Chapter-3

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The locale of the present study is being discussed in this chapter. The study area is located in the north-eastern region of India which has distinct demographic characteristics with unique physical and cultural diversity. The area of study comprises two traditional rural landscapes- one classified as Nagar Panchayat and the other as Gram Panchayat- in two districts of Manipur where radio transmission facility exists since the last four decades. An overview of the north east region as well as the state of Manipur will certainly help in understanding the locale of the present study i.e. the two traditional villages in Manipur.

3.1 North-East India

The North East India is a region as interesting and varied as India itself. Situated at the north-eastern boundary of the Indian dominion between 22°19’N and 28°16’N longitude and 89°42’E and 97°12’E latitude the north eastern region is surrounded on the north by Nepal, Tibet and China, on the east by China and Myanmar, on the south by Myanmar and Bangladesh, and on the west by West Bengal and Bangladesh. The region comprises the contiguous Seven Sister States, Sikkim, and parts of North Bengal (districts of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, and Koch Bihar). For administrative purposes Sikkim is clubbed together with the seven sister states - Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

The region has an area of 2.62 lakh sq. km. accounting for 7.9 percent of the total geographical area of the country and shares over 2000 km. long international border with Nepal, Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Bangladesh while being connected to the mainland India through the narrow
Siliguri corridor which is only about 21 to 40 km. in Pachhim Banga (West Bengal).

Geographically, the region can be divided into three divisions which include the Shillong Plateau, the North Eastern Hill Basin and the Brahmaputra Valley. Besides, there are Barak and Imphal valleys and some flatlands in between the hills of Meghalaya and Tripura while the remaining two-third area of the region is hilly terrain.

Though the British imperialists annexed most of the areas into the Indian dominion, the northeastern region of British India comprised Assam and the princely states of Manipur and Tripura when India got independence in 1947 while Sikkim became an Indian protectorate. During the 1960-70s, the states of Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram were formed and Sikkim became a full-fledged Indian state.

According to the 2011 Census, the total population of India is 1,210,193,422 while its northeastern region registered a total population of 45,587,982 including 31,169,272 in Assam, 3,671,032 in Tripura, 2,964,007 in Meghalaya, 2,721,756 in Manipur, 1,980,602 in Nagaland, 1,382,611 in Arunachal Pradesh, 1,091,014 in Mizoram, and 607,688 in Sikkim. The northeastern region has the lowest density of 176 persons per sq. km.

The region is ethnically distinct from the rest of India while manifesting strong ethnic and cultural ties with Southeast Asia. Home to more than 166 tribes speaking various dialects, the region is unique with diverse ethnic cultures and linguistically distinguished by a preponderance of Tibeto-Burman languages. Over 86 percent of the population in the region resides in villages while major sections of the population of Assam, Tripura and Manipur settle in the valleys and plains. The various ethnic communities of the region include Assamese, Bodo, Dimasa, Garo, Karbi, Khasi, Kuki, Manipuri, Mizo, Naga, Rabha, Koch Rajbongshi, Mishing, Tiwa, Tripuri, Bengali, Nepali, Hmar, Zeme Naga, Purvottar Maithili and Adivasi. Languages Spoken in the region include Assamese, Garo, Jaintia, Khasi,
Bengali, Mizo, Manipuri, Nagamese, Lepcha, Limboo, Bhutia (Sikkimese), Bhutia (Tibetan), Hindi, English, and several other local dialects.

The majority of the population in Mizoram, Nagaland and Meghalaya follow Christianity while tribal belief system dominates religious practice in Arunachal Pradesh, and majority in the plains of Assam, Tripura and Manipur profess Hinduism and Islam. Bihu, Ke Pemblang, Nongkrem, Durga Puja and Karchi Puja are some of the most important festivals, which are mirror to rich socio-cultural life of North-East India.

Dance forms like Garia, Bizu, Hai Hak and Manipuri are essential part of specific cultural and religious celebration in the region. Each of the states in the region has almost same food habit. Normally, inhabitants of the region are non-vegetarian, and fond of spice. Bamboo shoots and dishes prepared from ducks are in vogue in the region. The region is rich in its food culture and the food differs vastly from rest of the country in its taste as well as flavours. In some part of North-East India, animal meat is considered to be good diet. In Nagaland, most of the dogs have fallen prey to local tribes. In Tripura and Assam, fish are the favourite dish. While in Assam, various forms of rice are consumed. Recipes like Assam Laksa Stock, Koat Pitha, Bamboo Shoot Fry, Fish Fried Rice, Grilled Shrimps and Poora Mach are some of the most famous cuisine of North-East India.

While the region has a predominantly humid sub-tropical climate with hot and humid summers, severe monsoons and mild winters, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim have cold, snowy winters and mild summers.

The forest cover in the region constitutes 52 percent of its total geographical area. A biodiversity hot spot with thousands of species of flora and fauna, the northeast has a number of wild life sanctuaries and national parks sheltering rare animals, birds and plants. Representing an important part of Indo-Myanmar bio-diversity hotspot, the north-eastern region of India contains more than one-third of the country’s total bio-diversity. Based on floristic composition, the naturalness of the flora and the local climate, the
region is divided into two bio-geographic zones— the Eastern Himalaya Zone and North East India Zone (Rodgers and Panwar, 1988). Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim are in the Eastern Himalaya Zone while Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura are in the Northeast India Bio-Geographic Zone. The area represents the transition zone between the Indian, Indo-Malayan, Indo-Chinese Bio-Geographic Regions as well as a meeting place of Himalayan Mountains with that of Peninsular India (Rao, 1994).

Traditionally the region has agrarian economy. Natural resources are found in abundance in the region while Assam has a unique position in the production of mineral oil. Other minerals including coal, limestone, refractory clay, dolomite and natural gas are also found in the state while uranium is found in Meghalaya. In the later part of the 19th century, the British administration set up tea, coal and oil companies in Assam including Asia’s first oil refinery at Digboi. This dawned the beginning of education, construction of roadways and railways in some areas. After independence a refinery in Guwahati started production in 1962 while crude oil from Assam is supplied through a pipeline to a refinery in Bihar. Though the region is very rich in natural resources, industrialization remains in its nascent stage even today.

Nonetheless, setting up of tea industry in Assam paved the way for the development of communication in areas of northeast which were previously inaccessible. Besides, Assam produces over half of the India’s tea and contributes about one-sixth to the total tea production of the world. The tea industry indirectly supports many industries such as plywood, fertiliser, aluminium foils in the region while providing direct employment to more than one million workers.

While the British regime brought many a desirable change to the region, it also spoiled many existing advantages by keeping the region isolated from its traditional trading partners like Bhutan, Myanmar and Indo-China. Partition of the country also made the inland waterways in the Brahmaputra
and smaller rivers such as the Kolodyne in Mizoram and Barak in Assam non-
functional turning the region into a land-locked captive market for mainstream
India. Besides, jhum cultivation is still practiced in the tribal dominated areas
of the region where erosion of river banks and floods have been an annual
feature.

