution among various classes in the economy.⁴

For developed countries, the market forces helped to evolve financial institutions and instruments and therefore can contribute to capital accumulation of the economy which is necessary for economic development. But, in the underdeveloped countries or regions, deliberate efforts have to be made to promote and nurture diverse institutions and instruments as part of the process of economic development.⁵

Before the great depression of the thirties, the role of the government in the process of economic development was subjected to the irreducible minimum. The budget of the government was always made to balance. Dalton puts that the income and expenditure of the public authorities are adjusted to one another.⁶ This indicated that the government had to confine itself to some unavoidable functions only. But, after the great depression of the

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thirties, the role of the government in the process of economic development underwent a change. It became the duty of the government to raise the level of income, employment and also the standard of living of the people and therefore more financial provisions were required.

However, the responsibilities of the present governments are increasing day by day. Many responsibilities which were not known in the past, come up today. Not only the areas where a present day government enters in its development programmes but the scope of the erstwhile functions has also become increasingly wider.

A government is expected to perform many social and economic functions in the economy and has to provide educational, medical and housing facilities, build roads, bridges and communication networks, ensure personal freedom, and enforcement of contracts and maintain democratic institutions and cordial relations with foreign countries. In another words it has to perform multifarious activities in the economy for its development and for the welfare of its people.7

Consistent with cross-country evidence for developing countries, consumption poverty in India has fallen with the growth in mean household consumption. Moreover, the regional and sectoral composition of growth affects the national rate of poverty reduction, with far stranger responses to rural economic growth than to urban. And within rural areas growth in agriculture and services has been particularly effective in poverty reduction, while industrial growth has not.8

7. Ibid, p.3.
China has enjoyed the fastest sustained economic advancement in human history, averaging real per capita growth of 8% a year over the past decades. Its per capita income is now $3,976 in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. Meanwhile, real per capita income in India grew at a reverse though more modest average rate of 4.4%, reaching $2,358 in 2001. Reflecting their successful economic growth, both countries have seen significant reductions in poverty. According to World Bank estimates based on consumption surveys, the proportion of people living on less than $1 a day declined in China from 33% in 1990 to 16% in 2000 and in India from 44% in 1993-94 to 35% in 2001.9

The above observations are fully applicable to the case of planning for development in Manipur at both the State and District levels. Particularly as all the development programmes/schemes are location-specific and implemented in the difference districts of the State, of which Bishnupur District is one. A specific and analytical study of such programmes/schemes becomes highly relevant and urgent. So, a serious study on economic development of the district during the new era is urgently called for. Till now, no serious study has been taken up on the economy of Bishnupur District. The present study is a humble effort towards this end.

PROFILE OF MANIPUR AND BISHNUPUR DISTRICT

MANIPUR STATE:

Manipur is a small hill-girt State situated in the North Eastern region of India. It is situated between 93º.03' E to 94º.78' East longitude and from 23º.83' N to 25º.68' North latitude. It has an area of 22,327 sq.km consisting of only 0.7 percent of the total land surface of the country. The State is divided naturally into two regions. They are the hills and the valley. The hill region constitutes around 90 percent of the total land of the State. The altitude of the State is about 970 meters above the mean sea level and average annual rainfall is about 2011.4mm. The maximum and minimum temperatures are 02ºC and 40ºC respectively.10

Manipur has a long border of about 854 km of which 425km long is an international border with Myanmar. On the South it is bounded by Mizoram, on the west and the north by Cachar district of Assam and Nagaland respectively. The State is divided into 9 (nine) districts, viz., i) Imphal West, ii) Imphal East, iii) Thoubal, iv) Bishnupur, v) Chandel, vi) Churachandpur, vii) Senapati, viii) Ukhrul, and ix) Tamenlong district. Out of these nine revenue districts, four are in the valley and five are in the hills. Manipur became a full-fledged State on January 21st 1972 with 60 Assembly Constituencies, out of which 19 seats are reserved for Scheduled Tribes and one for Scheduled Caste.11

According to 2001 census, the State had a total population of 22,93,896 consisting of 11,61,952 males and 11,31,944 females. Comparing the rate of growth of population with the country as a whole, it is found that (except during the decade 1941-51)

the rate of growth of population of the State than the national average is higher. The sex ratio is 974 female per 1000 males and the density of population is 103 persons per sq. km. Manipur is basically a rural State where 74.89 percent of the total population is living in the rural areas.

The majority of the people are Meiteis, forming about 60 percent of the population whereas the hill areas are inhabited by 31 tribes of the Naga-Kuki stock. Agriculture is the largest sector of economic activity in Manipur State. It provides not only food and raw materials but also employment to a very large portion of the population.

**BISHNUPUR DISTRICT**:

Bishnupur district is one of the smallest districts in Manipur. At the 1961 census, Bishnupur district was one of the sub-divisions of the State and it retained its status till the 1981 census. Further, Bishnupur District was formed after 1981 census, out of Manipur Central District under the Manipur Government Gazette Extra Ordinary No. 76 dated May 24, 1983, Government of Manipur Secretariat, Revenue Department Order No. 6/1/73-R (Pt.vii), dated May 24, 1983. Now, Bishnupur district has three sub-divisions, two Community Development Blocks and Six Assembly Constituencies. The detailed background of the District is given below:

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BACKGROUND OF THE DISTRICT

LOCATION:

Bishnupur District 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 sq. km. The altitude is 822.18 m above MSL. It is bounded by Thoubal District in the East, Imphal West District in the North, Partly by Senapati, Churachandpur District in the West and Churachandpur District in the South.  

Bishnupur is situated 27 km. away from Imphal on Tiddim Road, the National Highway No. 150. Bishnupur is the District Headquarter of Bishnupur District. The oldest name of Bishnupur is Lamangdong. Both the names are still used by the people of the State. Bishnupur was the gateway for travellers going out of the State or entering it via Cachar in Assam. The road from Bishnupur to Cachar was popularly called as “Tongjei Maril”, literally meaning the pipeline of a hookah and metaphorically it stands for the narrow character of the road. Bishnupur is better known for its bamboo shoot (Soidon/Soijin), tree beans (Yongchak) and Stoneware products popularly known as Nungtengkot. Bishnupur District is also the birth place of Khamba and Thoibi, the legendary romantic duo of the Manipuris.

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The important Places of Attractive Tourist spots within the District are as follows:

1. India Peace Memorial, Maibam Lokpaching:

The Hillock, Maibam Lokpaching is a historic Site on Tiddim Road. It is known as Red Hill No. 2926 at 16 kms. South of Imphal and has 88.93 acres of development area out of 22,327 sq. kms. of the total area of Manipur, according to 2001 census. This is one of the three hillocks in and around which the fierce historic battle of Maibam Lokpaching during the Second World War was fought.

The two other hills on either side of the Tiddim Road are the “Lalhui Ching” just adjoining the Red Hill on the eastern side of the Road and the other is the “Sanatabung Ching” on the western side of the Road. a little away from the Red Hill. The two hillocks were temporarily named as the ‘Pimples’ by the British army. Nowadays, the historic site of the Maibam Lokpaching where the “India Peace Memorial” is located has become a sacred place in the memory of those soldiers, both the Japanese and the Allied forces, who laid down their lives for the cause of the respective countries. The site and the memorial at the place send the messages of peace to whoever visited the place. The monument reminds us the evils of war and its untold suffering caused to innumerable innocent people.

The first Memorial Service Group led by Uikuro Honda visited at the Red Hill on 7th February, 1972. The Second Memorial Service Group led by U. Honda visited the Red Hill on 19th February, 1973. The Chief Priest, Reguand Soken Tokiwa performed the religious rites and prayed for the departed souls the place of present shrine. Further, a Japanese team visited the Red Hill in November, 1973 to collect bones of the Japanese soldiers who had died in Manipur during the Second World War. The collection work continued till 1976. The team collected 600 complete bones, which were cremated at Yaishkul Athletic Club Ground, Imphal. The ashes were flown to Japan and
kept at the Yasukuni Shrine in Japan. The memorial service groups have visited the place from time to time till today.

This memorial was designed by Kiyonori Kikutake, an architect who has received amongst his many other honours the Award of Arts from the Japanese Minister of Education and the Award of the Architectural Institute of Japan. The plaque was created by the sculptor Hiroshi Ogawa.

The focal points of the memorial are its screenshaped walls, featuring the name of the memorial and the three Indian Sandstone monuments located at the main entrance facing towards Japan.

The walls are made of concrete and come to a height of 3.6 metres. Their diagonally arranged screen formation takes traditional Japanese shapes as its motif.

The fact that these screenshaped walls are matching pair is designed to stand as a symbol of friendship and goodwill between India and Japan.15

There is one chowkidar who looks after the memorial. His salary is sent by the Memorial Service Group (Japan) through the Deputy Commissioner, Bishnupur District, Manipur. The various visitors come from inside and outside the State. It is a prominent place of pride of Bishnupur District.

