4.1 Himachal Pradesh: Introduction

Himachal Pradesh, charmingly situated in the lap of the Himalayas has Jammu and Kashmir to its north, Uttranchal in the south east, Haryana in the South and Punjab in the West and Tibet runs along its eastern boundary. Quiet and serene lakes, valley of flowers, stretches of snow never ceasing to glisten or shimmer, forest rich with wild life, rivers of legendary antiquity like Chanderbhaga (Chenab) Ravi, Vipasa (Beas), Shatradrau (Satluj) and Yamuna rivers are some of the features of the State. The figure I shows the map of India indicating the state of Himachal Pradesh.

Himachal Pradesh came into being as Chief Commissioner province of the Indian Union on 15th April, 1948 as a result of merger of 30 erstwhile princely states of Punjab and Shimla hills into
the Indian Union. All these areas, at that time, constituted into four districts, viz, Chamba, Mahasu, Mandi and Sirmour, with an area of 27,169 sq. kms. In 1951, it was made as a part 'C' state of the Indian Union.

On 1st July, 1954, the neighbouring part 'C' state of Bilaspur was integrated with Himachal Pradesh, thereby adding one more district with an area of 1,068 sq. kms.

Himachal Pradesh maintained its status of part 'C' state of the Indian Union till 1956, when the States Reorganization Commission headed by Mr. Justice Fazil Ali and two members i.e. H.N. Kunzru and K.M. Panikar submitted its recommendation to abolish the categorization of states as part 'A', 'B', 'C', etc. and recommended the merger of all part 'C' states either to the adjoining states of higher status or to maintain these independently as Union Territories for a specified period. Hence, Himachal Pradesh was formed as Union Territory till a further decision was taken. Its status as Union Territory continued till the award of fullfledged statehood on 25th January, 1971. In 1960, the border Tehsil of Mahasu district was carved out as a separate administrative unit and district Kinnaur was formed, raising the total number of districts to six.
On 1st November, 1966, the Punjab state was recognized with the formation of Haryana as a separate state and merger of the then Kullu, Kangra, Shimla and some hilly areas of Hoshiarpur district and Dalhousie of Gurdaspur district of Punjab into Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh. With this addition, Himachal Pradesh constituted of ten districts, an area of 55,673 sq. kms. On 1st September, 1972, two more districts, viz, Hamirpur and Una were created by trifurcating of Kangra district and Mahasu and Solan districts were reorganized as Shimla and Solan districts. Since 1st September, 1972 onwards, there had been no change in the administrative structure of Himachal Pradesh except carving out of new sub-tehsils and raising of sub-tehsils to the level of tehsils. Presently, there are 12 districts, 47 sub-divisions, 68 tehsils and 31 sub-tehsils in Himachal Pradesh. The figure 2 shows the map of Himachal Pradesh indicating the twelve districts of the state. The total area of Himachal Pradesh is 55,673 sq.kms.

4.2 Districts of Himachal Pradesh
1. Bilaspur
2. Chamba
3. Hamirpur
4. Kangra
5. Kinnaur
6. Kullu
7. Lahaul Spiti
8. Mandi
9. Shimla
10. Sirmour  
11. Solan  

4.2.1 Bilaspur District

The district Bilaspur lies between 31°12'30" and 31° 35'45' north latitude and between 76° 23'45" and 76° 55'40" east longitude in the outer hills of Himalayas. It is bounded on the north by Mandi and Hamirpur districts, on the west by Hamirpur and Una districts, on its south lies Nalagarh area of Solan district. The figure 3 is the map of District Bilaspur of Himachal Pradesh indicating its border with other districts. It is encircled on the east and north east by Solan and Mandi districts. It lies on the banks of river Satluj river. The entire district is mostly hilly.

Bilaspur remained the princely state till its merger with the Indian dominion. Raja Anand Chand ruled it upto 9th October, 1948 when Bilaspur was made a part ‘C’ state, vide agreement dated 15th August, 1948. On 12th October, 1948, Anand Chand was appointed by the Government of India as the first Chief Commissioner of newly formed part ‘C’ state and continued up to 1st April, 1949. On 2nd April, 1949, he handed over the charge of the Chief Commissioner to Sri Chand Chhabra who continued to
FIGURE 3
DISTRICT BILASPUR
hold charge upto 3rd November 1953, when Major General Himmat Singh the Lieutenant Governor of Himachal Pradesh, took over additional charge of Chief Commissionership of Bilaspur also. On 1st July, 1954, Bilaspur was merged into Himachal Pradesh to form a district. The area of this district is, 1167 sq. kms and population is 2,95,3872

4.2.1.1. Prisons In Bilaspur District

During the year 1910, there was only one jail located at Bilaspur. It had an accommodation of fifty male and eight female prisoners. During the year 1942-43, manufacturing of durries, nawar and cotton bags was started. In 1942-43, the central Jail, Bilaspur sadar was housed in an old building on the road side little away from the town. The Incharge of the jail stayed in a wing of the main building. He had, under him, twelve jail guards, one sweeper, one part time iron smith and one handicraft teacher. With the arrival of notorious dacoits of the British Punjab, a section of military police was also deputed at the jail.