The region has 2,592 km. long railway track while the broad-gauge
track is confined to the state of Assam. Air connectivity to the region is also
poor. The poor road, railway and air connectivity has virtually isolated the
region not only from the mainland India but also within the region itself
thereby hindering the process of development. The government of India has
been taking up measures from time to time to develop the region. For the
economic and social development of the eight states, a nodal agency the North
Eastern Council (NEC) was constituted in 1971 while the North Eastern
Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFI) was incorporated in 1995
and the Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (DoNER) was set up

Being bordered with China, Myanmar, Bhutan, Bangladesh and
Nepal, the northeast of India has better scope for development in the era of
globalization. As the policy of economic integration of the region with the rest
of India hardly yield much dividends, the government evolved a new way of
development in the form of ‘Look East’ policy which aims at achieving
economic integration of the region with the rest of Asia in general and with
East and Southeast Asia in particular while continuing political integration of
the region with the rest of India.

The region is known for its unique culture, handicrafts, martial arts,
and scenic beauty while unemployment, HIV/AIDS, drug addiction, and lack
of infrastructure are some of the problems facing the region. Besides, quest for
ethnic and regional identities has fomented a climate of insurgency in several
parts of the north-eastern region which has taken a heavy toll of peace and
progress in the region.
3.2 Manipur

A small state of India, Manipur is situated at the north eastern corner of the country. Located between 92°58'E and 94°45'E longitudes and 23°50'N and 25°42'N latitudes, it shares 352 kilometres of international border with Myanmar while bordering with Assam on the west, Mizoram on the south and the south-west, and Nagaland on the north.

It has a total geographical area of 22,327 sq. kms. while 90 percent of it are hilly regions having dense forests and inaccessible terrains. Surrounded by the hills, the valley at the centre has an area of 2230 sq. km. which comprises only 10 percent of the state’s total area. The elevation ranges from 790 metres to 2,997 metres above mean sea level. The highest peak, Mount Iso, on the Barial ranges stand at 2,997 metres above mean sea level with its highest inter-mountain valley of Dzuko at 2,500 meters above mean sea level.

Manipur was a princely state before the British annexed it into Indian dominion after its defeat in the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891. After Indian independence in 1947, Manipur was merged into the Indian Union on 15th October, 1949 as a union territory. It became a full-fledged Indian state on the 21st January, 1972. Today, the Manipur Legislative Assembly has 60 seats including 40 unreserved seats for general, 19 reserved seats for Scheduled Tribes and one reserved seat for Scheduled Caste. The state is represented in the Lok Sabha by two members, one each from the Inner and the Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituencies while it has one member in the Rajya Sabha.

According to the Census of India 2011, the total population of Manipur is 27,21,756 which includes 13,69,764 males and 13,51,992 females. In the rural areas the male population is 966,264 and female population is 933,360. In urban areas male population accounts for 403,500 while the female population is 418,632.
The rural population in the state accounting for 69.79 percent is 1,899,624 including 966,264 males and 933,360 females. The urban population comprises 30.21 percent of the total population and stands at 822,132 including 403,500 males and 418,632 females.

The decadal population growth rate is 18.65 percent while it is 10.58 percent in rural areas and 42.74 percent in urban areas. The population density per square kilometer is 122 and the sex ratio of females per 1000 males is 987 in the state while in rural area sex ratio is 966 and in urban area it is 1038 per 1000.

The child population (0 to 6 years) is 353,237 including 254,873 in rural areas and 98,364 in urban areas. Male child population in the state is 182,684 and female child population is 170,553 while contributing 12.98 percent of the total population.

The literacy rate has risen by 10 percent to 79.85 percent with males at 86.49 percent and females at 73.17 percent. Literacy rate in rural areas is 77.15 percent and in urban area it is 85.98 percent. Male literacy rate in the state is 86.49 percent and female literacy is 73.17 percent. Male literacy in rural areas is 84.14 percent and female literacy in rural areas is 69.95 percent while male literacy in urban areas is 92.05 percent and female literacy is 80.21 percent.

The state has nine districts which include five hill districts and four valley districts. The hill districts include Senapati, Churachandpur, Bishnupur, Ukhrul, Chandel and Tamenlong districts while the valley districts include Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal and Bishnupur districts.

Among the nine districts the Imphal West continues to be the most populous district in the state. It has a total population of 5,14,683 with males accounting for 2,53,628 and females 2,61,055. It is followed by Imphal East with a total population of 4,52,661, Thoubal with 4,20,517, Senapati with 3,54,972, Churachandpur with 2,71,274, Bishnupur with 2,40,363, Ukhrul with 1,83,115, Chandel with 1,44,028 and Tamenlong is the least populated.
district with a total population of 1,40,143. The female population is higher than the male population in Imphal West, Imphal East and Thoubal districts. The number of male and female population is equal in Bishnupur district.

The district wise literacy rate is 86.70 percent for Imphal West, 84.29 percent for Churachanpur and 82.81 percent for Imphal East. The district with the highest number of infants within the age group from 0 to 6 years is Thoubal district with 66,953, Imphal East with 60,760 and Imphal West with 58,239 infants while Chandel district has the lowest infant population of 16,496.

According to Census 2011, the state has 51 towns and 2588 villages. Some of the major towns are Moreh, Churachandpur, Jiribam, Thoubal, Kakching, Imphal, Ukhrul, Mao, Tamenglong, Koppelki, Chandel and Moirang. The drainage system in the state is attributed to and connected with various streams which belong to three river systems. The Manipur river system has important tributaries like Imphal, Thoubal, Nambul, Khuga and Sekmai rivers. These rivers and Loktak lake and other associated lakes constitute the main water resources of the central valley with a catchment area of 6,332 sq. km. constituting 28.40 percent of the valley. The second river system is formed by Barak river and its tributaries namely Irang, Maku, Tuivai, Jiri, and their associated streams drain in the northern and western hill areas. The rivers have a catchment area of 9,042 sq. km. accounting for 40.50 percent of the entire region. In the eastern hilly slopes of the state a number of small streams join the Chindwin river in Myanmar. The important river in this system is Akonglok river and its tributaries are Chamu and Chingai. The other important river is the Yu which has tributaries like Maklang, Tuyungbi, Taretlok, Lokchao, Lalimlok and Tuiyang. These rivers flow into the Chindwin River in the Kabaw valley in Myanmar.

Manipur is endowed with an enormously diverse heritage of wetlands. The wetlands in the state are mostly located in the valley areas but hilly regions also possess a number of wetlands. There are also a number of
freshwater swamps and marshes in the inter-ravine tracts. In the beginning of the 20th century, there were about 500 lakes in the valley. These have been reduced fast in the past few years and as a result hardly 55 lakes were found existing in the state by the 1950s. At present only 7 lakes including the Loktak survive. Loktak lake is the largest fresh water lake not only in the state but also in the entire northeast India. Other important existing lakes in the state are Ikop, Waithou, Ngakrapat and Loushipat.

