

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1. District Profile

The district of Kakching came into existence on the 8th December 2016 when the State Government announced the formation of 7 new district through a notification of the Government of Manipur, (Secretariat: Revenue Department Order No. 16/20/2016-R dated 8th December 2016), (Manipur Extraordinary Gazette No. 408 of 9.12.2016). It is situated in the southeastern part of Manipur. It is bounded by Thoubal and Imphal West districts on the north, Tengnoupal and Chandel districts on the east, Bishnupur districts on the west and Chandel district on the south. Its average elevation is not very much different from the rest of the Manipur Valley, which is about 790 metres on an average above the mean sea level. Although the district is a part of the valley, the area of the district is not entirely plain. Many rivers flow through the district and many lakes dot its surface, some of which are closely inter-twined with many folk tales and stories.

4(four) Assembly Constituencies namely Hiyanglam Assembly Constituency, Wabgai Assembly Constituency, Sugnu Assembly Constituency and Kakching Assembly Constituency fall under the District. Kakching district comprises of two sub-divisions namely Kakching and Waikhong. It has 3 Municipal Councils namely, Kakching, Sugnu and Kakching Khunou. The district has two community development blocks one each at Kakching and Waikhong sub-division.

1.2. Administrative Setup

The District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner (Collector) is the head of the district. He is assisted in this work by other officers and staff as are appointed from time to time. Maintenance of law and order, revenue administration, economic development of the region are the basic duties of the District administration. The district is divided into 2 major units (Sub-divisions). Each unit is in the charge of a Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) who is concurrently a Sub-Divisional Magistrate. The district has smaller administrative circles under charge of Sub-Deputy collectors. The District has five such circles. Two Community Development Blocks function in the district having their headquarters respectively at Kakching and Langmeidong. Other district heads such as Superintendent of Police, District Officer (Horticulture & Soil Conservation), Chief Medical Officer, Zonal Education Officer, etc. also have their Offices located at District Headquarter Kakching.

The district is one of the six valley districts of Manipur and is situated in the Central region of the State. Consequent upon enactment of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 the Manipur Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 was enacted which became effective from 24th April, 1994. This act was subsequently amended in 1996. The act extends to Kakching district as well. Under the act two tier Panchayat system has been established namely, Gram Panchayat and Zilla Parishad. Poverty alleviation and rural development programmes come under Panchayat.

1.3. Administrative Division

Sl. No.	Items	2017	2018	2019	2020
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Sub-Divisions	2	2	2	2
2	Community Development Blocks	2	2	2	2
3	Zilla Parishad	-	1	1	1
4	Zilla Parishad Constituencies	-	6	6	6
	SDC Circles	4	4	4	4
5	Revenue Villages	26	26	26	26
6	Urban Local Bodies	3	3	3	3
7	Urban Wards	30	30	30	30
8	Gram Panchayats	17	17	17	17
9	Assembly Constituencies	4	4	4	4

1.4. Location & Geography

The district occupies the bigger portion of the south eastern half of Manipur valley. It lies between 24.64'N and 24.23' N latitude and 94.07'E and 93.82'E longitude. The district is situated in the southeastern part of Manipur. It is bounded by Thoubal and Imphal West districts on the north, Tengnoupal and Chandel districts on the east, Bishnupur districts on the west and Chandel district on the south. Although it is a part of Manipur valley, the area of the district is not entirely plain as many rivers flow through the district and many lakes and small hills dot its surface.

1.5. Climate

On the whole, the district has an equitable and pleasant climate. Rainfall is relatively abundant and widespread. The rainy season starts in June with the onset of the south-west monsoon and last upto September. Intermittent rains continue even upto October along with the retreat of the monsoon. As in the rest of the State, the district is also under the effect of the so-called ' Vagaries of the monsoon' with the alternating droughts and floods. During the rainy season the rain water in the hills quickly flow down to the valley and all the rivers and small streams rises to the full brim, frequently flooding its embankments. As the lakes became full, the low-lying areas around them are easily amenable to flood. Drainage is slow and takes a long time. The cold season last from December to February. During the winter months light rainfall occurs under the influence of the north-east monsoon, March and October are by far the most pleasant months in the year. April and May are not hot season followed by occasional thunder storms. Of Late, some changes in the climate calendar in the state are observed which some expert meteorologists attribute the cause as mainly due to deforestation in the hills surrounding the valley.