The convicts were kept busy during regular working hours with the P.W.D. or stores departments or in the erstwhile state gardens. A trained handicraft teacher was also employed to teach crafts to the prisoners. But after the merger of Bilaspur state into
Himachal Pradesh in 1954, Jails were modernized and brought at par with the jails of adjoining state of Punjab. The annual expenditure on jails in Himachal Pradesh which stood at Rs. 11,812 in 1954-55 rose to Rs. 1,00,536 in 1972-73. (Old figure)

The concept of this jail in Bilaspur district took a new turn on 24th October, 1960 when an Open Air Jail was also established in Bilaspur. This jail was firstly started in an old jail building but then shifted to existing jail building which was constructed in the year 1961. To start with, forty convicts selected from various jails all over Himachal pradesh were brought to this novel jail and placed under the supervision of Superintendent, specially trained in Uttar Pradesh, to execute this new scheme. The jail is administered according to the procedure laid down in the Punjab Jails Manual which stands applied to Himachal Pradesh and as such to the Bilaspur district also.

Persons who are sentenced by the courts are not directly sent to this Open Air Jail. These convicts are firstly lodged in the sub jail/District jail of the same district. Then after wards they are sent to Model Central Jail Nahan.
4.2.1.1 Eligibility For Open Air Jail, Bilaspur

This Open Air Jail has not come into existence just for the purpose of keeping the inmates only. But it has got very deep rooted reformation policy. In this jail prisoners can also earn money during the day time by going out of the boundary of the jail.

Eligibility conditions are:

1. The inmates who are fully reformed and assured their hands off the crime, who are loyal and faithful to the jail authorities, never disobeyed and always remained disciplined are eligible for the Open Air Jail.

2. In addition to the above basic criteria, the inmates should have stayed in the closed prison for at least \( \frac{1}{3} \)rd of his total sentence and at least 8 years in the case of lifers.

3. This Open Air Jail is only for the physically fit inmates i.e. for the persons who can work hard manually and earn money, so that they can look after their families also.

4. The inmates who are sentenced under the charge of rape and dacoity are not eligible for this prison. The foreigners and women are also not eligible for Open Air Jail.

5. However, the final authority remains with the Additional Director General of Police, for selection in Open Air Jail scheme who will select on basis of merit or recommendations from the concerned district jails, where the inmates were lodged initially.

So the prisoners received in this jail are sent outside the jail for work. They earn money according to their skills and money earned by them is credited in their individual accounts. Besides, this incentive of earning wages they also earn remission in sentence at the rate of one day for their one day stay in jail which
means that their selection to this jail results in reduction of half of their sentence.

The prisoners are provided with healthy and congenial atmosphere. Amenities such as newspaper, magazines, books, T.V. and other recreational facilities are also provided.

4.2.1.2. Library Services to Prisoners in Bilaspur District

The library services to the prisoners in Bilaspur district are provided by small prison library as well as local District Public Library. Prison library comprises of a small Library cum Reading Room with approx. 576 books. The newspapers which are subscribed for the use of prisoners are 'Punjab Kesari'; 'The Tribune' and 'Divya Himachal'. The books available in the prison library are based on mainly religion, philosophy, geography and culture of Himachal Pradesh and in addition to that some books on fiction, health and vocational trades are also existing in the prison library. The library is utilised by the prisoners of both Open Air Jail and Sub Jail. The local District Public Library is also providing books to the prisoner if there is a demand received by them from the jail authorities.
4.2.2.1 Chamba District

For centuries, Chamba was princely state of a Raja, before it became a district of Himachal Pradesh. Chamba is remarkable among hill districts for its historical background, archaeological remains and natural features. The district derives its name from the principal town, which was in the days of the Rajas, the seat of the durbar, and is now, the headquarters of the district administration.

The existence of Chamba as a princely state continued for numerous generation before the merger of the Indian states in the Union of the Republic of India. It was on 15th April, 1948 that the erstwhile Chamba state got merged into Himachal Pradesh.

The district touches the boundaries with Jammu and Kashmir on the north-west and west, Ladakh area of J&K and Lahul and Bara Bangahal on the north-east and east, Kangra on the South-east and Gurdaspur district of Punjab on the south. The figure 4 shows the map of district Chamba indicating its border with other district of the state. The territory is wholly mountainous with altitudes varying from about 2000 feet to 21,000 feet above the sea level. The Chamba district is situated between north latitude 32°10’ and 33°13’ and east longitude 75°45’ and 77°33’.
FIGURE 4
DISTRICT CHAMBA
The total area of the district is around 6,528 sq. kms. The populations of the district was 3,93,286 during 1991 census.

4.2.2.1 Prison in Chamba District

When Chamba was a princely state, there was only one jail in the whole area, situated in the capital with an accommodation for one hundred and twenty prisoners. All prisoners were made to work if they were pronounced medically fit. The prisoners worked at road making and similar other occupations. They were employed in the gardens of the king and in the jail garden. The produce of the jail garden was sold after the daily wants of the prisoners were satisfied. No other jail industry was carried on. There was no special management for juvenile offenders.