The climate of Manipur is pleasant round the year and the northeast monsoon also reaches the state. The minimum mean temperature is 0.0°C and maximum temperature is 36.0°C. Rainy season is during May to October and the annual average rainfall is 1467.5mm.

Social and Cultural Life

The people of Manipur can be divided into four major ethnic groups- the Meiteis, the Meitei Pangals, the Nagas, and the Kuki-Chins. The valley districts are Meitei and Meitei Pangal dominant districts. Besides them, Nepalis, Bengalis, Marwaris and other Indian communities are also settled in the valley while several people from the hills have also migrated and settled in the valley. The five hill districts are inhabited mainly by ethnic tribal communities including the Nagas, the Kukis, the Paites etc. There are 33 Schedule Tribes recognised by the government. Fusion of divergent cultures of the Aryan and the Mongoloid races gave shape into the composite culture of the state and the people of Manipur have lived together in complete harmony for centuries.

The Meitei Bamons and other Schedule Caste Meitei groups like the Chakpas (Lois) and Thoubal Khunous (Yaithibis) are included in the Meitei-fold. Comprising about 60 percent of the total population of the state, the Meiteis are distributed throughout the valley but they are not allowed to
own land in the hills while the people of the hill can live anywhere in Manipur.

The Naga comprises Zeliangrong, Tangkhul, Mao, Maram, Maring and Tarao. Zeliangrong consists of three sub-groups including Rongmei, Liangmei and Zemei.

The Chin-Kuki group consists of Gangte, Hmar, Paite, Thadou, Vaiphei, Zou, Aimol, Chiru, Koireng, Kom, Anal, Chothe, Lamgang, Koirao, Thangal, Moyon and Monsang. However, some tribal groups like Anal, Kom, Thangal etc. have recently began identifying themselves as Nagas. Other groups like Paite, Zou, Gangte, and Vaiphei identify themselves as Zomi and have distanced themselves from Kuki nomenclature. Thadous remain the major Kuki population in Chin-Kuki group while Hmar identify closer to the Mizo or Lushei group. The people of Manipur follow several faiths and religions. The Bamons and Meiteis follow Hindu Vaishnavism while the Chakpas and other Scheduled Caste Meiteis follow traditional Meitei faith. Sanamahism is an ancient indigenous religion of the Meiteis. Some of the gods that the Meiteis worship are Atiya Sidaba, Pakhangba, Sanamahi, Leimaren, Oknarel, Panganba, Thangjing, Marjing, Wangbaren, Koubru. Though many of the hill tribes have converted to Christianity, majority of them still observe the customs and festivals of their traditional religion based on animism. The Meitei Pangals follow Islam. Despite their religious diversity all the different ethnic groups have very close similarities in their culture and traditional habits as they belong to the same Mongoloid stock.

Economy

Like in other situations, the economy of Manipur can be broadly divided into three sectors- primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. The primary sector includes agriculture, mining etc., the secondary sector includes manufacturing and the tertiary sector includes services like electricity, water, trade, finance, banking, telecommunication etc. Majority of the state’s
working force is engaged in agriculture and allied activities while more than 79 percent of the total cropped area is utilized for food crop production. Some of the major crops of Manipur are rice, sugarcane, maize, oil seeds, pulses, cabbage, brinjal, carrot, cauliflower, beans, potato, pea, radish, tomato etc. Since rice is the staple food for all ethnic groups of Manipur, about two-thirds of the cultivated area is represented by rice. Fruits such as pineapple, mango, orange, lemon, guava, jack fruit are also cultivated in the state.

Though the economy of Manipur is mainly dependent on agriculture it is also supported by several small scale industries. About 7700 small scale industries including cottage industries, village industries and handicraft as well as handloom units have been set up in Manipur. Besides a cement plant, a pharmaceutical unit, a yarn spinning mill, some small companies that manufacture electronic goods, steel, plastic etc. have also come up in the state.

However, bad transport system, small local market, and lack of sufficient investment isolate it from the rest of India and inhibit industrial development in the state. Thus, handloom and handicraft industries have a prominent place in the economic scenario of the state. Moreover, weaving is an important aspect of the cultural life of the people of Manipuri. Manipuri fabrics and shawls are in great demand in the national and international market. While every Manipuri household has at least one loom, and each woman is required to be skilled in weaving cloths, some locations like Wangkhei, Bamon Kampu, Kongba, Khongman, Utlou etc. are famous for their handloom products.

Cane and bamboo are available in plenty in the state. This felicitates basketry as a traditional occupation of the people. Baskets of different shapes and sizes have been a part of the Manipuri culture. The baskets exclusively used in ceremonies such as wedding, birth and death are Heijing Kharai, Phiruk & Lukmai while baskets for domestic purposes are Likhai, Sangbai, Chengbon, Meruk, Morah etc. Cane and bamboo are also
used in making traditional fishing equipments. Pottery is another traditional occupation in Manipur and Manipuri women are good potters.

Manipuri women play a key role in the economy of the state by engaging themselves in various activities like trading traditional cloth and vegetables. Ima Market, which is an exclusively women's market in Imphal, stands evidence of their role in Manipur’s economy. Alcoholism, drug abuse and high incidence of HIV-infection have been the major causes of concern in the state. Women, through Meira Paibi organizations, also endeavour to combat the menace of alcoholism and drug abuse in the state.

**Forest Resources**

In Manipur the forest cover, including land with or without scrub, accounts for 88 percent of the total geographical area. About half of the total area comprises tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests. Pine forests cover about sixth, and large stretches of bamboo forests cover about a fifth of the region. Every community both in the hills and valley of the state depend upon bio-resources of the forests for their day-today needs for herbs, fruits, vegetables, leaves, food, firewood and animals. Commercial exploitation of forest plants and animals is also a common phenomenon prevailing in Manipur.

**Flora and Fauna**

Manipur is rich in flora and fauna. The wet forests and pine forests occur between 900-2700 m above msl and have many rare plants and animals. Medicinal plants, ornamental plants, birds, fish, mammals, reptiles, lizards and amphibians are found in abundance. Among the endemic species the brow antlered deer (*Cervus eldi eldi*), locally known as Sangai, is restricted to Manipur only. It is presently facing deterioration of its niche in its unique wetland ecosystem in Keibul Lamjao National Park. Hoolock gibbon is the only ape found in India. Locally known as Yongmu, it commonly occurs in all
the five hill districts of Manipur. Similarly, slow loris, stump-tailed macaque, pig-tailed macaque and other rare primates occur in the forests of Manipur. Amongst the carnivores the clouded leopard and the golden cat are the rare nocturnal animals found in Manipur.

Siroi lily is the only terrestrial lily grown on the hilltops of Siroi hill in Ukhrul district. Besides, the state harbours a good number of primitive flowering plants including 500 different varieties of orchids of which 472 have been identified.