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15. Primary Data based on the Investigations Field Survey: Information collected from Oinam Danji Singh, Retired Assistant Teacher, Oinam High School, on 25.11.05.
2. Loukoipat:

This small lake is 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 Loukoipat is its 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.

Other natural beauty spots or locations are as follows:
(1) Kihomching in the west on which a tourist home has been constructed; (2) In the South, Tekhaolampak where Rural Health Training Centre has been constructed, (3) In the east, Santhapung is a small hillock where a green house has been located. This hillock is covered with different kinds of trees and (4) In the north, there is a small hillock which had been reserved for the Mini-Secretariat and Loukoi Macha and then the Thumgonlat hillock which has been occupied by the SSB, PHED, Co-Operative Department, DIC, Leprosy Hospital, and Medical Offices etc., and on the eastern side, there are many offices such as Zonal Education Office, Excise Office, PWD Office, Minor Irrigation Office and Lopkat Lift Irrigation Office, etc. There is a ring road around the lake. The scenic beauty of this lake has captured tremendous attraction of the visitors. This is the only place where both natural and artificial beauties combine to capture the minds of all tourists. Everyday, there is an inflow of visitors from within and outside Manipur. Some of the valley areas of Manipur can be viewed from Loukoipat. At present, there are 8 (eight) boats which can be used by any visitor who pays the rowing charge. This Loukoipat is the only one of its kind in the State of Manipur.¹⁶

¹⁶ Primary Data from Field Survey: Information collected from Th. Jadumani Singh, Retired Headmaster, Keirap Aimol Govt. High School, Bishnupur on 23.12.05.
3. The Lord Vishnu Temple, Bishnupur:

It is situated near the C.I. College at Bishnupur and 27 km. away from Imphal on Tiddim Road. The Lord Vishnu Temple of Bishnupur has been a place of unique character from the tourism point of view. Non-stop flow of domestic visitors has been the usual sight at the place. People in Manipur have strong belief in the God.

The Meitei King Kyamba was the 38th King of Manipur. He ruled in Manipur from 1467 to 1508 AD for 41 years. He ruled for some time with his Capital at Khuroi Haora Lamlangtong (Lamangdong). He worshipped the Lord Vishnu building a Vishnu Temple to the south of the Thongiaorok River.

Before he ascended the throne, Kyamba had been known as Thangwai Ningthouba. After he conquered the King Kyang of Kabo (Myanmar), he was given the title of Kyamba. He was the son of the former Meitei King Ningthoukhomba (1432 - 1467 AD) and Queen Linthoingambi. Queen Linthoingambi was the daughter of Sekhuphaba, the younger brother of Angom King Kasomba. After marrying with Khayoirom Sembung Lakpi as queen, their son Lamkyamba was born to them. Then after marrying Leima Leishangthem Chanu as queen, two sons, Koiremba and Nongthombha were born.

After conquering the battle of Kyang Khambat, the Pong King and the Meitei King had royal feast and drank water from the same golden pot. Then, they exchanged gifts. The Pong King offered the Meitei King a fine musical instrument called “Pera Singa” as gift to the Pong King as a mark of cultural exchange. Among the gifts offered to the Meitei King, there was a stone statue of “Vishnu Shal Chakra”. Kyamba started to worship this Statue after making a temple near his Palace. After worshipping this Vishnu Statue, Lamangdong came to be known as Bishnupur. The first growth of Meitei fruit “Pungdol” was during the reign of King Kyamba. It was a gift from the Pong King.17

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4. Loktak Hydro-Electric Project (Loktak Power Station), Kom Keirap, Manipur:

Located at 39 km. south of Imphal, capital of Manipur, the 105 MW (3 x 35) Loktak Power Station is supplying power of Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Tripura. The Power from the Power Station is also fed to urban and rural areas of Manipur for industrialisation and rapid growth in other allied fields. Today Loktak Power Station is the Wheel Churning out all-round prosperity and development of Manipur.

The multi-purpose Loktak Power Station also provides for lift irrigation of over 23,000 hectares of land in the Manipur Valley. This irrigation facility has totally changed the mode of cultivation. Today, Manipur is able to raise multiple crops in a year.

The aim of the power station is to regulate the water level of Loktak Lake by the construction of a barrage just below the lake where the rocky hump rises in the riverbed near Ithai Village. Thus, the lake water is transferred through the mountain range, West of Manipur Valley to the narrow Leimatak River, which is at an elevation of 312 metres lower than the lake, thus generating electricity through a Well-planned Water Conductor System.

The construction of the Power Station posed numerous geological and technical challenges. In the battle against nature, the Project has been a triumph of technical skills integral to National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation Ltd. The 6.62 km. long Head Race Tunnel proved to be the most difficult component in the construction of Loktak Power Station.

The project was commissioned during the first half of 1983. However, during the monsoon in July, 1983 massive landslides and hill movements ruptured a 35 metres long steel line portion of the tunnel. NHPC rectified the damage by constructing a bypass tunnel 137 metres long in a record time. The tunnel was further strengthened by extra rock bolting, grouting and epoxy
treatment in addition to steel lining. The 6th August, 1984 again witnessed the commencement of regular power supply from the Loktak Power Station.

**Trans-Basin Water Conductor System:**

The open channel is 2.267 km. long while its cut and cover section is 1.077 km. long. The work on the 6.62 km. long Head Race Tunnel was divided into eight faces. The boring work at Face - IV & V was extremely tricky owing to the presence of large quantities of methane gas. Development of the New Austrian Tunneling Method for tunnel support systems and mechanized boring equipment as well as the import of hydraulic concrete pumps, continuous pouring shutters and agitator cars for concrete lining of the tunnel at these faces, made the task considerably less hazardous. A progress of 15 mts. a day was achieved with the help of Italian telescopically mobile multi-panelled shutters, used for the first time in India, to line a length of 1900 mts. of the Loktak Head Race Tunnel.

**Penstocks:**

Three Penstocks each with an average diameter of 2.286 mts. and average length of 1346 mts. supported on 12 anchor blocks and 68 saddles carry water to the Power House.

**Power House And Generating Unit:**

Situated on the banks of Leimatak River, the Power House is fully operational with three units of 35 MW each. The water, after spinning the generating units, is drained into the Leimatak River through the Rail Race Tunnel.
Transmission Lines:

About 35 km. long 132 KV Transmission Line transfers power from the Leimatak Power House to Imphal. This transmission line is supported by 98 transmission towers, which pass through varying terrains. Two additional overhead lines have been laid. The first one constructed by NHPC connects the Power House to Jiribam, 120 km. away, while the State Government built the second one to carry power 232 km., away to Dimapur, the nearest railhead.\(^{18}\)

The details of the monthly generation and transmission from January, 1986 to December, 2004 are shown in the Table No. 1.1 & 1.2. This Power Project will go a long way in opening the gateway of industrial and economic development of Manipur State in general and Bishnupur District in particular thereby championing the cause of the people in their all around improvement in socio-economic status.

Table No. 1.1
DETAILS OF MONTHLY GENERATION FROM JANUARY 1986 TO DECEMBER 2004

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<th>JAN.</th>
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**Source:** Data collected from B. B. Sharma, Senior Marketing Officer, Loktak Power Station, Manipur, dt. 20.9.2005
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**Source:** Data collected from B. B. Sharma, Senior Marketing Officer, Loktak Power Station, Manipur, dt. 20.9.2005
5. Sendra Tourist Home:

Sendra is a small hillock in Loktak Lake and it lies at a distance of 2 km. from Moirang town. Since the late fifties, this hillock has been connected with the main land (Moirang) by a motorable road. Sendra island tourist bangalow offers dazzling views of the lake, its rich plant and avian life and the intriguing floating weed, shallow bowl-like islands (Phumdi) and the fishermen who live on them harvesting water chestnuts. The tourist home has a cafe and makes an ideal look-out. Boating has been introduced along the lake’s labyrinthine water ways.  

6. Champu Khangpok Village (Floating Huts):

The inhabited villages include a peculiar village in Bishnupur District. Champu Khangpok by name within the revenue jurisdiction of Moirang Sub-Division in Bishnupur District, peculiar as it is, in fact, a floating village situated in the midst of Loktak Lake. The village consists of a number of dwelling houses made of bamboo and reeds with thatched roof and mud-plastered wall built on small patches of age-old accumulation of water hyacinth and other aquatic plants locally known as “Phum”. These Phums easily float on the water and some of them became so thick and large that they could support more than one house with enough space for a small courtyard in front of the houses. From a distance, the village appears like a collection of innumerable small islands dotting the lake.

Although these Phums can be easily carried away by strong winds and waves from one portion of the lake to another, the dwellers maintain a semi-permanent settlement by attaching long bamboo poles to the bottom of the lake.