After the formation of Himachal Pradesh. There was only one prison known as District Jail in whole of the district. The jail is situated in the Chamba town, on the right bank of the river Ravi near the Sita bridge. After merger with Himachal Pradesh, two barracks were converted into an industrial section reducing the general accommodation to suffice for sixty five persons only. The accommodation for male prisoners was adequate and satisfactory at that time. There were also two small rooms and a small courtyard exclusively meant for the women prisoners. The entire
administration of the jail is on the lines and pattern provided in the Punjab Jail Manual, which has been applied to Himachal Pradesh.

There are adequate arrangement for the welfare and recreation of the prisoners. The prisoners are employed in the jail garden, construction work in jail, in weaving cloth, durries etc, with due regard for individual preference.

4.2.2.2. Library Services to Prisoners in Chamba District

Books related to religion, meditation yoga, health, fiction are provided to prisoners on demand. There is no library as such in the prison. But a small room with almirahs is used as "Library cum Reading Room". Two periodicals in Hindi and two newspapers one each in Hindi and English languages are subscribed for the prisoners. Books are issued on loan to prisoners when ever they want. There is no restriction on the time period in which they have to return the books. For the prisoners who want to study further to improve their educational qualification, the jail officials contact the higher authorities for the special grant for books for them. Prisoners who are keen readers can manage books and periodical from outside the jail also. The local District Public Library also provide books to the prisoners if the same are demanded by the prison authorities.
4.2.3 Hamirpur District

Hamirpur district is situated between 76° 18’ to 76° 44’ east Longitude and 31° 52’ 30” north latitudes. The tract is wholly covered by the Shivalik ranges. The elevation varies from 400 meters to 1100 metres having the configuration ranging from the almost flat lands that border the portion of river beas to the lofty heights of cliffs and slopes of hill ranges. There are three principal ranges which run in a south easterly direction. Figure 5 shows the map of the district Hamirpur. The Area of Hamirpur district is 1,118 sq. kms. and population of the district was 3,69,128 according to 1991.

Historically, Hamirpur is closely associated with the katoch dynasty which ruled the area between the Ravi and Satluj rivers in the olden days. Hamirpur remained a part of Punjab province until the 1st November, 1966, when these areas were merged in Himachal Pradesh, upon the reorganisation of the Punjab. As a result of rearrangement of the districts in the merged areas on 1st September, 1972, Hamirpur was created as a separate district.
FIGURE 5
DISTRICT HAMIRPUR

HAMIRPUR

KANGRA DISTRICT
BANDI DISTRICT
Gilaspur

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4.2.3.1 Prison in Hamirpur District

Hamirpur has a Sub Jail at present which is located on the Hamirpur Sujanpur Tira highway in front of mini secretariat. It consists of two barracks which were constructed as a judicial lock up in 1962. It was upgraded to the level of Sub Jail in 1972 when Hamirpur was made full fledged district. However, no additional accommodation was provided except residential quarters for the Assistant Jail Superintendent in 1998. There is a provision for keeping under trials as well as convict prisoners in the jail. The inmates have been provided with various facilities like playing cards, carrom board, a television set etc.

The Himachal Pradesh Government has decided to have model district jail complex here which is likely to come up by the year 2004. The land measuring 60 kanals has been taken near the police lines on Hamirpur Shimla highway for the construction of proposed jail.

4.2.3.2 Library Services to Prisoners in Hamirpur District

There is no separate prison library but a few almirahs containing books have been kept in one of the rooms in the prison. There are about one hundred and seventy three book on various subjects like philosophy, freedom movement, religion., history and
culture of Himachal Pradesh. The prison authorities are subscribing three newspapers for the prisoners. The prisoners are issued books on demand only from the existing stock. There is no limitation on the time period during which they have to return the books. Newspaper are read by almost all the prisoners and are taken back by the prison authorities from the prisoners in the evening only.

4.2.4 Kangra District

Kangra district lies between 31°40'–32°25' east longitudes and 70°35'–77°51' north latitudes and is bounded on the south west by Una district, on the north-west by district Gurdaspur of Punjab, on the North by Lahul-Spiti and Chamba districts, on the east by Kullu and Mandi districts, while on the south it touches Hamirpur district. The figure 6 shows the Kangra district and its neighboring states and districts of Himachal Pradesh. The elevation generally varies from 500 metres to 5,500 metres from the sea level. The area of the district is 5,739 sq. kms. and population, according to 1991 census, was 11,74,072. Population wise, kangra is the biggest district in Himachal Pradesh.

The present district of Kangra came into existence on 1st September, 1972 consequent upon the reorganization of districts
Figure 6
District Kangra
by the Government of Himachal Pradesh. It was the largest district of the composite Punjab in terms of area till it was transferred to Himachal Pradesh on 1st November, 1966.