Mineral Resources

Manipur is also rich in mineral resources. The mineral resources include limestone, iron ore, chromite and granite. Besides, fireclay, lithomarge, Fuller's Earth, sillimanite and glass sand are found in the state. Limestone deposits have been located in Ukhrul and Chandel districts. Chromite is located in Lunghar, Phangrai, Sirohi, Gammon, Pushing, Khangkhui, Yentem, Nungbi, Hangkau, Apong, Chingai, Poi, Pinghang, Nampisha, Kangpat, and Chattrick Khunou of Ukhrul District and Kwatha, Sibong, Khudengthabi and Minou-Mangkang of Chandel District.

Languages

Meiteilon is the mother tongue of the Meiteis and Meitei Pangals. Besides Meiteilon, there are 29 different dialects spoken in Manipur. Some of the main tribal dialects are Thadou-Kuki, Tangkhul, Hmar, Paite, Mao, Rongmei etc. Though all the tribes have their own distinct languages, they speak Meiteilon when they converse with members of other tribes.

Dance and Songs

The people of Manipur have their own distinct culture and tradition deeply embedded in their dances, music, and customary practices. Rasa Lila, the classical dance of the Meiteis, is world famous. Sankritana is another form
of classical dance performed by a group of artistes. Lai Haraoba dance, which is the basis of all Manipuri dance forms, has been existing since very ancient times. This dance portrays the creation of humanity and civilization. Penna song is very old and closely related with the story of gods and goddesses of Manipur. Besides, tribal dance of various communities are very popular in the state.

**Games and Sports**

The indigenous games of Manipur can be classified as outdoor and indoor. The outdoor games are Mukna, Mukna Kangjei, Khong Kangjei, Sagol Kangjei (Polo), Thang-Ta, Yubi Lakpi, Oo-Laobi, Hiyang Tannaba, Arambai Hunba etc. The modern game of polo is originated in Manipur and it is locally known as Sagol Kangjei. Some of the traditional indoor games are Kang, Marum Konbi, Khutlokpi, Machin Manao and Kei-Yen etc. Kang is played by both male and female Meiteis.

**House**

Traditional Manipuri houses are built on raised platforms made of earth. Most of the houses have sloped roofs on both sides with a raised middle portion called Yang. Usually traditional Manipuri house is built facing eastward so that the front door of the house receives the morning sunshine and has a back door near the kitchen for emergency purpose. All the houses have sufficient space for a veranda and a courtyard.

In house construction, the main pillar called *Jatra* is first erected in a ritual known as *Jatra Hunba*. Rich people use big beams in the framework of the structure while the poor use bamboo. However, in recent times these construction materials are being replaced by bricks, concrete, cement, sand and iron rods.
Festivals

Manipur is a land of festivities and round the year merriments of the people go on. While the festivals are a symbol of their cultural, social and religious aspirations, most of the festivals have their roots in their diverse faith and belief. Some of the main festivals of the people of Manipur which reflect their true spirit, tradition and life style are Lai Haraoba, Kang, Eid-ul-Fitre, Eid-ul-Zuha, Kut, Gang-Ngai, Christmas, Heikru Hidongba, Ningol Chakouba, Lui Ngai Ni, Yaoshang, Heikru Hidongba, Durga Puja, Diwali etc. Some of the major festivals are briefly stated below:-

Lai-Haraoba: Lai Haraoba festival is celebrated in honour of the sylvan deities known as Umang Lais. Among the Lai Haraoba festivals, the Thangjing Haraoba of Moirang is the most popular one.

Ningol Chakouba: It is a social festival of the Meiteis. On this day married women are invited to the parental house along with their children and enjoy sumptuous feast. It is a form of family get-together to revive familial affection. Now-a-days the Meitei Pangals also celebrate this festival to some extent.

Yaoshang: It is the premier festival of Manipur. Also known as Dol Jatra, Yaoshang festival is the Manipuri version of Holi, the festival of colours. The Thabal Chongba, a kind of Manipuri folk dance is a regular feature of the festival. Boys from various places dance with girls by holding hands and moving in circles in Thabal Chongba, literally dancing in the moonlight. Now-a-days games and sports meets are organised on local level as part of the festival.

Eid-ul-Fitre: The mainfestival of the Meitei Pangals, Eid-ul-Fitre is observed in the usual spirit of joy and festivities as in other Muslim world. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims practice self-denial by fasting from pre-dawn till
sunset. On the second day of month of Shawl, when the new moon is visible Muslims break their month-long fasting and this fast-breaking day is celebrated as Eid-ul-Fitr. On this day, Meitei Pangals go to the mosques or Idgahs to offer Eid Namaz in morning. At home they share delicious dishes, exchange greetings and call on friends and relatives.

**Kut:** A post-harvest festival of the Kuki-Chin-Mizo groups of Manipur, Kut is also named as Chavang-Kut or Khodou. The festival is a thanksgiving feast in honour of the giver of an abundant harvest and is celebrated in merriment with songs and dances.

**Gang-Ngai:** Gang-Ngai is an important festival of the Kabui Nagas. The festival opens with the oath-taking ceremony on the first day and the rest of the days are associated with common feast, dances of old men and women and of boys and girls, presentation of farewell gifts etc.

**Chumpha:** An important festival of the Tangkhul Nagas, Chumpha is also a post-harvest festival. Unlike other festivals women play a special role in the festival. The concluding part of the festival ends with a procession within the village.

**Christmas:** The main festival of the Christians of Manipur, Christmas is observed for two days on December 24 and 25. Prayers, reading of Gospels, eating, singing of hymns, lectures on Christ, sports etc., form the major part of the festival.

**Cheiraoba:** It is celebrated on the Manipuri New Year day in April. People clean and decorate their houses and prepare special festive dishes which are first offered to various deities. As part of the celebration, on the festival day people would climb the nearest hill tops with the belief that it will enable them
to rise to greater heights in their life. The Meitei Pangals also celebrate Cheiraoba festival.

**Lui-Ngai-Ni:** It is a seed-sowing festival of the Nagas and celebrated every year on the 15th day of February. Social gathering, songs and dances are the highlights of the celebration.

**Communication Infrastructure**

One of the factors that hinder the fast economic development in Manipur is attributed to poor transport and communication systems. The geography of the region provides limited accessibility and inhibits the growth of efficient transport systems. The lofty mountains remain a major barrier to development of roads and rail networks.

The road network of Manipur, with a length of 7,170 km connects all the important towns and distant villages. National Highway-39 (now NH-2) links Manipur with Dimapur in Nagaland at a distance of 215 km. from Imphal. National Highway-53 (now NH-37) connects Manipur with Silchar in Assam, 269 km. away from Imphal while the National Highway -102 connects Imphal to Myanmar and National Highway-150 connects Jessami and Tipaimukh.

The Airport at Imphal is located at Changangei. Domestic airlines like Indian Airlines, Air Sahara, Jet Airways, Kingfisher Airlines, SpiceJet and Indigo operate their regular flights to and from Imphal thereby connecting Manipur to other Indian metropolitan cities like New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai.