The summer months are never oppressive with the average maximum temperature fluctuating between 32°C to 35°C during April-June, the mercury seldom going beyond 37°C. In December-February with the start of the cold winter

months the average minimum temperature fall to 6°C to 4°C, the temperature going below 0°C.

1.6. Roads

A very important road i.e. National Highway No. 39 runs through this district and the same leads to Myanmar (Burma) via Moreh and Tamu. In the days before the independence of India this road having a historical significance was used as the main route of many military expeditions and counter expedition by the forces of Manipur and Burma (Myanmar) and later on by the British Government. This road i.e. NH-39 is the main life line of the people in this district.

1.7. Rivers & lakes

Important rivers that flow through the district are the Imphal and the Thoubal. The Thoubal river originates in the hill ranges of Ukhrul and is an important tributary of the Imphal river. On its course, 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 boundary demarcating line of Thoubal district on its north and the west. During the dry seasons, these rivers are lean and thin but, during the rainy monsoon periods these rivers are very wild and frequent floods occur causing widespread damage to the paddy fields, property and life. These rivers were once good means of transport for valuable merchandise. 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. With the advent of cheap and faster means of road transport these rivers no longer serve as routes of transportation of goods. Still they provide good building materials in the shape of sand, pebbles and boulders and a means of livelihood for a large number of people inhabiting along their courses.

The south-western portion of the district is a low-land forming 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, Pumlun, Lousi and Ngangou. On the northern portion there is Waithou lake form by the drainage waters sandwiched between Waithou hill on the west and the villages and paddy fields on the east. Due to constant siltation and reclamation of vast areas for agricultural purposes the lakes are gradually shrinking in size and at present some of them are only in name. These lakes drain into the Imphal river. They provided very good fishing ground for a variety of fishes in the recent past.

1.8. Agriculture

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% 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 fertilizers and the modern methods of cultivation, there is a great scope of increasing the overall production.

In food grains, Kakching is a surplus district producing above 59670 MT of rice in 2019-2020 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, the Thoubal Multipurpose Project, Sekmai 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 late February or early March, second paddy crop in July and early August and the third crop of mustard seeds, pulses etc in November.

Other crops grown in the district are sugarcane, oilseeds, maize, potatoes, pulses, chilies, vegetable etc. The district is the largest producer of sugarcane in Manipur. Its cultivation is mainly confined to Kakching, Kakching Khunou and Wabagai. Although maize is grown throughout the district, it is cultivated as major cash crop around Serou, Pallel and Kakching belt. Oilseeds, mainly mustard seeds, are found all over the district. Recently cultivation of sunflower has also started. Vegetables such as cabbages, cauliflower, brinjal, different kinds of peas, gourds, pumpkins etc are found in abundance.

Among the plantation crops, pineapples are the most important and are cultivated in the slopes of low hills and hillocks. Although tea plantation is yet to take its shape in the district a blend of local variety of particularly good taste is grown in Pallel and Waikhong area. Tobacco was once cultivated in the district widely. Another important plantation crop is chilies.

1.9. Flora and Fauna

Various types of trees are found all over the district. But the more commonly found varieties include Pipal trees. Kabulliu, (Oravilarobusta), Khok (Albizia Spp), Tera (SalimaliaMalabarica), Sileima (Eugenia praco), Tairen (Cedrela loona) etc. Bamboos and plantain trees are common everywhere. Various types of fruit-bearing plants also thrive in the districts. Important varieties are pineapple, pear, peach, Jack fruit, banana, mango, lemon, plum, guava, amla etc. The habit of the local people to plant banyan trees along the roadside and bamboos and fruit bearing trees within their compounds give the rural areas a permanent green scenery. Recently, the Government as also introduced plantation of quick growing trees under the social forestry programme along the road side.

In spite of its rich vegetation, due to the absence of any forest worth the name within the district wild animals are not found abundantly, Deer and Jungle fowl are some of the varieties found at present occasionally along the slope of eastern hills adjoining the district. But the lakes support a variety of wild birds such as partridge, snipe, duck, geese, etc. particularly in winter months. These birds are mostly migratory in character. Some of them are seen coming from far off Siberia. With the gradual conversation of the lakes into agricultural lands these migratory birds are seen in increasingly fewer members in recent times.