Kangra district derived its name from Kangra town which was called Nagarkot in the ancient times. Originally Kangra was a part of the ancient Trigart. The word Trigart was used for the territory drained by three rivers; the Satluj, the Beas and the Ravi

4.2.4.1 Prison in Kangra District

Prison of district Kangra is situated at the Dharamshala, near the Police Lines. This jail was built in 1913 and was formally inaugurated in the year 1918. It is an old building with long history which has silently witnessed freedom struggle in the state. Many great freedom fighters have stayed in this jail: Lala Lajpat Rai remained there from 21st April, 1922 to 9th January, 1923, Pancham Chand Katoch disciple of Lala Lajpat Rai, remained there from 10th March, 1922 to 9th March, 1923 and Maulvi Habibur Rehman from 23rd June, 1922 to 3rd September, 1922. During Quit India Movement, important freedom fighters Mangat Ram Khanna, comrade Ram Chandra, Hem Raj Sud, Paras Ram, Sarala Mittar, Pandit Amar Nath and Sardar Singh Keveshar etc. also remained in this jail.
During emergency, many political leaders like Shanta Kumar (Ex-Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, presently Food and Supply Minister); Kanwar Durga Chand, Dault Ram Sankhian, Sant Ram etc also spent many months in this jail.

So, this prison has very old history of association with many famous freedom fighters and political leaders.

4.2.4.2. Library Services to the Prisoners in Kangra District

There is one 'Library Cum Reading room' in this jail. There are around 620 books on varied subjects. The prisoners of all categories use the books in the library. An educated prisoner working as the incharge of the library who issues the books to the prisoners. Three news papers are also being subscribed by the prison authorities for the use of prisoners. The local District Public Library also provide library service to the prisoners whenever there is any demand from the prison authorities. The prisoners get the books issued and take to their barracks if they so desire.

4.2.5. Kinnaur District

Kinnaur, earlier named as Chini tehsil of Mahasu district, came into being as an independent district with effect from May 1, 1960. It is one of the border districts, (internationally) of the country and it has certain peculiarities of language, history and
natural phenomena. The Kinnaur district commands certain uniqueness among the districts of Himachal Pradesh.

Earlier Kinnaur was called by different nomenclatures such as 'Kanawar', 'Kunawar' and 'Koonawar'. Kinnaur is located in the north eastern part of Himachal Pradesh lying on the both sides of the river Satluj in higher reaches the district is situated between 77°45' and 79°00'35" east longitude and between 31°55'50" and 32°05'15" north latitudes.

Kinnaur shares its eastern boundary with Tibet. The Zanskar mountains form the international frontier between Kinnaur and Tibet. The international border starts at a point 'Parechhu' and passes through Shipkila, the Rainso pass, the Shimdang Pass and the Gumrang Pass and reaches a point flanking Chor Gad Valley in the east on the south and south eastern sides, it has Uttar Kashi district of Uttranchal, on western side lies the Shimla district and on the west is situated Lahul and Spiti,Kullu District also touches it from the west. Three paralled ranges ie. (i) Zanskar mountains in the east (ii) the Great Himalayas which stretches from the north western corner of the district to its south eastern extreme and (iii) the crest of the Dhauladhar ranges form the southern boundary of the district. The total area of the district is 6,401 sq. kms. and the
Figure 7
District Kinnaur
population (according to 1991 census) was 71,270. The figure 7 shows the map of Kinnaur.

4.2.5.1 Prison in Kinnaur District

In Kinnaur, punishments devised for different crimes and offences, over the centuries, are unique and peculiar. It is a mixture of modern laws and traditional 'biradari' judgements. Deity's or Devta's decision is taken as final decision. No one could defy devata's judgement in the past. Earlier devta had been remanding people to jail. In Rohru, there is a place where 'Jubal Naryan' used to imprison criminals for criminal acts and even death sentence was awarded. One has to render izzat money as fine either to the aggrieved party or to the deity or the panchayat.

During the Princely regime there were two jails, on at Rampur and the other at kamru, a village in Kinnaur. But after independence and before the formation of districts, the culprits were either kept at judicial lock up or sent to Kasumpti judicial lock up and the convicts sentenced to long imprisonment's by the courts were sent to jail at Solan or at Central Jail, Nahan.

On May, 1963 Kalpa Jail in Kinnaur was declared as Sub-Jail but due to insufficient accommodation and lack of finances, this sub-jail was closed down. At that time, arrangement for
housing women prisoners and vocational and educational facilities were non existent. So, the jail was closed down till the proper sub-jail building of desired standards and design is constructed. Now, during this financial year (2000-2001) it has been proposed by the jail authorities to start functioning of this sub-jail

4.2.5.2. Library services to Prisoners in Kinnaur District

Since these is no functional building of the sub-jail in this district, so the library services to prisoners in Kinnaur are also not existent.

4.2.6 Kullu District

Kullu district is located between 31°05'00" north latitude and 77°06'4" east longitude. On the north and north east it is bounded by Lahul-Spiti and Kangra districts, on the east and south-east by Kinnaur and Shimla districts. The Figure 8 indicates the map of Kullu showing its bordering districts. Kullu was once a big state, next in importance only to Kashmir and Kangra. After the British occupation of the Punjab Hills in 1846, it formed a part of the British territory. The district Kullu forms a transitional zone between the lesser and the greater Himalayas and presents a typical rugged mountainous terrain with moderate to high mountains. The altitude varies from 1,300 metres to over 6,000
Figure 8
District Kullu
meters from the sea level. The area of Kullu district is 5,503 sq.
kms. and population (according to 1991 census) was 3,02,432.