Fishing is the only occupation of the villagers and they maintain on the Phums only the nucleus of the family that is needed for their occupation. These Phums along with the houses on them are moved from one place to another only according to the fishing needs of the family. Small dugout canoes are the only means of transport. 20

According to the 1991 census, 363 persons were counted in 131 houses and same number of households of this village. In the 2001 census, conducted amongst the Phum dwellers, a total 733 Phums huts were recorded with a population of 1368 fisherfolks. Three broad population groups can be identified amongst the Phum dwellers: permanent dwellers, which form around 84% of the total is a group which does not have a house on the mainland; temporary dwellers, which have a house on the mainland and keep their families there form 8% of the total and rest of population comprises migrant fishermen, who come to the Phums only during the fishing season. 21

7. I.N.A. Memorial, Moirang, Manipur:

The Provisional Government of free India and the Indian National Army founded by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in 1943 outside India’s borders 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. With the overwhelming support of nearly three million Indians in East Asia, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, one of the most illustrious sons of India, waged war with full faith in final Victory for India’s Independence against the British to supplement the heroic, unarmed and unequal war of the people inside India under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. Netaji and his I.N.A. with the assistance of the Imperial Japanese Government, in a true spirit of friendship and goodwill, won a number of battles though they lost the war.

and scored an over all moral victory over the mighty British Empire. Netaji infused his men with a spirit of unity and they rose above all religions, castes and provincial barriers and shed together their blood for the common cause of India’s freedom.

At the dawn of freedom, the Indian national leaders realised the importance of Netaji and his I.N.A. in the context of Indian liberation movement. As a mark of gratitude to the departed heroes of the I.N.A. who gave their lives for the cause of India’s Independence under the inspiring leadership of Netaji, late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India suggested to erect a Memorial in a befitting manner to their memory in a proper place. To translate the idea of Panditji into a concrete shape, the then Assam Pradesh Congress Committee in which Manipur Territorial Congress Committee was also a constituent unit took the initiative and decided to erect the Memorial at Moirang (27 miles south of Imphal) for its historic importance. It is here at Moirang that 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. The victorious I.N.A. made Moirang as their advance Headquarter for their operations in Manipur and Naga Hills (now Nagaland). It is worth mentioning that Moirang happened to be one of the most important places in Manipur historically and culturally and by virtue of its geographical position situated on the south-western bank of Loktak Lake, this place has a rich cultural heritage and at one time the history of the kingdom of Moirang was the history of Manipur. Combined with its historical and cultural standing, the importance of Moirang has been immensely enhanced by the fact that the tri-colour flag was hoisted for the first time here, at Moirang to mark the liberation from the British yoke. Accordingly, the foundation stone of the present Memorial was laid by Shri U.N. Dhebar, the then president of the Indian National Congress on the 25th Nov., 1955. Now this site should go down in the history as the first National
shrines of India and ever symbolising-Unity, Faith & Sacrifice and a place of pilgrimage for all lovers of freedom.22

8. Ithai Barrage:

Just below the confluence of the Khuga River, Ithai barrage is constructed across the Manipur River, as a part of Loktak Multi-Purpose Project. The structure has 5 gated spans of 9 metres each. River bed level at this place is 762 metres, pond level 768 metres and maximum water level 770.23 metres. Design flood was adopted as 424 cusecs. The barrage is meant for maintaining normal storage of 768.5 metres in Loktak Lake for power generation under the Loktak Hydro-electric Scheme.23

9. Keibul Lamjao National Park:

In the south-eastern corner of Loktak Lake is located the unique Keibul Lamjao National Park. It covers an area of 40 sq. km. and situated between 24°27' N and 24°31' N, latitude and 93°53' E and 93°55' E longitude. It has distinct geographical zones: - (i) Phumdi area i.e., floating portion covering about 26 sq. km. and (ii) water body area surrounding the floating portion. Phumdi (conglomeration of soil, water and decaying vegetative parts) has thickness up to about 2 metres and remains floating owing to buoyancy and low density with about 1/5 above the water. Inside the park there are small hillocks, namely: - Chingjao, Pabotching and Toyaching and a stretch of dry land known as Thambrel-Yangbi about 200 metres wide which divides the western portion of the National Park of settled Phumdi, Khondak river which links with the Imphal river divides the National Park into 2/3 and 1/3 of the area directly discharges into the National Park through a stretch of about 10 kilometres.

Loktak Development Authority, PP. 4-37.
Vegetation and Forest Type:

The Park supports aquatic and wetland vegetation. The forest type on the hillocks inside and hills surrounding the park exhibits near character of East Himalayan moist mixed deciduous forest. The presence of deciduous species like Castanopsis SPP, Schima wallichii, Bauhinia purpurea, etc, makes the park’s Phumdi very rich in plant diversity. About 48 species of plants have been recorded growing on the Phumdi.

Phumdi Formation and Vegetation:

Phumdi is more or less a kind of living entity having active biological activities on which both non-biotic and biotic factors play a critical role and it supports varied plant species. The major plant species growing on it are - Zizania latifolia, Alpinia alughas, Polygonum species, Saccharum munja. Saccharum bengalensis, Erianthus procerus, Heyolychium coronarium. Phragmites karka, Narenga prophyro chroma, etc. Interestingly any water hole or patch of water body inside is invaded by aquatic plants like Salvinia natans. Larsi hexandra, Corex species, Capillipedium species as pioneer colonizer.

Among them Phragmites karta and Sacchararum munja represent the dominant plant species group. The distribution of the vegetation however has abrupt change in the area beyond the hillocks and south western part of the park.

The outer zone from the eastern side to the north is covered mainly with Naranga prophyrombra, Saccharum munja sparsely mixed with Saccharum procerum as dominant plants resulting in the absence of other associates which normally are found in another area.

Effect due to external Influence:

Increase in the level of water and retaining the level constantly by Ithai Barrage have brought a drastic change in the Phumdi character as flooding has direct impact on the biota on the Phumdi. The type of vegetation which existed
in the particular eco-system of wetland in Keibul Lamjao prior to submergence and adapted to the then hydrological regime have undergone changes as many of the plant species which can not tolerate deep water permanent flooding have since disappeared.

Further, sudden down pour due to local rain results many times in the flooding of Phumdi area up to a depth of 2-3 ft. during dry, hot spell. Retaining the water for a few days more after precipitation due to Barrage causes decay and rotting of some wetland plants on Phumdi which cannot survive submergence resulting in heavy pollution of water with various hazardous micro-organisms which feed on the detritus at different stages of decomposition. The microbial activities also increase the nutritive value of the detritus resulting in the reduction of many wetland plants which were in the earlier Phumdi eco-system and increase in the other plant species population in the new wetland environment on the Phumdi.

The commissioning of Ithai Barrage in 1983 and since then over the years has brought changes in the vegetation complex of the Phumdi which support animals, aquatic birds which were adapted to the undisturbed habitat.

The anthropological impact on ecology of the Phumdi in the National Park is also highly distinct. Every day, large number of women folk used to enter the park and collect vegetation plants like *Zizania latifolia, Alpenia alughas, Polygonum barbatum, Ipomea aquatica*, etc., continuous collection of vegetable plants resulted in the reduction of the herbaceous plant growth which is an important component of the balanced eco-system on the Phumdi.

The situation is further aggravated owing to grazing by the cattle from surrounding villages. It has been observed in many studies that overgrazing by domestic cattle in wetland adversely impacts on the biotic composition with consequent loss of vegetation. Constant heavy grazing and forage removal deplete the herbaceous vegetation which hitherto supported the faunal diversity on a sustained basis.
While every plant community has a specific role to play in maintaining a
distinct balance to make the Phumdi a living entity, removal of tall reeds which
is the dominant group led by the villagers for firewood and walling their huts is
gradually creating a situation for reduction of its community and allowing other
species to replace its dominant position in the entire vegetation complex.
Changes in itself and their impact on Phumdi ecology may not be perceived
instantly but over the years it manifests with distinct character.

**Conservation efforts:**

The Government of India constituted the Central Board for Wildlife
which became the Indian Board for Wildlife 1952 for protection of wild life in
the country. The Manipur state Government also constituted the Manipur
Board for Wild life with five members on the Board under Major V.S.
Sundaram, Dy. Commissioner, Manipur as Chairman for protection of wild life
in the state. The Board in its first meeting held on 10.12.1954 declared Sangai
as a protected animal and the area bounded by Moirang east wards and Pallel
Sugunu road and Moirang Sugunu path including Keibul area as protected
Sanctuary. The Board’s decision was implemented with the notification in the
official Gazette. This, however, could not ensure full guarantee to the safety of
Sangai (Brow antlered Deer).

To make the protection of Sangai ensured and to provide more teeth to
the rules for its protection, in 1965, the State Government declared Keibul
Lamjao as protected forests under Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act 1927.
However, the existing rights over the land and resources could not be abridged
under the Act. Reeds and other thatching grass inside Keibul Lamjao still
continued to be collected through public auction made by the
department every year.