**Telecommunications**

Manipur has a telecommunication network that is growing very fast. The economic reforms and policy change has enabled individuals and business establishments to procure telephone and other telecommunication
facilities without any hindrance. This had helped the fast growing telecom sector in the state. The shortfall in demand and supply is compensated by various private mobile telephone service providers making the services available throughout the state. Beside the leading player BSNL, other private mobile service providers like Aircel, Airtel, Reliance and Tata are providing mobile and internet services in the state.

Media

As in other socio-political settings, the media in Manipur reflect the social, economic and political relations of the state. Hijam Irabot Singh’s journal Meitei Chanu, hand-stencilled and cyclostyled and published by Irabat himself during 1925-26, is regarded as the forerunner in the history of Manipuri print journalism. Since its early days in the 1920s, the media in Manipur has undergone a tremendous change over time thanks to the advancement in printing technology. Subsequently, the newspapers and the electronic media in the state have flourished well. Today, Manipur has about 30 dailies and journals. Besides, there are some correspondents and stringers for various national and international news agencies, newspapers, magazines and electronic media houses.

Presently, there are 18 local newspapers published in the state. English dailies published at Imphal include the Imphal Free Press, the Sangai Express, the Manipur Mail and Hueyen Lanpao. The Hueyen Lanpao and the Sangai Express have Manipuri editions also. Poknapham, Sanaleibak, Ireibak and Naharolgi Thoudang are vernacular dailies published from Imphal. A few dailies in tribal dialects are also published from different hill district headquarters of the state. Some of the other existing newspapers are Kangleipakki Meira, Sanaleibak, Gosem (Thadou/Kuki Language Daily), Zalen Banner (Thadou/Kuki Language Weekly News), AJA (Tangkhul Daily), Manipur Express (Paite Language Daily), Lamka Post (Paite Language Daily) etc. Besides, national newspapers published in other cities of the country also
have their limited circulation in the state. These include the Telegraph, the Times of India, Hindustan Times, the Statesmen etc.

Electronic media in Manipur include the All India Radio, Imphal, AIR Imphal FM and AIR Churachandpur FM. Manipur has only one television service- Doordarshan Kendra, Imphal while there exist some home cable networks such as Information Service Television (ISTV), Image Cable TV, Hornbill Cable Network, Laizan Cable Network and Tribal Cable Network. Television and satellite connectivity is available in almost every household of the urban areas in Imphal. However, the insurgent group Revolutionary People’s Front has prohibited some of the channels like MTV, FTV and Channel V from being aired in the state. Hindi movies are also prohibited from being aired in the Imphal valley. The Hindi boycott by the outfit presumably facilitated growth of the state’s local newspapers, the electronic media and of course, the Manipuri film industry with films made in video digital format.

There are currently 34 insurgent groups that demand independence from India. Of these, the three most prominent are the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), People’s Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), and PLA of Manipur. The Kuki insurgent groups are under two umbrella organisation, Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United Peoples Forum. Manipur however has seen a rise in ethnic conflicts. In 1990 saw major clashes between the Meiteis and the Pangals in the valley and between the Nagas and the Kukis in the hills. Beside, uneasiness looms large on the relationship between the Meiteis and the Nagas on the issue of Manipur’s territorial integrity compounding the complex political issue.

Tourism

Manipur is famous for its scenic beauty, enchanting landscape, salubrious climate and rich cultural heritage which lend a great potential for development of tourism. Some important places of tourism in and around
Imphal are Govindajee temple, State Zoo, State Museum and Loktak lake. Some other tourist attractions are Dzuko valley, Zeilad Lake, Keibul Lamjao National Park, Yangoupokpi Lokchao Sanctuary, Yangoupokpi Lokachao Wildlife Sanctuaries, Bunning Wildlife Sanctuary, Keilam Wildlife Sanctuary, Jiri-Makru Wildlife Sanctuary, Manipur Zoological Garden, Shiroi Hill National Park, Orchid Preservation Centre etc.

3.3 Imphal East District

Imphal East District came into existence on 18th June, 1997 with its headquarters at Porompat located within 1 km. of the state capital. With a total area of 469.44 sq. km. the district comprises two separate portions- one in the Imphal valley and the other in Jiribam plains. Bounded on the north, east and west by Senapati district and on the south by Thoubal and Bishnupur districts, Imphal East district is situated at an altitude of 790 metres above mean sea level.

There are ten Assembly constituencies in the district. They are Khundrakpam, Heingang, Khurai, Kshetrigao, Thongju, Andro, Lamlai, Yaiskul, Wangkhei and Jiribam constituencies. The district has four revenue Sub-Divisions and nine SDC Revenue Circles encompassing 237 revenue villages. The Sub-Divisions are Porompat Sub-Division, Sawombung Sub-Division, Keirao Bitra Sub-Division and Jiribam Sub-Division. There are four urban local bodies including two municipalities and two Nagar Panchayats. Imphal Municipal Council and Jiribam Municipal Council are the two municipalities whereas the two Nagar Panchayats are Andro Nagar Panchayat and Lamlai Nagar Panchayat.

There are three C.D. Blocks in the district. They are Imphal East-I C.D. Block, Sawombung, Imphal East-II C.D. Block, Keirao Bitra and Jiribam C.D. Block. The district has 56 Gram Panchayats and one Zilla Parishad with
19 Zilla Parishad members. However, like in other districts of the state, there is no Panchayat Samiti in the district.

The District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) in the district is headed by the Adhyaksha of Zilla Parishad, Imphal East as Chairperson of the DRDA and the Deputy Commissioner of the district is the Executive Director of the DRDA. He is assisted by the Project Director and other officers and staff of the DRDA.

According to Census 2011, the total population in Imphal East District is 4,52,661 including 270,307 in rural areas and 182,354 in urban areas. The male population in the district is 225,130 which includes 136,347 in rural areas and 88,783 in urban areas while the female population in the district is 227,531 including 133,960 in rural areas and 93,571 in urban areas. The sex ratio in the district is 1011 females per 1000 males, in rural areas it is 982 and in urban areas it is 1054 females per 1000 males.

The decadal growth of population in the district is 14.63 percent, in rural areas -5.67 percent and in urban areas it is 68.36 percent. 59.72 percent of the population in the district live in rural areas while 40.28 percent live in urban areas of the district.

Literacy rate in the district is 82.81 percent while in the rural area it is 79.31 percent and in urban areas it is 87.79 percent. Male literacy in the state is 89.86 percent, in the rural areas it is 87.49 percent and in urban areas 93.36 percent. The female literacy rate in the district is 75.92 percent while it is 71.07 percent in rural areas and 82.57 percent in urban areas.

Out of the total 204 villages in the district, 195 have been electrified which comprises 95.59 percent of village electrified (Economic Survey Manipur 2007-08).

Among the recognised educational institutions in the district there are 348 pre-primary, primary, JB, UJB schools, 138 middle, Jr. high, Sr. basic school, 129 high, higher secondary schools, schools for professional and other education (Statistical Handbook Manipur, 2007).
There are 5 government hospitals, 23 P.H.C. and C.H.C., 111 dispensaries and P.HSC's with 1393 beds and 328 doctors (Statistical Handbook Manipur, 2007).