4.2.6.1 Prison in Kullu District

On 1st November, 1966, with the reorganization of Punjab, Kullu district came into being. There is a Sub-Jail situated in Kullu district. It is an old building with an accommodation consisting of three barracks. Two barracks are meant for the male prisoners and one for the female prisoners.

4.2.6.2 Library service for Prisoners in Kullu District

The prison has a small room called as library with a few almirahs and without any seating arrangement. The books are about three hundred twenty five in number which are kept unsystematically in the almirahs. The books are available on the subject like religion, fiction, law, geography, culture and famous personalities and biographies of the national leaders. Two newspapers are being subscribed exclusively for the use of the prisoners. The local District Public Library provide library service to the prisoners on demand. The books are issued by the public library in the name of prison authorities and then supplied to the prisoners for use.
4.2.7 Lahul & Spiti District

Lahul & Spiti became a district of Himachal Pradesh in 1960 and is one of the frontier districts of India. This district, in western Himalayas, is situated between 31°44'57" and 32°59'57" north latitude and between 76°46'29" and 78°41'34" east longitudes, it is separated in the north from Jammu & Kashmir, Tibet in the east and Kullu and Chamba in the south west and west respectively. Figure 9 indicates the map of Lahul and Spiti showing its boarders with other countries, and districts of Himachal Pradesh. The sole access to Lahaul Spiti lies over the 3,978 meters high Rohtang Pass. The valleys of Lahaul and Spiti have a tenuous link over the Kunzam pass (4,520 meters). The two twin valleys, Lahaul and Spiti in the north-eastern corner of Himachal Pradesh is a region of nature at its wildest forms which has lent it much enchantment. Dry and very cold, it is surrounded by high mountains on all sides, the Great Himalays to the north and the Pir Panjal to the South.

The average elevation of peaks in Lahaul region is between 5,480 metres to 6,400 metres. The lowest point is 2,740 metres. The average elevation of the Spiti terrain is about 4,570 metres and that of mountain ranges is over 5,485 metres. The lowest point is 3,350 metres above the sea level. Seismologically, Lahaul and Spiti
FIGURE 9
DISTRICT LAHAUL SPITI
lie in the Alpine-Himalayan mountain system which is a major earthquake belt of the earth. The district Headquarter of Lahul Spiti is Keylong. Area of the Lahul Spiti is 13,835 sq.kms. and population of the area is 31,294 (according to 1991 census), so density is lowest in Himachal Pradesh.

Lahul Spiti remain cut off by road from rest of the world for a greater part of the year. During the months of June to October, the Rohtang Pass opens and it is only this time that one can cross the Kanzum Pass to enter Spiti. The other route involves a perilous trek up the Satluj and Spiti river valleys from the Kinnaur side.

Lahul Spiti is one of the most remote and backward regions of our country. It has not yet developed fully. Therefore people of the region have more faith in their Gods and Deities.

4.2.7.1 Prison in Lahaul and Spiti

Uptil now, there is no prison in the Lahaul & Spiti district. Only police lock ups are there, thereafter the prisoners are shifted to Kullu jail.

4.2.7.2 Library Services to the Prisoners in Lahaul and Spiti District

Since there is not any kind of jail in the district of Lahul and Spiti, so these are no library facilities to the prisoners in the district.
4.2.8. Mandi District

Mandi District is situated between 31°-13'-50" and 30°-04°-30" north latitude and 76°-37'-20" and 77°-23'-15" east longitude. It is bounded by Kangra on the North-West, Hamirpur and Bilaspur in the west, Solan district in the South, Shimla district on the south-west and Kullu district in the east. The Figure 10 indicates the map of Mandi district showing its border with other districts of Himachal Pradesh. The district is entirely hill except area in Sundernagar and Jogindernagar tehsils, which are fertile valleys. The area of the district is 3,950 Sq. Kms. and the population (according to 1991 census) was 7,76,372".

The present district of Mandi was formed with the merger of two princely states of Mandi and Suket, on 15th April, 1948, when Himachal Pradesh came into existence.

4.2.8.1 Prisons in Mandi District

District of Mandi has two prisons in its jurisdiction, i.e. (i) Sub-Jail, Mandi and (ii) Borstal Jail, Mandi. Both the jails are functioning from the same jail building which has a capacity to accommodate 50 to 60 prisoners. The male prisoner between the age of 16 to 21 years and female between 18 to 21 years are kept in Borstal Jail. The inmates are kept engaged with labour activities.
Figure 10
District Mandi
and prison industries. The prisons in Mandi are headed by an officer of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Jail.

4.2.8.2. Library Services to the Prisoners in Mandi District

There is one Library-cum-Reading Room' situated in the jail which is used by the prisoners of both Sub Jail and Borstal Jail. There are two posts of teachers i.e. one trained graduate teachers (T.G.T.) and other junior basic training (JBT) teachers for inmates of Borstal Jail. The books are available on different subjects including religion, geography, history and fiction. Some academic text books are also available. Two newspapers and one periodical are also being subscribed.