Even though the State Government had intense desire to protect Sangai,
the people’s need for forest produce to be collected from inside the habitat of
Sangai had also to be fulfilled simultaneously till May 1973 when the Wildlife
Protection Act, 1972 was extended to Manipur. As a result, for a long time Sangai continued to suffer from all threats to its survival. Gradually steps have been made more stringent with the introduction of Wildlife (protection) Manipur Rules, 1974 in the entire State. In the same year, i.e., 1974, the State Government declared Keibul Lamjao area as reserved forests under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (Act xvi of 1974) thereby bringing an area of 13.5 sq. miles of Keibul Lamjao as safe habitat for Sangai. But the fate of Sangai still continued hanging in the balance. Therefore, its protection became perhaps one of the major issues in Wildlife conservation to the Government of India. In 1975 for the first time, the survival status of Sangai was ascertained through aerial census by Dr. M.K. Ranjit Sing, the then Deputy Secretary, Department of Forest, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and in that census, 14 heads were counted. This was a second turning point in the protection measure of Sangai deer at Keibul Lamjao.

With the gaining of momentum for the desire to effectively protect Sangai along with its habitat and associated animals, Keibul Lamjao area was declared as National Park with effect from the 5th April, 1977 for an area covering 40 sq. kms. Out of this, the actual area of floating biomass (Phum) is hardly 26 sq. kms. and the rest is water body. Even within the floating biomass, the core area of the park is about 8 - 9 sq. kms (not surveyed) and is the area in south central park where the formation of Phumdi is seen mature and varied food plants are available. Besides, the area comprises different ground relief ranging from marshy biomass, dry grassy land and hilly spots where all the favourable conditions required for grazing, playing and delivery of the young ones are available.

The 5th April, 1977 is considered the red letter day for Sangai (Cervus eldi eldi) in its struggle for existence on this planet which they have been fighting so long for. On this day, Sangai finally got its legitimate home (habitat) legally protected from all possible threats to its survival and assured of all technical, physical and moral support for their healthy living, expansion of
their family thereby enabling them to occupy a place in the world's community of specially cared endangered species for better attention of all.

Thus, it is clear that Sangai which enjoyed the royal protection against killers since time immemorial, from the year 1891 rebellion onwards till the day previous to the date of declaring its home at Keibul Lamjao, has been all along the target of merciless hunters, both British Bureaucrats during the Durbar's time and Mohamedans and people around, during the period after the Durbar. 24

Sangai and People's Sentiment:

Declaration of Keibul Lamjao as a National Park making it a safe place for existence of Sangai under the highest provision of Wildlife protection laws in the country still does not guarantee full security to the cervid. The minds of the surrounding villagers who enjoyed full liberty directly or indirectly over the land and its resources still remain active. Although open accessibility to the park due to fear of laws is not visible, clandestine entry into the park by the womenfolk for collection of vegetables and other villagers for catching fish by laying traps still continued. No doubt, collection of reeds and fodder grass however has been stopped thanks to the appreciation of the stringent action provided in the Act for National Park. Restriction imposed by the park managers and control over illegal activity inside the park exercised there on are still irritant to the park dependants.

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Vegetables collected and fish caught which fetch good market as the day’s earning form the means of livelihood of these people. Therefore, any form of restriction to these practices which law does not permit to a National Park does invite a shadow of apathy to this innocent animal and its habitat. These people, however, do not create openly any form of threat to the survival of Sangai directly but people of unscrupulous mind take advantage of the situation. Very often, they lay traps in the form of noose of Nylon rope with both ends tied firmly on the standing grass or reeds at different strategic locations frequented by the animals.

This, in no uncertain term, is a technique of evil design of the poachers for meat, which is a very important factor for extermination of the species from the Park.

In the year 1998, two Sangais - one female and one male, were trapped by such a device. Though both of them were rescued, they did not survive. There is fear that there might be many such cases that passed unnoticed going on regularly taking advantage of the limitation of the park staff in having intensive and extensive patrolling walking over the floating biomass (Phum).

Another instance was in the year 2000 in which fresh carcass of a female Sangai whose viscera had been completely removed probably for converting into cut meat for easy transport outside the park was detected. This angered the environmentalists in order to drive home in arousing public awareness and nullify the apathy from the existing section of the society and give blunt to the few merciless people who are for meat business, the environmentalists of the area took to procession with slogan to book and punish the killers with the carcass up to Imphal town. This is really a history for Sangai.

**Sangai at Keibul Lamjao National Park:**

“Sangai” - Manipur Brow antlered deer (Dancing deer of Manipur) is fighting a struggle for survival at its home at Keibul Lamjao National Park. Its home is a legal habitat protected under the country’s most stringent wildlife
protection Act. But in reality, in this land where law is strictly enforced under the Act, Sangai still suffers from the apathy of the poachers and people nearby the National Park who indirectly support the evil mind of these merciless killers inspite of all efforts of the State Forest Department for protection of the animal inside its habitat. The animal is still unable to have free movement outside its core-area. They mostly remain confined to the area of small sq. kms. of the Core-zone which perhaps they consider safe even though the area allotted to them is big enough to accommodate as many hundreds as can be available.

After declaration of Keibul Lamjao as a National Park only for preservation of Sangai which is in the Red-Data book of IUCN as one of the first ranked species requiring all possible attention for protection in view of fear of likely extinction from the animal world, the public in general started recognizing the importance of this animal species with love. But this is not so to each and every person of the villages surrounding the park. In the midst of several Governmental activities to win the confidence of the people with the objective of soliciting support to the protection of the animal. there is fear that Sangai is selectively eliminated by the poachers regularly.

Survival of Sangai is very much threatened. Its fate, therefore, hangs on the mercy of the people. There is no second opinion that only with people’s participation and co-operation, protection of Sangai can be assured. The role of Non Governmental Organization as an interface may prove necessary in this issue. The activities of The Sangai Protection Forum, an umbrella Non Government Organization of all the clubs around Keibul Lamjao National Park, which is in the fore-front are highly encouraging and they need support from all sides. Programmes like mass education about the need for protection of Sangai through awareness Campaign, workshops, Seminars, lectures, etc.. being carried out by the Forum may be required to be more activated so that the sensitivities of the programmes percolate down to all the strata of the society. In order to help more in effort, the idea like the one as mooted by Ashish
Kothari, eminent writer on Biodiversity - “Understanding Biodiversity” (Life, sustainability and equity) for an appeal by Naga Mothers’ Association to stop hunting in Nagaland in the context of rapid decline of Horn Bill only for their Casques to be used as traditional Head gear may also be considered in the situation at Keibul Lamjao for Sangai also.

All efforts made by the Government and Non Governmental Organisations and general public towards protection of Sangai still fail to yield the desired result. Though the adverse factors such as habitat disturbance by water of Loktak multipurpose project are not taken as immediate threat to the survival of Sangai and its propagation, yet in the present state of the condition, the situation is very alarming as the animal is learnt to be selectively eliminated by poachers regularly - by taking advantage of the limitation of the protection staff to carry out effective patrolling in the otherwise swampy environment with tall reeds inside and periphery of the park and water body surrounding it.

The effectiveness of protection measures is monitored through determination of the number of Sangai preserved by carrying out census annually. Table No. 1.3 shows general information of Sangai about its population inside the park (1975-2000).
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</table>

From the trend of the above Table No. 1.3, it is seen that from the year the area has since been declared as a National Park, protection of animal has been effective as shown by the increasing number of the animals in every year of count. However, from mid nineties onwards the number of Sangai is seen more or less staggering around 140 to 150 though it reached 162 in the year 2000. The yearly addition is also very small. This shows that the adverse factors influencing on the animals were under control for some years from 1977 onwards till early nineties. After that, the influencing factors have become more dominant in the sense, the cumulative effect of impounding water at 768.5 m level above MSL. constantly which runs at good speed beneath the bottom of Phumdi responsible for changing the original ecology of the habitat coupled with occasional inundation over the park surface have started impacting adversely on their reproduction and the survival of the animal particularly the young fawns.

Further, selective elimination by poachers which perhaps went unnoticed, though a few cases are detected, may be considered attributable to the staggered population of Sangai. Besides, there are some other factors which would be acting against the survival of this animal and its reproduction indirectly with far reaching consequences. The first and most prominent one is human interference. The park boundary is porous from all sides and more so along the western boundary close to the villages. Quite a large number of womenfolk regularly enter the park for collection of vegetables every day. Collection of vegetables is more intense during February, March and April by which time vegetable plants like *Alpinia alugash, Zizania latifolia, Polygonum* species, etc. produce young shoots. This period is most crucial for Sangai as during this time the biological demand of the animals for reproduction is at its peak and the male tries to have mating with as many females as it can find by moving throughout the length and breadth of the park but with more convenience in the hard ground where it can have free run which in fact suffers gradual restriction due to inundation.
The dimension of interference is not the end here. Besides the womenfolk entering the park for vegetable collection, village adults in good number also enter the park for laying fish traps in holes made in the floating Phumdi. This is an additional burden to the Park.