Climate

The climate in Imphal East district is salubrious while the monsoon is tropical. The minimum temperature goes down to 0.6 degree Celsius in winter and 41 degree Celsius in summer.

Flora and Fauna

The forest produce available in the district include firewood, bamboo, charcoal, earth, stone, sand etc. (Source: Economic Survey Manipur 2007-08). The district has rich and varied vegetation. The climatic conditions are suitable for a wide range of flowering and non-flowering trees and shrubs, Bamboos, Peepals and Kaubila are a common sight everywhere in the valley. Eucalyptus, Amla, Parkia roxburghii (Yongchak), Arundo donax (Yendhou) etc, are also very common. The hills are the homes of many valuable trees. A wide variety of medicinal plants are grown wild both in the hills and the plains. Carica papaya (Papaya), Citrus grandia (Pamelo), Mangifera indica (Mango), Prunus domestics (plum), Prunus persica (peach) Pyrus selerotine (pear), Psidium guavaya (guava), Famarindus indica (Tamarind) etc. are some of the important fruit bearing trees.

Sparrow, swallow, owl, myna, pigeon, nightingale, king fisher, wood pecker, heron, kite etc are the common birds found in the district. Rare migratory birds such as duck, geese, snipe etc. from places as far as Siberia reach the lakes of Manipur during winter.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people in the district. The total number of workers engaged in agriculture in the district was 42,473 as
per 1991 Census of which 28,661 were male and 13,812 were female. According to the Economic Survey Manipur 2007-08, the total population is 3,94,876. Out of which main workers comprise 106562, Marginal Workers 50320 and non-workers 237994 and it comprise 39.73 percent of workers to total population. In 2007, the number of industrial and co-operative societies in the district was 869 including 532 industrial and 337 non-industrial units.

The main food crops are paddy, potato and vegetables. Among the cash crops, sugar cane, maize, pulse, oil seed and other vegetables are prominent. In the district 27,000 hectares of land is used for high yielding variety of paddy and 4,100 hectares for improved local variety. 450 hectares of land in the district is also used for maize cultivation, 60 hectares for wheat and 350 hectares for potato. Spices like chilli, onion, ginger, turmeric and coriander of very good quality are also grown in the district. Fruits like pineapple, banana, lemon, plum, pear, peach, mango, guava and papaya grow well in the district.

**Handloom**

Handloom and handicraft are the largest cottage industries in the state. One of the special features of the handloom industry in the state is that women are the only weavers. For them handloom cloth weaving is their traditional occupation and the clothes they produce mainly include household clothes for everyday use, traditional ceremonial dress etc.

Handloom weaver co-operative societies are concentrated in areas like Wangkhei, Chingmeirong and Khurai of the district. Handloom products like, Wangkhei Phi, Lashing Phi and Phanek in different designs made by these weavers are in great demand both in the local and outside markets.

Cane and Bamboo works, carpentry, black smithy and jewellery etc. are the important household industries for the male folk in the district.
Poultry and Livestock

There are one dairy farm and veterinary training center beside 5 veterinary hospitals, 19 veterinary dispensaries and three aids centres in the district. Livestock include cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, horse, pig, dog, rabbit, hen, duck etc. (Economic Survey Manipur 2007-08)

Transport

Imphal East district is connected with National Highway-39, National Highway-53 and National Highway-150. It has rail network only in Jiribam Sub-Division bordering Cachar District of Assam where there is a railhead. Thus, communication is entirely dependent on roads.

Telecommunication

The district has 8 telephone exchanges and 5 combined offices which provide service to 5787 telephone connections in the state. 55 local PCO and 57 STD PCO are also working in the district. (Economic Survey Manipur 2007-08)

Tourism

The district is endowed with natural beauty. There are two tourist homes in the district- one at Kaina and the other at Jiribam. Tourist attractions in the district include Shree-Shree Govindajee Temple, two war cemeteries maintained by British War Grave Commission, Kaina, a holy place of the Hindu, Hanuman Temple at Mahabali etc.

3.4 Andro

Though classified as a Nagar Panchayat for administrative purposes, Andro in Keirao Bitra Sub-Division of Imphal East District has all the characteristics of a traditional village till today. Situated 27 kms from Imphal
by the Ngariyal Road, a state highway connecting Imphal and Yairipok, Andro is in the Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency.


As per the Census 2011, Andro Nagar Panchayat has a population of 8,881, including 4372 males and 4509 females. Andro has an average literacy rate of 56.87 percent. Male literacy rate is 60.47 percent while female literacy is 53.38 percent.

Andro is the only settlement of the indigenous AndroLoi community of Manipur. The community have been recognized as Scheduled Caste in Manipur under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Orders (Amendment) Act, 1956.

The pattern of settlement of the people is grouped or clustered dwelling form with their farm land outlying their clustered dwellings.

The Andro Loi people speak Manipuri language as their mother tongue but with an accent slightly different form the standard Manipuri language spoken by the Meiteis in Imphal. However, the younger generations speak the language without any marked accentual difference as they usually intermix with other Meiteis.

**Village Resources**

Village resources include any material or energy that is available in the area for use by the people in meeting their needs.

**Land:** The land ownership pattern in Andro is through Pata System which requires land registration on selling or buying. The flora in the village includes mango, jackfruit, bananas, cabbage, potato, tomato, lemon and bamboo. While vegetables are not grown in large quantity, the main crops include paddy. The fauna of Andro does not include any wild animal. Only domesticated animals
like cow, buffalo, pig, duck, hen, pigeon, dog and cat are found. The land is very fertile here. Though the main occupation is agriculture, allied activities such as dairy development, poultry, fishery and piggery take the place of subsidiary occupation. Besides, handicraft, pottery, wine making, Kouna craft and bamboo craft are some other occupations adopted by the villagers.

**Water:** Main source of water in the village is pond. For safe drinking water the Public Health Engineering Department has been providing supply water connection under water supply scheme. Normally crisis of water is not found in the village as ponds are always full and supply water solve the problem of drinking water. The village has many small fisheries and pisciculture forms a subsidiary occupation.

**Climate**

Andro enjoys moderate climatic conditions during the winter followed by heavy rainfall and heat in summer days. The rainy season starts from early May and continues up to September during which rivers overflows and is often devastated by flood. During the summer it is hot. The best period is winter which starts in early October and continues up to mid-March. The area experiences heavy rainfall during the monsoon causing floods.

**Man-made Resources**

There are various man-made resources including electricity are available to almost all the residents of the village. Some of them were been purposefully created to meet specific needs but are available to serve other purposes in various ways.

**Transport and communication facilities**

The village is well connected by road. Buses plying from Andro to Imphal and Yairipok have stoppage at Ngariyal. Besides, there is direct bus service to the village. Recently auto services from Yairipok and Imphal have
been introduced. In case of emergency there are some local public vans and auto rickshaws which can be hired from the Andro main market.

