Preface

The present work deals with district administration in Manipur since statehood i.e., 1972. This work attempts to describe the administrative complex that goes to make up the district administration, both as to the component parts as well as the administration as an organic, dynamic whole. The concept of district administration existed in India in ancient and medieval times also. Of course, the administrative pattern at any particular point of time was devised keeping in view the needs of those times and its suitability in the then prevailing socio-economic and political system. But the district administrative pattern in India has certain peculiarities which make it district in the field of public administration. The district administration in its present form emerged after extensive experimentation with regard to the pattern of territorial administration during the British period. However, it did not remain immune to the changing needs and expectations of the society. The socio-political set-up in the post independence period has influenced this institution in many ways. Likewise in other parts of India, Manipur too have her own traditional administrative system. After it was merged to the Indian Union, it works on the same line like its other counterparts, undergoing many changes and evolving to the present state.

Many scholars and social scientists have done a number of studies in different aspects of the State of Manipur. Their studies have given many insightful leads in knowing about the state. But no work has been done on district administration hitherto.

In dealing with the district administration of Manipur, emphasis has been laid on the law and order situation of the districts and micro-level planning at the districts.
It has always become a law and order problem infested state due to insurgency situations. Owing to bad law and order situations all developmental tasks took a backstage. Hence, an efficient planning system is all the more called for. The problems of finance, integration and implementation are also discussed at length. The present study also intends to make a re-assessment of the functions of the administrators at various levels of district administration viz. the DC's and SDO's etc. The functions of the DC attracted every one in the district. However, continuous increase in his work load, social, economic and political pressures, had adversely affected his supervision and control over different departments in the district. There is a widespread ignorance about what he actually does in practice. The present work is designed to help in correcting the impression. It's object is to provide an up to date description of what he is, how he keeps pace with new challenges and how he works in liason with general public in redressal of their grievances.

Attempt has been made to judge the effectiveness of the district administration in the light of the performance of some of the development agencies. It has been said that the implementation of the Panchayati Raj in the district introduces self-government and democracy in the districts. The study also attempts to make an attempt to examine the validity of the statement.

The work has been divided into seven chapters. Chapter 1 deals with the historical profile of the districts. Chapter 2, the growth and development of the districts as administrative units have been discussed. Chapter 3 deals with the functional structure of the administrative authorities of the districts. In Chapter 4, it is proposed to study law and order as a central concern in the treatment of district administration. A tentative attempt is made to identify and illustrate some fundamental principles involved in law and order. There is a brief description of the agencies responsible for
law and order; the police, the magistrates, the military and citizens. Some of the present emerging situations that occur from time to time are briefly described, as well as the arrangements to deal with them. Chapter 5 deals with planning at the district level. Though planning at the district level has been emphasised since the beginning of the planning era in the country, but the existing set up has not been able to solve the problems of regional inbalances and regional needs. Therefore, the need to develop a clear concept of district planning based on sound principles of regional planning is not only apparent but it is also an urgent necessity. The problems of finance, integration and implementation are also discussed at length. It may serve the interest of policy-makers or administrators. Chapter 6 deals with the revenue administration. The main focus is on the different sources of state revenue. It tries to depict a clear picture on how land as the main head receded and how it is being substituted by tax-based revenue. Chapter 7 summarises the findings of the study by way of conclusion.

The approach of the study is historico-analytical. The study is also based on the primary source materials such as legislative debates, District Police Office and State Crime Records. It has also used the data available in the Planning Department.

The analytical approach helps in analysing the functioning of the various district administrative authorities. Such an approach also helps in understanding the attitude and behaviour of the various levels of authorities of the district administration. At the same time, an historical time series has been taken for the purpose of this study. Consequently, an historico-analytical approach is adopted in the present study. Further, it is the study of district administration, structural, functional, behavioral approaches are applied for empirical inference.