A matured female Sangai normally gives birth only once in a year. Male Sangai usually makes rutting call when they are on heat for reproduction activity and goes around in search of females.

It is quite obvious that the animals in wild will never accept presence of human beings in their habitat for privacy and seclusion, and thus cannot tolerate any form of disturbance in their routine life. The impact due to human interference on the animal’s biological demand during rutting period must be very significant and this might have effect on the conception to the mother. Thus, it may be concluded that this might be one of the causes for less number of Fawn counted in the park. Fawn population and their survival is the primary concern for any park management in so far as the protection and multiplication of any animal species is concerned.

Although the area of the National park is 40 sq. kms. the core-area which is known as Home-range for Sangai inside the park is hardly 9.5 sq. kms. and this is the only limited extent of area available to sustain all the activities of the animal in the park. While emphasis is given to the preservation of Sangai deer only, Hog deer as associate animal also gets equally protected and preserved. This associate animal being prolific half yearly breeder multiplies very fast. In every year count the Hog deer population is found very high as compared with the number of Sangai deer. Since the two deer groups have the same grazing behaviour, and both of them are similar fodder and food plant dependents, it can be presumed that there must be undesirable pressure on the habitat territory at the expense of what is otherwise to be available for Sangai deer only for food, shelter and other activities.  

Apart from the above, there is also fear that there might be degeneration of genetic diversity of the animal due to inbreeding because of small population that exists in the core area. Therefore, in any case, the wild population of 162 Sangai at Keibul Lamjao National Park by 2000 cannot be considered viable for its survival as for any endangered species a single population of below 300 and around is generally considered unsafe to be free from extinction threat.

**AREA AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION:**

With an area of Bishnupur District 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. in 2001 census. It constituted 2.37 percentage in 1981 census, 2.22 percentage in 1991 census and 2.22 percentage 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 Officers and below him the Sub-Deputy Collectors. 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 as against four Sub-Deputy Collectors in 1991 census. The number 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.

---

There are two Community Development Blocks in 2001 census. They are,

1. Bishnupur Community Development Block and
2. Moirang Community Development Block.

Again, it has six Assembly Constituencies, viz.,

1. 24 - Nambol Assembly Constituency
2. 25 - Oinam Assembly Constituency
3. 26 - Bishnupur Assembly Constituency
4. 27 - Moirang Assembly Constituency
5. 28 - Thanga Assembly Constituency
6. 29 - Kumbi Assembly Constituency

The number of towns and villages from 1981 to 2001 census are presented in Table No. 1.4. below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Census</th>
<th>No. of Towns and Villages</th>
<th>Towns</th>
<th>Villages</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:

Table No. 1.5

A summary statement showing creation of District/Sub-Division/Towns and change of names of Bishnupur District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>A sub-division of Manipur State under the name of Bishnupur Sub-Division.</td>
<td>Manipur was a single district till 1961 census.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Became a sub-division of Manipur Central District without any change in the boundary.</td>
<td>Manipur was divided into 5 districts under Manipur Government Order No. 20/39/69-D dated November 12, 1969 and Bishnupur Sub-Division became a part of Manipur Central District.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>No change in sub-division boundary.</td>
<td>A sub-division of Manipur Central District.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Bishnupur district created out of Manipur Central district by transferring all the administrative units then existing under Bishnupur sub-division.</td>
<td>Manipur Extraordinary Gazette No. 76, dated May 24, 1983 (Govt. of Manipur Secretariat, Revenue Dept. Order No. 6/1/73-R Pt (VII) dated May 24, 1983)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Change of name of the district from Bishenpur to the present name of Bishnupur.</td>
<td>Manipur Govt. Extraordinary Gazette Notification No. 174, Friday, August 5, 1983.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Creation of Moinang sub-division within the district.</td>
<td>Manipur Government Extraordinary Gazette No. 343 dated, 25-11-83.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 villages transferred from Manipur North District (Senapati District) to Bishnupur District.</td>
<td>-do-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The change in the status of Towns/Urban areas since 1961 census upto 2001 census are presented in the Table No. 1.6.

Table No. 1.6
The change in the status of Towns/Urban areas since 1961 census upto 2001 census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census</th>
<th>Name of Town</th>
<th>Status &amp; remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>No town in the district</td>
<td>N. A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Places treated as towns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nambol</td>
<td>Small Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bishnupur</td>
<td>Small Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Moirang</td>
<td>Small Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>New Towns created</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Oinam</td>
<td>Notified Area Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ninghoukhong</td>
<td>Notified Area Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kumbi</td>
<td>Status of Nambol and Bishnupur changed to Notified Area Committee and that of Moirang to Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kwakta</td>
<td>Notified Area Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nambol and Bishnupur</td>
<td>Status change to Municipality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In view of the changes stated above, the list of Towns adopted in 2001 census in respect the district is as follows and presented along with their present status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of Town</th>
<th>Present Status</th>
<th>Sub-Division in which the town is situated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Nambol</td>
<td>Municipal Council</td>
<td>Nambol Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Oinam</td>
<td>Nagar Panchayat</td>
<td>Nambol Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Bishnupur</td>
<td>Municipal Council</td>
<td>Bishnupur Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Ningthoukhong</td>
<td>Municipal Council</td>
<td>Bishnupur Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Moirang</td>
<td>Municipal Council</td>
<td>Moirang Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Kwakta</td>
<td>Nagar Panchayat</td>
<td>Moirang Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Kumbi</td>
<td>Nagar Panchayat</td>
<td>Moirang Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The District Police is headed by the Superintendent of Police while the Chief Judicial Magistrate looks after judicial administration.
So far, 18 Deputy Commissioners including the present incumbent have been posted. Their names and period of posting of each are given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>L.S. Thangjom, IAS</td>
<td>25/5/83 to 29/12/83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>N.K. Jain, IAS</td>
<td>29/12/83 to 08/04/85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Smt. C. Raikhan, IAS</td>
<td>08/04/85 to 04/09/85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Ameising Luikham, IAS</td>
<td>05/09/85 to 03/09/87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>V.K. Thakral, IAS</td>
<td>04/09/87 to 17/01/89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>L. Gangte, IAS</td>
<td>17/01/89 to 10/09/90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Ng. Luikham, IAS</td>
<td>05/10/90 to 16/12/92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Rohit Modi, IAS</td>
<td>16/12/92 to 01/09/93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>I.S. Laishram, IAS</td>
<td>01/09/93 to 07/04/95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>S.K. Dev. Verma, IAS</td>
<td>07/04/95 to 01/12/95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>S. Kritibash Sharma, IAS</td>
<td>14/12/95 to 14/05/98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Mrs. C. Kipgen, IAS</td>
<td>14/05/98 to 16/10/98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Dr. Suhel Akbar, IAS</td>
<td>16/10/98 to 08/01/99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Leatkohing Haokip, IAS</td>
<td>08/01/99 to 26/04/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>M. Sajjad Hassan, IAS</td>
<td>26/04/01 to 29/10/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>L. Lekhar, IAS</td>
<td>29/10/01 to 16/09/02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Aleng A.S. Shimray, MCS</td>
<td>16/09/02 to 27/02/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Norbert Disinang, IAS</td>
<td>27/02/04 to till date.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PHYSICAL FEATURE:

Bishnupur district may be divided into 3 (three) parts viz.,

1. Valley/plain area
2. Area under water and
3. Area covered under hillocks and forests.

1. Valley/plain area:

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. Having undulating slopes from west to east and south, all the rivers of the Bishnupur District flow towards east to south. Some parts are of newer alluvium plain formed by the depositions of sediments brought down by the rivers and liable to frequent floods with siltation. Majority of the inhabited people are facing flood problems on one hand and on the other hand, after two or three months such flooded areas are suited for planting rice, wheat, maize, chilli, cabbage, potato, cauliflower, onion and others also found. 27

2. Area under water:

The Bishnupur District is full of many lakes, marshes and swamps, such as Loktak pat, Sanapat, Kokpat, Ngakrapat, Narengsoi pat, Yetnapat, Utra pat, Oinam pat, Awangsoi pat, Laisoi pat, Loukoi pat, etc. These “Pats” (meaning Lakes) are fed by the streams flowing directly into them and also from the direct rainfall over the lake areas. The shallow areas of these lakes are dried up during dry summer months.

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27. Field Survey Data: Information collected from Ir. Jayanta Singh, Department of Geography, Bishnupur Hr. Sec. School on 29th April, 2005.
Among the lakes, the Loktak Lake is being the most prominent one and considered as the mirror and the lifeline of the State of Manipur owing to its importance in the socio-economic and cultural life of the people. It is the largest natural freshwater lake in the North Eastern Region of India, covering an area of 286 sq. km. during peak season. The depth of the lake varies between 0.5 and 4.58 m with average depth recorded at 2.7 m. A large population living in and around the lake depends upon the lake resources for their sustenance. The staple food of Manipur is directly linked to Loktak Lake. The lake is rich in bio-diversity and has been designated as a wet land of International importance under Ramsar Convention in 1990. The weeds and aquatic vegetation which covers the lakes and molluses found in the lake attract a number of migratory birds particularly during the winter season.