4.2.9. Shimla District

Shimla district lies between the longitude 77°-0" and 78°-19" east and Latitudes 30°-45" and 31°-44" north. It is bordered by Mandi and Kullu in the north, Kinnaur in the east, the state of Uttranchal in the South, Sirmour district in the south and by Solan district in the west. The Figure 11 shows the map of Shimla district indicating its bordering district. The elevation of the district ranges from 1300 to 6,000 metres. Area of the Shimla district is 5,131 sq. kms. and population (according to 1991 census) was 6,17,404.
The topography of the district is rugged and tough. The prevalence of interlocking spurs, narrow and steep sided valleys with high peaks and dense forests of kail and deodar in the whole district add to the youthfulness of its topography. Due to topographical variations, the district has varying climates according to the elevation of the area.

Shimla is the capital town of Himachal Pradesh. It was formerly the summer capital of the Government of India. Shimla district derives its name from Shimla town which was once a small village inhabited by the charcoal manufactures. According to one version, Shimla takes its name from “Shamla”, meaning a blue female, another name for “Goddess Kali”. In the past at a site on the Jakhu hills, there was a small temple dedicated to this Goddess. Later on, during the British period, the image of Goddess was removed to the present site of Kali Bari. The climatic conditions prevailing here attracted the attention of the Britishers and they gradually developed this village as a large town. It became the formal seat of the summer capital of the Government of India in 1864, when lord Lawrence came to the town along with the members of the Supreme Council and all the public offices. The Punjab Government was shifted to Shimla in 1871. But from 1876
Figure II
District Shimla
onward, it remained its summer capital till 1947 and also after the partition of Punjab. It served as the Headquarters of Punjab Government till its offices moved to Chandigarh. Shimla district, in its present form came into existence from 1st September, 1972 on the reorganisation of the districts of the state.

4.2.9.1 Prisons in Shimla District

In Shimla District, there are two prisons. i.e. (i) Model Central Jail, Kanda and (ii) Sub-Jail Kaithu. The model Central Jail is the highest jail in Asia and is located at a distance of about 20 kms. from Shimla city. This jail is recently built with the capacity to accommodate of 550 prisoners and is provided with all the modern facilities which the prisoners are entitled. Similarly Sub-Jail Kaithu is an old jail and is situated within the city. It has the capacity to accommodate about 50 prisoners.

4.2.9.2. Library Services to Prisoners in Shimla District

Library in the Model Central Jail Kanda is proposed to be built as a Model Library for the prisoners. There is a proposal to establish this library with adequate number of useful books, periodicals and newspapers. The library will have proper seating arrangement for the prisoners. Presently there are about 657 books which are kept in three almirahs in a room which is being used as a Library.
cum Reading Room'. Three newspaper including one in English Language are being subscribed for the prisoners. The books provided are on various subjects including religion history, culture and fiction etc.

The Sub-Jail at Kaithu in Shimla has also one room in the name of library which is having two almirahs containing about hundred eighty books on subjects like fiction, religion, geography, history, culture etc. Three newspapers are subscribed in the jail for the use of prisoners.

4.2.10 Sirmour District

Sirmour district lies in the out Himalayans ranges, commonly called as Shivaliks between 77°01'-12" and 77°49'-40" east longitude and 33°22'-30" and 31°01'-20" north longitude and (except of the 'Dun Valley' which is called as 'Kiarda-dun'), the district is predominantly mountainous. The district is bound by Shimla district in the North, the river Tons and Yamuna in the east, district Panchkula of Haryana in the South and west and norht-west by Solan district. The Figure 12 shows the map of Sirmour district and its bordering district and states. Area of Sirmour district is 2,825 sq. kms. and population (according to 1991 census) was 3,79,695.
Figure 12
District Sirmour
Like all the other states of Himachal Pradesh, Sirmour was, for centuries, a princely state. After independence, the erstwhile Sirmour state was reconstituted administratively into a separate district of Himachal Pradesh by the Government of India, in the year 1948.

There are several theories regarding the origin of the name of Sirmour though none of the interpretations can be said to be beyond doubt. One view being that state derived its name as Sirmour because of the senior position held amongst the princely states.

4.2.11. Prison in Sirmour District

A jail was established in 1904 in the charge of Superintendent, under whom was a Jailor, an Assistant Jailor, a Hospital Assistant, a Head Warder, a Drill Instructor and fifteen warders. The department was managed on the lines of the “Punjab Jail Manual” and the “Indian Prisoners and Prison Act”. The jail could accommodate are Hundred male and female inmates. In 1903-04 one hundred and forty seven males and seven females were imprisoned in all and the daily average prison population was over fifty six. By 1946-47, the Chief Medical Officer of the state came to hold the charge of Superintendent of Jail. Then after
merger the jail management was again placed under the Superintendent. Since 1st April, 1962 the District Jail at Nahan has been declared as Central Jail and it is called as Model Central Jail Nahan.