Villagers in Andro are linked to the outside society through various means of communications, namely telephone, postal service, telegraph and others. There is a sub-post office in the village from where the villagers send and receive letters. The villagers also use telegraph and speed post service at Imphal. The village has a telephone exchange while mobile towers are installed at various locations in the village providing mobile telephone service.

**Health Care**

Health and sanitation facilities are available in the village. There are two clubs in the village. There is a medical centre. The nearest Primary Health Centre is at Yairipok while there is a Primary Health Sub-Centre in the village. It mainly serves children community of the village. Three pharmacies and one private clinic are giving service to the people of the village.

**Market**

Andro Bazar is the main market in the village. It has various shops dealing in different commodities meeting the need of the inhabitants. There are some wine vendors in the market doing brisk business particularly in the evening. Andro is known for its traditional preparation of country brew known as *yoo* or *Kalei*. Besides agricultural products essential commodities are traded here.

**Educational Institutes**

Andro has one Govt. Junior High school and one Govt.-aided Junior High School, and three L. P. schools. Besides, five English medium private schools are catering to the educational needs of the village. They are St. Joseph School, Bal Vidyamandir, Unified Brothers English School, Brighter Public School and Andro Tam Mission School.
Religious Activities

Different religious activities are performed in the village. Andro Loi community has three different religious and cultural sections- the traditional, Hinduism and Christianity. The traditionally conservative section preserves the traditional customs and follows the traditions of the Loisang and other religious ceremonies such as fire worship and Chakpa Haraoba as their forefathers had performed these rituals earlier.

The Andro Chakpas worship the Panam Ningthou and Pureiromba as the main deities. The festival of Panam Ningthou is celebrated during the month of Lamta (February-March) for nine days and that of Pureiromba in the month of Kalen (April-May) for nine to thirteen days. Other deities worshipped by Ando Chakpas are Chingsomba and Sanahongba, Korouhanba Changningleima, Thongbu Lakpa, Sanglen Lakpa, Sorawen, Pengkhulai Meira Thanbi, Urqm Lakpa and Penakhongba. Pujas and Kirtans are also performed here. People from Hindu families in the area participate in these rituals. Christmas is also celebrated in the village.

There are two types of festivals in the village- the common festivals and the ethnic festivals. The common festivals are Rath Yatra, Cheriraoba, Ningol Chakouba, Yaosang, Christmas etc. Ethnic festivals are Chakpa Panam Ningthou and Pureiromba Haraoba.

Chakpa Haraoba is one of the Lai Haraoba festivals in Manipur. Chakpa Haraoba is observed at Andro, Phayemng, Sekmai, Koudruk, Khurkhul and Tairenpokpi with certain variations. Andro Lois use and drink country brew Yoo or Kalei in common festivals such as ceremonial observations, marriage, birth celebrations, death observations etc.

3.5 Thoubal District

Lying between 23° 45' and 24°45' N latitude and 93°45' and 94°15' E longitude, Thoubal which is one of the nine districts of Manipur has an area
of 519 sq. km. It is bounded by Imphal West and Imphal East districts on the west, Churchandpur and Bishnupur districts on the south, Ukhrul and Chandel districts on the east and Senapati district on the north. With an average elevation of about 790 m above mean sea level the district is dotted by a few hillocks and hills of low heights with Punam hill at an elevation of 1009 m above mean sea level.

Thoubal district came into being in May 1983 when the Thoubal Sub-Division of the erstwhile Manipur Central District (later Imphal district) was upgraded. With district headquarters at Thoubal 22 km from state capital Imphal, the district has three Sub-Divisions- Thoubal, Kakching, and Lilong. The district has ten Assembly constituencies including Lilong, Wangkhem, Thoubal, Khangabok, Tentha, Wangjing, Heirok, Kakching, Wabagai, Hiyanglam and Sugnu. Thoubal District has its two C D Blocks - Thoubal C.D. Block and Kakching C.D. Block.

There are 100 villages and 10 towns in the district. The towns in the district are Kakching, Kakching Khunou, Lilong, Samurou Sikhong Sekmai Sugnu Thoubal Wangjing Yairipok while revenue circles are Thoubal, Yairipok, Heirok, Khongjom, Kakching, Waikhong, Lilong, Irong Chesaba.

According to the 2011 Census, Thoubal District has a total population of 420,517 including 271,311 in rural areas and 149,206 in urban areas. Decadal population growth in the district is 15.48 percent while in the rural areas it is 16.51 percent and in urban areas it is 13.66 percent. The male population in the district is 209,674 including 135,981 in rural areas and 73,693 in urban areas. The female population in the district is 210,843 including 135,330 in rural areas and 75,513 in urban areas. 64.52 percent of the population live in rural areas while urban population comprises 35.48 percent of the total population. The sex ratio in the district is 1006 females per 1000 males while in rural areas 995 females and in urban areas 1025 females per 1000 males. Literacy rate in the district is 76.66 percent, in rural areas it is 74.39 percent and in urban areas it is 80.73 percent.
Economy

Agriculture is the most important source of livelihood for the people of the district. More than 70 percent of the total population of the district are directly or indirectly depended on agricultural activities. The valley is fertile and the topography of the district provides good opportunity for irrigation, natural as well as artificial. Rice accounts for above 90 percent of the total land area under cultivation. Although the average land holding is one of the lowest in India, yield per acre is comparatively high. With the increasing use of fertilisers and the modern methods of cultivation there is a great scope for increasing the overall production.

In food grains, Thoubal is a surplus district producing about 75,000 tonnes of rice in accounting for about 25 per cent of the total rice production in Manipur. The Kakching belt which provides more than 50% of the total rice export of the district may be rightly termed as the 'rice basket of Manipur'. The soil of the district is fertile and with the help of irrigation facilities from the Imphal Barrage and other minor irrigation works, double cropping is widely practiced in the district.

In some areas, even triple cropping is practiced- the first paddy crop starting in late February or early March, second paddy crop in July and early August and the third crop of mustard seeds, pulses etc. in November.

Educational Institutes

As per the Statistical Handbook Manipur 2007, the district has a number of government recognised educational institutions including 299 Pre Primary, Primary, JB, UJB Schools, 94 Middle, Jr. High, Sr. Basic School, 107 High, Higher Secondary Schools, 12 Schools for Professional and other education. The district has 16 Primary Health Centers and Community Health Centers, 58 Dispensaries etc.
Healthcare Facilities

There are 7 veterinary hospitals and 22 dispensaries in the district giving benefits of inoculation to more than 20,000 cattle heads. Significant progress have been made in the district in the direction of production of milk, breeding of better varieties of cattle and poultry, and generation of employment through piggery and poultry development.

Rivers

The Imphal and the Thoubal are the most significant rivers that flow through the district. The Thoubal River originates in the hill ranges of Ukhrul and is an important tributary of the Imphal River. It passes through Yairipok and Thoubal before joining the Imphal at Irong near Mayang Imphal.