The Loktak Lake is oval in shape with maximum length and width of 26th and 13 km. respectively. There are 14 hills varying in size and elevation, appearing as islands, in the southern part of the lake. The most prominent of them are Sendra, Ithing and Thanga islands. The characteristic feature of the Loktak Lake is the presence of floating islands locally called “Phumdis”. They are a heterogeneous mass of soil, vegetation and organic matter at various stages of decomposition. They occur in all sizes and thickness, occupying about two-thirds of the lake area. The southern portion of Loktak Lake forms the Keibul Lamjao National Park which is a continuous mass of floating “Phumdi” occupying an area of 40 sq. km.

Loktak Lake basin can be considered as a sub basin of the Manipur River basin. It has a direct catchment area of 980 sq. km. and an indirect catchment of 7157 sq. km. Out of the direct catchment area of 980 sq. kms. of the Loktak Lake, 430 sq. kms. is under paddy cultivation, 150 sq. kms. under habitation, and 400 sq. kms. under forests. The elevation varies from 78 m. at the foothills adjoining the central valley to about 2068 m. above mean sea level at peak.
There are 55 rural and urban settlements around the lake with a total population of about 2,08,368 people. The natural surroundings of Manipur River and its tributaries are densely inhabited. The houses are made on stilts right into the marginal areas of the lake. A large number of fishermen live on the Thanga, Karang, Ithing and Sendra islands. Further, large populations of fishermen live on some 688 floating huts of which many have been converted into permanent dwellings. It has been estimated that about 4000 peoples live in these floating huts for fishing activities. Apart from the people living in the close vicinity of the lake, it has been estimated that about 1,21,000 people live in 546 hill villages. These people are largely under the control of tribal chieftains and they practise shifting cultivation.  

The 105 MW Loktak Hydro Electric Project, now in operation is using the surplus water of Loktak Lake. It supplies power not only to Manipur but also to the neighbouring States. Its lift irrigation section envisages to pump up about 600 cusecs of water from the open power channel of the Loktak Hydro Electric Project to provide irrigation water to about 24,000 hectares of land including about 6,600 hectares to be reclaimed from the Loktak lake by controlling water level of the lake at 770 metres in the Imphal and Bishnupur Districts between the Nambol river in the North and the Khuga river in the South.

The other lakes are Sanapat, Kokpat, Ngakrapat, Oinam Pat, Awangsoi Pat, Laisoi Pat, Narengsoi Pat, Yetnapat, Utrapat, etc. These lakes also serve as sources of fish of various kinds and grazing grounds in dry season. Many people in the areas get their full time and part time employment by fishing in these lakes. Thus, the lakes of the Bishnupur District contribute to a great extent to the economy of Manipur.

3. Area Covered Under Hillocks and Forest:

The hillocks and forest have an area of about 3.59 sq. km. Some of the notable hillocks are Lokpa ching, Loukoi ching, Khongjaingamba ching, Mantha ching, Chingfu ching, Sendra ching, etc. It is believed that these hillocks are of clint i.e., a low flat-topped ridge lying between furrows or fissures in the Himalayan Orogeny. It is clayey, a kind of sedimentary rocks formed from mud and derived from weathering and resultant decomposition of various felspathic rocks produced by Earth’s horizontal movements falling on constructional feature due to compression. So, folding is formed as anticline at Khoriphaba Ching and syncline at Nambol basin, anticline at Lokpa ching, syncline at Maibam village, anticline at Mantha Ching, syncline at Naorem village and anticline at Chingfu Ching and so on. In these hillocks, rock forming minerals consisting of a simple element or compound, inorganic in character having a definite chemical composition and specific physical and optical properties may be found with some efforts. A large population living in and around the hillocks benefit from the hillocks’ resources for their house construction materials, roofing, firewoods, etc.

**River System:**

Though the State is small, there are many rivers, rivulets and streams flowing down from the surrounding hills of the valley. Almost all the important rivers of the state which traverse through the valley originate in the northern and north-eastern hill ranges with the exception of a few rivers and rivulets and run towards the south, in the direction the valley slopes. These rivers are laden with upland soils consisting of silt, sand gravels, etc., flashy in their upper reaches. The current of these rivers becomes sluggish on reaching the flat valley. The beds of these rivers, rivulets and lands at the foot hills have, therefore, been silted up and raised gradually every year.

According to the survey conducted in the mid-sixties, the bed level of the Imphal River is at an elevation of about 2,536 feet above MSL at Imphal, 2,521 feet at Lilong and 2,500 feet at Ithai. The river bed of the Imphal River falls by about 36 feet only over a distance about 40 miles of its course in the valley. The bank level on the earlier side of the Imphal River falls from 2,551 ft. at Lilong to 2,527 ft. at Ithai.

In recent years, construction of barrages and checkdams across some of the important rivers of the valley like the Imphal River, the Thoubal River, the Sekmai River, etc., for conserving water for irrigating nearby fields and other purposes has accelerated the process of silting up the beds of these rivers. On account of siltation, the water level of the rivers and rivulets in the valley rises very rapidly when there is heavy precipitation continuously for 3 or 4 days during the rainy season. This in turn results in the overflowing of the banks of the rivers and breaching of the river banks causing floods.³¹

The Imphal River which is also called the Manipur River in its lower reach is the most important river and chief drainage outlet of the central valley. It rises in the northern hill range near Karong and takes a south and south-easterly course and traverses through the entire length of the central valley.

The Iril River and the Thoubal river are other important rivers which originate in the north-eastern hills of the state. They take southward courses and traverse through the eastern and south-eastern parts of the valley. The former joins the Imphal River at Lilong and the latter at Mayang Imphal on the left bank.

The Khuga river which originates from the southern hill ranges drains the north-eastern parts of Churachandpur District and joins the Imphal river on the right bank near Ithai. The Chakpi River which drains the western part of Chandel District also joins the Imphal River near Sugnu village. The Nambul River is another important river which originates from the north-western hill range. It takes a southerly course and drains the central valley before it falls directly in Loktak Lake. 32

The Bishnupur District is drained by the Nambol river, Oinam River, Yangoi River, Khujairok River, Thongjaorok River, Potshangbam River, Ningthoukhong River, Sunushiphai River, Naranseina Irumbi River, Moirang River, etc. The type of the river system of Bishnupur District is of the lower course and it sees only deposition. Thus, peneplain, floodplain and deltas are formed. All the rivers flow from hill located at the west of the Tiddim Road and flow towards the east falling into the Loktak Lake.

The Thongjaorok river is the most important river to the people of the Bishnupur District in various ways as it flows through Khoijuman village and falls into the Loktak Lake. The river provides stones, sands, etc., to the inhabitants people on one hand. On the other hand, it supplies water for the purpose of agricultural activities i.e., plantation of different crops like, cabbage.

32. Ibid, p. 3.
cauliflower, potatoes, chilli, tomato, onion, garlic, mustard, ladies finger etc. From this river, people collect stones, sands and use them for building houses, dams, drainage system, road construction, etc. People who settle on the banks of the river are hard working and they earn income by collecting stones and sands and selling them to the customers.

The Nambol and Oinam rivers flow into Yangoi River and they are beneficial for fishing and agricultural activities to the inhabitants. The combined river flows and reaches the Loktak Lake. The remaining rivers are also beneficial to the people for agricultural activities and maintenance of people for day-to-day life. These rivers also flow into the Loktak Lake.

**FOREST:**

Manipur is one of the richest States in India so far as its flora and fauna are concerned. Out of the total geographical area of 22,327 sq. kms., forests occupy about 17,418 sq. kms. representing about 78 per cent of the total area of the State. The main programme for the development of forest which plays an important role in the economy of the State includes production, protection and bioaesthetic improvement. Forests supply not only the household fuel but also raw materials to a number of forest based industries particularly, saw mills. Manipur forests are of mixed type. It has high temperature and heavy rainfall and the natural vegetation in the State has luxurious growth.

Manipur is very rich in forest wealth. On account of variations of topographical features, soils and altitudes of the hill ranges, different types of forest varying from sub-tropical evergreen forest to semi-temperate pine-forest are found. Manipur is a land of different varieties of valuable trees, bamboos, orchids and other innumerable plants.