1.10. Fishing

Fishing provides an important occupation for a large number of people in the district. The activity is mainly conducted in the lakes and the enclosed low lands besides small ponds within the precincts of the household. Waithou, Kharung and Ikop are especially important for 'Ngaton', a variety of small fish noted for its taste. This fish as also Ngaaroi, Pengba, Tharak, Ngahou, etc. (all local names) was once caught in the lakes of the district in good measures. But the large scale use of pesticides for agricultural purposes and the reclamation of the habitat and the special breeding grounds of these fishes are largely responsible for their gradual disappearance from the lakes and their catch now-a-days is almost negligible.

1.11. Demographic Profile of Kakching District (2011 census)

Actual Population	135,481
Male	67,642
Female	67,839
Rural Population	86,832
Urban Population	48,649
Population Growth	14.0%
Sex Ratio (Per 1000)	1,003
Average Literacy	75.7%
Male Literacy	84.78%
Female Literacy	66.73%
Total Child Population (0-6 Age)	12,445
Male Population (0-6 Age)	6,355
Female Population (0-6 Age)	6,090
Literates	88,418
Male Literates	49,218
Female Literates	39,200
Illiterates	47,063
Male Illiterates	18,424
Female Illiterates	28,639
SC Population	39,351
ST Population	1,154
Total Workers	67,024
% Main Workers	50,798
% Marginal Workers	16,226

1.12. Topography

The soils of the district are clay soil, Loamy soil, Red soil, Peaty soil and sandy soil that makes the district very fertile for agricultural crops. The important Lakes in the district are the Ikopat, the Pumlenpat, the Lousipat, the Kharungpat and the Waithou pat. These lakes provide a good fishing facility to the people and provide a means of livelihood. The main rivers that flow through the district are the Imphal River and the Sengmai River. The district is dotted by a few hillocks and hills of low heights. Some of them are without, part of Khekman range, Mantak, Kwarok and Thongam Mondum-Punam.

1.13. Mineral Resources

The district is generally poor in mineral resources. Among the minerals found in the district, brine spring are of some significance. These springs are found along the foothills on the eastern part of the valley. Water from this springs are boiled and salt is extracted by the method of evaporation.

Salt is manufacture in the form of beautiful cakes and they are consider to have a good medicinal property. These salt cakes are used in ceremonial purposes also. Important places where brine springs are found are Waikhong, Sikhong 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, Thongjao, Chairel etc. Naturally these areas are associated with pottery of very good types. Some qualities of low grade iron ore is found at Kakching.

1.14. Tourism

Kakching

“Kakching Garden” at Uyok Ching in the southern side of Kakching town and on the bank of Sengmai river, attracts lots of tourists from many parts of Manipur as well as both the people of Indian states and foreign countries. It is not only a tourist centre but also the meeting place of various ethnic, linguistic, religious, and cultural groups. The settlement pattern of housing and roads show the progress of town planning in the past days.

Sugnu

Situated 74 kms. from Imphal, the place is an important trading centre on the south of the district. From it a Beautiful view of the Imphal river can be seen. It is on the Imphal - Sugnu State highway.

Waithou

The place is important for its scenic beauty. There is an inspection bungalow on the hillside overlooking the Waithou Lake. The place is noted for its tasteful pineapples. An exotic and delicious variety of local fish known as 'Ngaton' used to be available at this place abundantly till a few years back from now. It is on the National highway about 3 kms. from the district headquarters.

Kakching

It is the sub-divisional headquarters of Kakching sub-division and is a famous trading centre of a variety of vegetables, fishes and rice next to Thoubal, the biggest town in the district. The place is easily approachable from the National highway and is connected to the other State highways.

Pallel

It is a place situated at the border of Thoubal and Chandel districts and is the meeting place of plain areas of Kakching and the hill areas of Chandel. Indo-

Myanmar road from Imphal to Moreh passes through it. With its hills and rivers the place has a beautiful landscape. Typical agricultural Products and nice handicrafts of the hilly people are regularly found in its daily market.