During the princely regime, the jail industry employing the prisoners consisted of the manufacturing of carpets, durries, jute matting, bamboo baskets and cotton cloths. There was also a printing press worked manually to undertake the printing of forms, registers etc. The supply of stationary was also arranged through the press. An element of welfare of prisoners had been introduced during the princely regime. On 1934, among other reforms introduced in the jail, there was encouragement of literacy among the prisoners. Education classes were opened in the jail and some of the literate prisoners were prompted to give lessons to the illiterate ones. The scheme had a very good effect on the prisoners and almost all of them learnt to read and write. After the merger with India, the welfare activities further increased. A part time male teacher was appointed. Hindi newspapers and weekly Hindi journals were provided to literate prisoners.

Presently the Model Central Jail, Sirmour at Nahan is headed by superintendent of Jail. Who is assisted in his work by a Deputy
superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and warders. This jail is the second largest jail in the Himachal Pradesh after Model Central Jail in Shimla district. The prisoners are received from all over the state on their conviction.

4.2.10.2. Library Services to the Prisoners in Sirmour District

Presently, a library exists in the jail premises. Books are provided to the prisoners. A convict who had a two month Diploma in Library Science is made the incharge of the library, who looks after the books and provides books and newspapers to the prisoners. There are about 770 books on different subjects like history culture, law, geography, religion, fiction and philosophy. The prisoners may either sit in the library or take the books to the barracks for reading.

The District Public Library also provides books to the prisoners. The jail authorities approach the public library with the specific demand of the prisoners and the books are supplied to them through the channel of jail officials.

4.2.11 Solan District

Solan district is located between the longitudes 76.42° and 77.20° and latitude 30.05° and 31.15° North. The district is bound by Shimla district in the north and by Ropar district of Punjab in
east and Panchkula district in the west. Mandi district touches the boundary of Solan district in the north-east. The figure 13 shows the map of Solan district indicating its border with other states and districts of H.P. The elevation of the district ranges between 300 to 3,000 metres above sea level. The terrain of the district is mostly mountainous. The area of the district is 1,936 sq. kms. and the total population (according to 1991 census) was 3,82,286.

The district in its present form comprises of the erstwhile princely states and hilly areas of composite Punjab state which were merged in Himachal Pradesh on 1st November, 1966, on the reorganisation of the composite Punjab on the linguistic basis. The reorganization of the districts of the state was carried out in September, 1972 and Solan district sprang up. Solan district derives its name from Solan town which come into existence after the construction of the cantonment at the place around the last quarter of the 19th century.

4.2.11.1 Prisons in Solan District

This district has one Sub-Jail which is located in the Solan town. There was problem of accommodation in the old jail building. But in the year 2001, the new sub-jail building has come up near the police lines complex in Solan. It has the capacity to
FIGURE 13
DISTRICT SOLAN
accommodate about hundred prisoners and is headed by the officer of the rank of Assistant superintendent of Jail.

4.2.11.2 Library Services to the Prisoners in Solan District

There is no prison library in this jail but one of rooms has been kept exclusively for keeping books for the use of prisoners. The prisoners are issued books on many subjects like, history, geography and fiction etc. They are permitted to take the books to the barracks. There are around two hundred book in the library and in addition to that two newspapers are being subscribed for reading by the prisoners. The books can also be provided through local Centre State Library if these are not available in the stock of prison and the same are demanded by the prisoners.

4.2.12 Una District

Una district is in the South Western part of Himachal Pradesh. It is bounded by Kangra, Hamirpur and Bilaspur Districts of Himachal Pradesh in the north, east & south, and by Hoshiarpur district of Punjab in the west. The Figure 14 Shows the map of Una district indicating its bordering district. It lies within North latitude 31° 21 and 31°50' and East longitudes 71°55 and 76° 28'. Una district is in Himalayan Foot hills zone bound by Plains of Punjab in the west and Solahan Singhi Dhan in the east. In the western
part also there is hill range whose maximum height is about 600 metres. The altitude varies from mere 350 metres to over 1,200 metres. Una is bound by the river Beas on the north and the river Satluj in the east. The Swan river, which is basically seasonal, flows right across the Jaswan Valley towards south until it is submerged in the Satluj near Anandpur.

The present Una district was formerly a part of eastwhile Kangra state. Bulk of the present Una district was ruled by the Katoch family of Kangra. The present district of Una, until 1966, was one of the Tehsils of the Hoshirpur district in Punjab. Consequently upon reorganization of Punjab, all the hill areas including Una Tehsil which is east of outer shivaliks, was transferred to Himachal Pradesh in 1966. From 1966 to 1972, it was part of Kangra district. In 1972, the Himachal Pradesh Government reorganised the Kangra district into three districts, then Una came into existence. Area of Una district is 1540 sq. kms. and population (according to 1991 census) was 3,78,269.

4.2.12.1 Prison in Una District

Una district has two types of prisons situated in Una town, namely: (i) Sub Jail, and (ii) Juvenile Jail. Sub Jail, Una is a very old prison located in the centre of town in a small building. An
as well as under trials are lodged in this prison. Juvenile Jail, Una is also situated in middle of town. The premises have been taken on rent. Juvenile Jail works under the department of welfare. The under trial as well as convict children are kept in this jail.