The Divisional Forest Office, Bishnupur was established during 1986 with its Headquarter at Bishnupur and its territorial jurisdiction is co-terminus with that of Bishnupur District, covering a geographical area of 496 sq. kms. However, the working area of Bishnupur Forest Division, Bishnupur is
extended to the whole of Loktak catchment area of Churachandpur District and Senapati District of Manipur. 33

At present under Bishnupur Forest Division, there are 4 (four) reserved forests and 1 (one) protected forest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of Forest</th>
<th>Area under Forest (in sq. km.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Langingmanbi Reserved Forest</td>
<td>2.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Khongjaingamba Reserved Forest</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Konung Reserved Forest</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Warok Reserved Forest</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Bishnupur District AT-A-Glance, 2005: District Administration, Bishnupur.

In Bishnupur District, forests cover only 3.59 sq. kms. Consequently, it is poor in forest resources. Major forest products like timber are imported from the neighbouring Hanglep area of Churachandpur District. Minor forest products like canes, bamboos, fibres, gums, rasins, honey, wax, oils, sand & stone, etc., are available in plenty and exported to the neighbouring Districts.

During 2003-04, the Forest Development Agency, Bishnupur Forest Division, Bishnupur had taken up plantation of various tree species as per choice of the local villagers in degraded forest land of Loktak catchment areas. Various development works like creating water harvesting system, improvement of village approach roads, construction of community hall.

market sheds, youth club building, cemetery sheds, public urinal-cum latrine and culvert, etc., wherever required, were taken up under entry point activities of the scheme.

**CLIMATE:**

People's ways of life, as well as other physico-cultural activities are governed by the climate in one way or the other. The light flowing dresses in summer and the tight close-fitting dresses in winter of the people of the State are keenly related with the conditions of climate. The micro-climatic factors like local relief, distance from the Sea, local wind direction, soil types, water bodies, forest and settlements have been responsible for the minor changes in the climate of the State during the last hundred years. However, a detailed micro-level analysis is very difficult owing to the lack of micro-level data and hence only the broader climate factors and characteristics of the State have been taken into account.

According to Dr. W. Koeppen's classification, the study area falls under the sub-tropical (Cwa) monsoon type of climate. The summer months of Manipur are hot and wet while the winter months are cold and dry. The rains of the summer are provided by the Bay of Bengal Branch (Northern Branch) of the South west monsoon. The cold and dry winter season is mainly caused by such factors as topography and elevation, cyclones originating from Bay of Bengal and South China Sea and the western disturbance that originates in the eastern part of Mediterranean Sea.
Seasonal Characteristics:

There are six seasons in the State which is closely related with the local atmospheric conditions. The traditional classification is as follows.

1. Olang-tha (Sajibu-Kalen)  Summer (Mid-April to Mid-June)
2. Nongju-tha (Inga-Ingel)  Rainy season (Mid-June to Mid-August)
3. Sarat-tha (Thawan-Langban)  Autumn (Mid-August to Mid-October)
4. Hemanta (Mera-Hiyangei)  Winter (Mid-October to Mid-December)
5. Ninglyam-tha (Poinu-Wakching)  Winter (Mid-December to Mid-February)
6. Basanta-tha (Phairen-Lamta)  Spring (Mid-February to Mid-April)

Although traditionally it has six seasons, it can be best described under the following four principal seasons recognised by the Meteorological Department, Govt. of India, like those of the Sub-Continent.

a) The Northeast Monsoon Season or Cold Season (December to February).
b) The Pre-Monsoon Season or hot and dry season (March to May).
c) The Southwest Monsoon Season or hot and wet season (Rainy Season) (June to September).
d) The Retreating Monsoon Season or post monsoon season (October to November).

a) The Cold Season:

In fact, the cold season in Manipur begins from December and lasts till the end of February. The season is considered to be the most pleasant and comfortable one of the year. January is normally the coldest month. Frost is seen on the roof of thatched houses and on the grass. Morning fogs are very common particularly in the river basins and marshy lands. Sometimes, the sky remains cloudy for two or three days at a stretch. Rainfall is the lowest during this season and December is the driest month. During this season, weather is very fine but such a fine weather is sometimes disturbed by western
disturbances causing light winter rain in the region. This rain is very beneficial for winter crops in the State.

b) The Hot and Dry Season:

The hot and dry season starts in the month of March and lasts till the end of May. March is the transitional month from winter to summer conditions in Manipur. The later half of March is usually characterised by sudden increase of temperature and frequent blowing of gusty winds and the third week of March is definitely hot.

The gusty winds during this season are responsible for unequal heating in the plain & hills. The sudden increase of temperature is caused by the sun’s vertical heating at the tropical region. During the season, warm air over the plain begins to rise upward and usually the vacuum is filled with cold winds from the surrounding hills. This causes the frequent movement of winds. Rainfall during the months of May is often accompanied with thunderstorms. Owing to interaction of north westerly, southerly and north easterly air masses, thunderstorms and squalls often take place. The rainfall is generally associated with thunderstorms which usually come in the afternoons. Towards the end of this season, the frequency of rain increases.

c) Hot and Wet Season (Rainy Season):

This season is associated with high temperature and heavy rainfall, widespread cloudiness, high humidity and variable surface winds. It is the longest season in Manipur spreading over about five months. The months of June, July, August and September represent the true monsoon season of the State. From June onwards, the south west monsoon provides abundant rain throughout the State. The rainfall is generally heavy in June and July and comparatively moderate in August and September. During this period, high atmospheric humidity and temperature make the weather dull and scanty. Natural calamities such as floods, considerable run-off and landslides usually
occur during the season. However, the agricultural potentiality of the state is directly linked with the heavy rains of this season. Hence, the season is the backbone of the state economy.

d) Retreating Monsoon Season:

This season comprises a short period of October and November being a transitional period between the rainy season and the cold season. With the beginning of October, the general direction of the wind is generally to the North East, which continues till the end of the next month. Monsoon winds begin to cease in Manipur by the last week of September or the first week of October. Clear sky, short duration morning fogs, cool pleasant night with fine moonlight and bright sunny days are the characteristic features of the season. Such a fine weather is usually disturbed in the month of October by cyclonic storm that originate from the Bay of Bengal. Due to this cyclonic storm the state sometimes experiences heavy rainfall lasting for about a week and causing “October Flood” locally known as “Meragi Ichao” by the Manipuris. By mid-November, both days and nights get progressively cooler and conditions gradually change for the winter.\(^{34}\)

The climate of the central valley area of the state is sub-tropical whereas the climate of the hills surrounding the valley varies from semi-tropical to temperate depending on the altitude of the hills. There is no distinct hot and dry season in Manipur as one would find in other parts of India. The maximum temperatures of about 35\(^{0}\)C in the central valley and about 31\(^{0}\)C in the hill areas are recorded in the summer months of May and June. But Moreh area on the Indo-Burma Border and Jiribam bordering Assam are much warmer than the central valley area. Monsoon generally starts from June and continues upto October with pre-monsoon showers from the month of March onwards. June is normally the wettest and hottest month. Occasional heavy showers in the winter months are not uncommon.

The climate of Manipur is undergoing, change from year to year though the change is imperceptible. In recent years, the change has been hastened on account of wanton destruction of forests for Jhuming in the hill areas, use of timber and fire woods, extension and development of urban areas and setting up of industrial units.

The Bishnupur District enjoys an equable climate though it admits of some variation 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 the pleasant climate. Influenced by Loktak Lake, the lands surrounding the lake are foggy in the winter mornings but can never be said to be 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.

RAINFALL:

The rainy season commences in April and continues upto September. There are generally long spells of fine weather during June, July and August and these months are the wettest months of the year. During the months of April and May, the rains are due to convection associated with thunder and lightening. They occur, usually in the afternoon. Such rains are considerable in amount and are the precursor of monsoon rains. Before the formation of the monsoon depression, the rain over Assam and over the Arakan Coast is extensive and locally heavy.
The southwest monsoon in Northeast India and Northern Burma usually commences by the third week of May. The depressions that start from the head of Bay of Bengal move inland towards North and North East. These moving North Eastwards depressions cause heavy rains along the Arakan and the hill region constituting the North-Eastern frontier of India.

Depression from the Bay of Bengal crosses this region in regular succession. Sometimes, the gap between the passage of two depressions may be just a few days. If it is long, it creates a temporary break in monsoon with little and patchy rainfall, rise of heavy temperature and oppressive weather. However, locally heavy rainfall would be experienced with the passage of almost every depression.

Heavy rain in Arakan hill of which Manipur is a part, is due to orographic barrier across the path of the depressions. “As the depression travels, the belt of rain and that of heavy rain travel correspondingly. While the depression is under the influence of the Bay monsoon, the heavy rain is mostly to the south of the depression”. Another notable feature is the thunder showers associated with the passage of depression. Sporadic thunder shower may occur in the Northern half of the depression. When the hills are near the North of the depression, heavy orographic rain and rain due to convergence fall along the hill. 35 The rainfall in Manipur valley as well as in the hills is considerable in quantity and is well distributed, over both time and space. While some rain occurs in every month of the year, most of the rain falls during the period from April to October.