The Imphal River rises in the hills of Senapati district and flows south. It forms the northern and western boundaries of Thoubal district. Other rivers in the district are the Wangjing, the Arong and the Sekmai. These rivers originate in the hills of Ukhrul district. The Arong River flows through Khangabok and falls into Kharung Pat. The Wangjing River flows west via Heirok and Wangjing before joining the Loushi Pat.

Lakes

The south-western part of the district is a part of the Loktak Lake region and this area has a number of shallow and rain-fed lakes, the important ones being Kharung, Ikop, Pumlen, Lousi and Ngangou. The Waithou Lake in the northern part of the district is formed by the drainage waters collected between Waithou hill on the west and the villages and paddy fields on the east.

Climate

The district has an equitable and pleasant climate with relatively abundant and widespread rainfall. The rainy season starts in June and continues till September while intermittent rains continue till October. The
winter season lasts from December to February during which light rainfall occurs under the influence of the northeast monsoon. The average minimum temperature during winter is 6°-4°C, sometimes the minimum temperature goes below 0°C. April and May are the summer season when the average maximum temperature is in the range of 32°-35°C and seldom goes beyond 37°C. Occasional thunderstorms occur during these months. The average annual rainfall was 1318.39mm during the period 1983-89.

**Flora and Fauna**

Various types of trees are found all over the district. Commonly found varieties include Kabulia, (Oravila robusta), Khok (Albizzia Spp.), Tera (Salimalia Malabarica), Sileima (Eugenia Pracox), Tairen (Cedrela loona) etc. Bamboos and plantain trees are common everywhere. Various types of fruit-bearing plants including pineapple, pear, peach, jack fruit, banana, mango, lemon, plum, guava, etc. are found in the district.

Deer and jungle fowl are some of the varieties found occasionally along the slope of eastern hills adjoining the district while the lakes support a variety of wild birds such as partridge, snipe, duck, geese, etc. particularly during the winter.

Important livestock found in the district are cattle, buffaloes, goats, horses and ponies, pigs, dogs etc. They are reared for milk and cultivation work. Fowls and ducks are the most important poultry found in the district.

**Mineral Resources**

Some of the mineral resources are brine springs, red clay. These springs are found along the foot hills on the eastern part of the valley. Water from these springs is boiled and salt is extracted by the method of evaporation.

Salt is manufactured in the form of beautiful cakes and they are considered to have a good medicinal property. The salt cakes are used in ceremonial purposes also. Important places where brine springs are found are
Waikhong, Sikhong, Chandrakhong, Ningel etc. The district has a number of places where red clay suitable for pottery is found. These are mainly available on the eastern side of the valley around Waikhong, Nongpok Sekmai, thongjao, Chairel etc. Naturally these areas are associated with pottery of very good types. Some quantities of low grade iron ore is found at Kakching.

3.6 Thoubal Moijing

Physical Structure

Moijing village is situated in the western side of the Thoubal District headquarters. It is bordered by Kiyam Siphai in the north-eastern side, Khekman in the west and Sabaltongba in the east while Ekop lake borders its southern side. Thoubal river flows through the village while the Mayang Imphal-Thoubal Road passes through it. A market place named Meena Bazar is situated on the Thoubal Mayang-Imphal Road. A part of Lilong Sub-Division of Thoubal district, the village is under Thoubal C.D. Block and forms a part of the Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency.

As per the Census 2011, the total population of Thoubal Moijing is 7482, including 3708 males and 3774 females. The total literacy rate of the village is 52.99 percent while the male literacy rate is 62.70 percent and the female literacy rate is 43.45 percent.

Thoubal Moijing can be divided into five localities- Leingoinjin, Awang Leikai, Moijing Wangmataba, Mayai Leikai and Thoubal Mayum. The settlement in the village is a mixture of linear, star and venial patterns with their farmland outlying their dwellings.

The inhabitants of the village are the Meitei Pangals. They speak Manipuri language as their mother tongue but with a slightly different accent form the standard Meitei accent. However, the younger generations speak the language without any marked accentual difference as they usually intermix with other Meiteis.
Religious Activities

Meitei Pangals follow Islam as their religion. Culturally they are influenced by that of the Meiteis and preserve the traditional customs and follow them. There are two types of festivals in the village - the common festivals and the religious festivals. Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Zuha etc. are festivals in Manipur.

Village Resources

Village resources including electricity, water and sanitation facilities are available in the village for meeting the needs of the villagers.

Land: Pata Land System governs the land ownership pattern in the village. The main occupation of most of the villagers is agriculture while allied activities such as cattle rearing, poultry, and fishery comprise various subsidiary occupations. Many villagers are engaged in fishing activities in the neighbouring lakes including Ikop Pat and Kopali while some residents own fish farms in the area.

Water: Thoubal river is the main source of water in the village. Besides having two community ponds including Iroipat, most of the households have a pond. Another source of drinking water is tube well while the lone water supply scheme located on the Moiching hilltop is also another source of safe drinking water in the village.

Flora and Fauna

While the main crop is paddy, vegetables are also grown in large quantity in the homestead lands. The flora of Thoubal Moijing includes mango, jackfruit, bananas, cabbage, potato, tomato, brinjal, lemon and bamboo. The fauna in the village include only domesticated animals like cows, buffalos, goats, geese, fowls, dogs and cats while no wild animal is found here.
Climate

Thoubal Moijing enjoys moderate climatic conditions throughout the year. The cold winter is followed by heavy rainfall and heat in summer days. The rainy season starts from early May and continues up to September. The summer is hot while the best period is winter which starts in early October and continues up to mid-March. The area experiences heavy rainfall during the monsoon causing floods.

Man-made Resources

In rural society some resources have been purposefully created to meet specific needs but are available to serve in various ways.

Transport and communication facilities

The village is also well connected with other parts of the district through link roads and Panchayat roads. Buses plying from Leisangthem to Imphal have stoppage at various places in the village. Besides, there are private vehicles available for hire. Recently auto services from Leisangthem to Imphal have recently been introduced. Local public vans and auto rickshaws are available for hire at Meena Bazar. Villagers of Thoubal Moijing are linked to other parts of the district through various means of communications, namely telephone, postal service, telegraph and others. There is a sub-post office in the village from where the villagers send and receive letters. The villagers also use telegraph and speed post service at Thoubal and Imphal. The village has no telephone exchange but mobile phone towers are installed at various locations in the village providing mobile phone service.

Market

The village market Meena Bazar has many shops which meets the daily needs of the villagers. Besides agricultural products essential commodities are traded in this village market.
Health Facilities

Health and sanitation facilities are not available in the village as the lone Primary Health Sub-Centre in the village is non-functional. There are three pharmacies in the village while the nearest Primary Health Centre is at Thoubal, 5 km east of the village.

Educational Institutes

Besides having one Government High School, two Government Middle Schools and four L.P. Schools, Thoubal Moijing village four English medium private school including the New Light High School, New Model High School, Tender Heart School and Manipur Valley School.

Media

The village has access to various mass media such as DTH services for television broadcasting, radio broadcasting, newspapers, internet etc. Many of traditional media practices of the Pangals and surrounding area are also very much practiced in the village.