4.2.12.2 Library Service to Prisoners in Una District

There is one room inside the Sub-Jail, where few almirahs containing books have been kept. The prisoners are allowed to go there, select the books and take the same to their barracks. There is no time limit for returning the books. Three newspapers, one each in English, Hindi and Punjabi are subscribed in the library, which are provided to the prisoners.

In Juvenile Jail, boys up to the age of 16 years and girls up to the age of 18 years are lodged. There is one post each of JBT teacher and Craft Teacher at present. Basic education is being provided to the children. Library is maintained in one of the rooms of the Juvenile jail. The JBT teacher is the in charge of the library. There are text books as well as general books on crafts and moral values, which are being provided to the children. Newspapers are also subscribed in the library for use by the inmates of the jail.
4.2.13 Overview of Prisons in Himachal Pradesh

The Himachal Pradesh attained the status of statehood on 25th January 1971 which consisted of ten districts having area of 55,673 sq. kms. On 1st September 1972 two more districts ie Hamirpur and Una were created by trifurcating of Kangra district. Mahsu and Solan districts were reorganised as Shimla and Solan district. Presently there are twelve districts, 47 sub divisions 68 Tehsils and 31 sub tehsils in Himachal Pradesh. Bilaspur was merged with Himachal Pradesh on 1st July 1954 from a princely state and formed one of the district of Himachal Pradesh. Since the year 1910 there was only one jail located at Bilaspur. The concept of this jail in Bilaspur took a new turn on 24th Oct, 1960 when an Open Air Jail was also established in Bilaspur. Initially about forty convicts from various jails all over the Himachal Pradesh were placed in this jail to execute this new scheme.

In Chamba district, there is only one prison known as District Jail which is situated in the Chamba town on the right bank of the river Ravi. There are adequate arrangements for the welfare and recreation of the prisoners. The prisoners are employed in the prison industries like weaving clothes and shawls etc. Hamirpur Sub Jail is located in the front of mini secretariat in middle of the town. Himachal Pradesh Government has decided to have Model
District Jail complex here which is likely to come up by the year 2004. Kangra has a District Jail which is situated at Dharmashala near the police lines. It is an old building with long history which has silently witnessed freedom struggle in the state. Many great freedom fighters like Lala Lajpat Rai remained in this jail during freedom movement.

The districts of Kinnaur and Lahul & Spiti district have no prisons. The prisoners of Lahul & Spiti areas are sent to Kullu sub Jail. Similarly prisoners belonging to Kinnaur district are taken to Shimla Sub Jail and Model Central Jail, Kanda. There is a Sub Jail situated in Kullu district in an old building with accommodation consisting of three barracks including one for females. The district of Mandi has two prisons in its jurisdiction namely Sub Jail Mandi and Borstal Jail Mandi. Both the Jails are functioning from the same building. The male prisoners between the age of 16 to 21 years and female prisoners between the age of 18 years to 21 years are lodged in the Borstal Jail. The prisoners are kept engaged in the labour activities and prison industries.

In Shimla district there are two prisons namely Model Central Jail, Kanda and the Sub Jail at Kaithu. The Central Jail, Kanda is the highest jail in Asia and the largest jail in the state of Himachal
Pradesh. Sub Jail Kaithu is an old jail which is situated within the city. Sirmour district has Model Central Jail which is the second largest jail in the state. It is headed by Jail Superintendent. The prisoners are kept engaged in number of small scale industrial activities like manufacturing of carpets, durries, quilts, jute matting, cotton cloth and electric heaters etc. The old jail building of Solan district has now been replaced by a new sub jail building on Kalka Shimla national highway near police lines, Solan. This Sub Jail is headed by an official of the rank of Assistant Superintendent. The district of Una has two types of prisons in its jurisdiction namely sub jail, Una and Juvenile Jail. The juvenile jail functions under the department of welfare and is headed by an official designated.

4.2.14 An Overview of Library Services to the Prisoners in Himachal Pradesh.

The library services to the prisoners in Himachal Pradesh have not been given due importance. The libraries in most of the prisoners in the state existing in the form of one or two room which has been earmarked for keeping the books for use of the prisoners. There are generally few almirahs containing books mostly on the subjects like religion, history,
There is no seating facility in the libraries and the prisoners if interested can sit on the floor on the mats and read the books. The newspapers mostly in Hindi are also being provided to the prisoners. There are provision trained teachers in Juvenile and Borstal Jail. The prisoners generally prefer to read the subjects like religion, history and newspapers also. Those prisoners who are interested in pursuing their studies and keen to improve their educational qualifications are given the academic books on demand. No separate finances are allotted to the jails for providing library facilities to the prisoners. The prisoners if interested can also avail themselves of the facilities being provided by the public libraries which exist in each district of Himachal Pradesh. All kinds of books including those on academic subjects are available in these libraries. The prisoners through the jail authorities, can contact the Librarian of District Public Library for issue of any book on any subject of his interest. The facility of colour television sets is also available to the prisoners in Himachal Pradesh.