The Bishnupur District enjoys an adequate amount of rainfall. The district is part of the state and it 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. The distribution of rainfall is generally higher in the hilly portions of the State and this district as well than in the plain areas.

Details of the monthly rainfall from January, 1983 to December, 2001 are shown in the Table No. 1.8. The average annual rainfall recorded from 1983 to 2001 in Bishnupur District is 1489.59 millimetres.
### Table No. 1.8
Rainfall in Bishnupur District since 1983 to 2001

(in millimetres)

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<td>3.54</td>
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<td>12.99</td>
<td>190</td>
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<td>54.8</td>
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<td>26.4</td>
<td>76.4</td>
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<td>21.75</td>
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<td>137.8</td>
<td>235.5</td>
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<td>Apr.</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>164.18</td>
<td>63.50</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>80</td>
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<td>45.8</td>
<td>75.9</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>128.33</td>
<td>255</td>
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<td>88.3</td>
<td>188.1</td>
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<td>103.28</td>
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<td>1139</td>
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</table>

**Source:**
1. Detail project report for development of Loktak sub-basin Manipur, Govt. of Manipur, Loktak Development Authority; Publish by WAPCOS April, 1993 (Water and Power Consultancy Services India Ltd.), P.u-37.
REVIEW OF EXISTING LITERATURE

Various studies have been made to assess the problems of development of backward areas. Different scholars, authors, researchers have opined different views on district level economic development and planning of a backward state like Manipur.

Gerald, M. Meir (1984) opines that the word 'economic development' may be defined as "the process whereby the real per-capita income of a country increases over a long period of time subject to the stipulation that the number below an "absolute poverty line" does not increase, and that the distribution of income does not become more unequal". What is applicable in the case of a country is equally applicable to a district or State as well.

About economic development, his study indicates that development is a process that works to raise incomes. The process involves issues like labour, capital, and technology, etc., that these act as forces of growth, putting the economy on the rising income-curve. It is also rightly stressed that the rise should be in the real per capita income. This means that national income, or State domestic product when adjusted for changes in prices, expands in real or physical volumes. And further that the rise in real income, or output is faster than the increase in population, so that there is more of income/output/ goods and services per head.
It is also stated that the rise in income should take place in a sustained manner over a long period. Such a period should normally be two to three decades or even more. This alone can enable these countries or regions to overcome the ills of very low incomes inherited from the past very many years.  

Sen, Amartya (1997) opines that the expansion of human capabilities is an important aspect of development, “while economic prosperity and demographic respite help people to lead more fulfilling lives, so do more education, healthcare, medical attention and other factors that casually influence the effective freedom that people actually enjoy. These social developments must directly count as developmental since they help us to live longer, fair, free, and more fruitful life in addition to the role they have in promoting productivity. The process of development is not separated from the expansion of human capabilities for its intrinsic as well as instrumental importance”.

Fisher, A.G. B. (1945) in his study observed that in every progressive economy, there has been a steady shift of employment and investment from the essential primary activities to secondary activities of all kinds and to a still greater extent into tertiary production.

38. Ruddar Datt and Sundharam, K.P.M. (1997); Indian Economy. S.Chand & Company Ltd., Ram Nagar, New Delhi, p. 65
Colin Clark, (1940) in his work “Condition of Economic Problems”, argues that there is a close relationship between development of an economy on the one hand, and economic progress which is generally associated with certain distinct necessary and predictable change in occupational structure. He writes, “A high average level of real income per head is always associated with a high proportion of working population engaged in tertiary industries ... low real income per head is always associated with a low proportion of the working population engaged in tertiary production and a high percentage in primary production”.39

It was Rao, V.K.R.V. (1981) who observed that the link between infrastructure and development is not a once for all affair. It is a continuous process; and progress and progress in development has to be preceded, accompanied and followed by progress in infrastructure, if we are to fulfil our declared objectives of self-accelerating process of economic development.40

Sachdeva, G. (2000) opines that economic underdevelopment of the region is to be investigated to find its causal explanations not only based on the executive consequence of the long neglect but also the historicity of misappropriating the region with its after shocks. It can be reasonably argued that the failure of economic development in the North East is largely because of an inappropriate economic policy framework which has created an unbalanced and unsustainable economy destroying the basis for institution of a modern market economy in the region.41

39. Colin Clark, (1940), The Condition of Economic Progress, p. 182
Dessai, S.S.M. (1986) observed that finance is an important resource and every sector of the national economy - agriculture, industry, trade, transport and various services - need finance both for carrying on day to day activities and also for growth and progress.  

Ramnath Sharma and Rajendra, K. (1990) observed that the problem of population is not worked out in vacuum. It is always considered in the context of economic, social, and political issues. Of these, economic issue is the most important since the most important problem concerning population is to meet the needs of the growing population.  

Srivastava, U.K. and Vathsala, S. (1984) opine that the productivity of private rearing fish farm was found to be better than that of our public ones. Also private fish farm recorded good profit and public farms incurred heavy losses. 

Udho, L. (1989) opines that agriculture being the main contributing factor for improving the social and economic conditions of the people of Manipur State, any improvement in agriculture is closely linked with joy and prosperity of the people of the State.  

Bokul, L. (1989) in his work, “Problems of Agricultural Labour in Manipur with special reference to Thoubal District”, observed that the population of agricultural labour is exploding day to day and as a result the problems of agricultural labourers become more serious in the Thoubal District.  

42. Dessai, S.S.M. (1986), Rural Banking in India, Himalaya Publishing House, Delhi, p. 151  
Rajhans Publication, Meerut, p. 77  
Prabhakati, Y. (2004) in “A Study of Working and non-working women of Imphal East District in operating dual responsibilities as wife and as mother”, opines that MACHA LEIMA was able to create an awakening among the Manipuri women as to their proper place in the society.47

Singh N.R. (1989) observed that at an average rate for the whole North Eastern region of India, poverty is common with more than 50% of the total population below the poverty line. Poverty leads to high propensity to consume and low propensity to save.48

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are as follows:


(ii) To analyse the problems and requirements of the district.

(iii) To suggest measures for smoother and quicker economic development of Bishnupur district.

HYPOTHESES

The study intends to test the following hypotheses:

(i) The economic development of Bishnupur District is mainly based on the undeveloped agriculture and allied sectors.

(ii) As there is limited land for agricultural development, the development of rural industries would be one of the prioritized sectors for rural employment and development.
(iii) There is a large scope for tourist industry because of the existence of Loktak Lake and many historical monument in the district.

(iv) The district may be one of the special economic zones of Manipur State as there is a sound transport network within and outside district vis-a-vis that of the State.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present research work is mainly based on the secondary data available from different sources, such as: books, newspapers, and reports published by both government and non-governmental organisations. The unpublished reports, documents, etc., are also consulted.

To supplement the secondary data, primary data have also been consulted. Further, data have been generated through questionnaires in the form of random survey method from the research workers, prominent scholars and social workers in different related fields.
CHAPTERISATION:
The study is divided into seven chapters as shown below:

CHAPTER-1:  Introduction
CHAPTER-2:  Population and Occupational Structure
CHAPTER-3:  Agriculture and Allied Activities
CHAPTER-4:  Infra-Structure Development
CHAPTER-5:  Minerals and Industries
CHAPTER-6:  Banking
CHAPTER-7:  Summary & Conclusion

Chapter - 1: Deals with location the district, its area and administrative divisions, physical features, river system, forests, climate and rainfall, as well as the objectives, hypothesis and methodology of the study.

Chapter - 2: Deals with population and occupational structure of the district, its density of population, rural and urban composition, sex ratio, population of S.C./S.T., workers, Age composition, Literacy Rates, Occupied Residential Houses & Households and Male & Female Works Participation Rate, etc.

Chapter - 3: Deals with agriculture and allied activities with special reference to land utilisation pattern, irrigation, natural and rooftop rainwater harvesting, cropping pattern and cropping intensity, area under and production of principal crops, distribution of fertilizers, livestock, veterinary and animal husbandry services, fish farming and production of fish, etc.

Chapter - 4: Deals with infrastructure development such as electricity, transport and communication, educational, medical, engineering facilities, etc.

Chapter - 5: Deals with minerals and industries.

Chapter - 6: Deals with banking and credit facilities available in the district. average population served by banks, etc.

Chapter - 7: Deals with Summary and Conclusion.
REFERENCE


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22. Govt. of Manipur, (1998): I.N.A. Martyr’s: Department of Art and Culture, P.1

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27. Field Survey Data : Information Collected from Ir. Jayenta Singh,
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School on 29th April, 2005.


30. Field Survey Data : Information from Ir. Jayenta Singh, Department
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32. Ibid, P.3.


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in the State of Manipur, India”, Unpublished
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University, Agra, P.11.


Photo plate - 2

Floating huts

Sangai male and female

Loktak lake view from Sendra

Boating at Loukoi pat

Statue of Netaji

Vishnu Temple