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Interesting Facts about Manipur - History, Environment and Economy GK Notes

In our previous blog, we discussed some vital aspects of Manipur. If you haven't read that already, click here – '[Interesting Facts about Manipur - Geography, Climate and Culture GK Notes](#)' – Part 1. Now in the following write-up, we'll study other important attributes of the state i.e. history, environment and economic conditions of Manipur.

Which popular **folk form of wrestling** is practiced in Manipur? What is the **literacy rate** of Manipur? Who is **the Iron lady of Manipur**?

Manipur truly means 'the jewelled land'. The exquisite state is well known for its traditions, dance forms, music and deluxe haute cuisine. Most of the part of the state is shielded with forests, which houses some of the rarest species of flora and fauna.

Let's have a glimpse of the bygone times of Manipur.

History of Manipur

Manipur is rich in natural beauty and has a magnificent history of its own. History of the state cradled from archaeological research, myths and written history. Manipur's ancient name is **Kanlapaq**.

- **Nongda Lairen Pakhangba** was the first ruler of Manipur. He created the kingdom of Manipur in 33 AD.
- The earliest registered history of Manipur dated about **900 CE**.
- In 1762, **Raja Jai Singh** culminated a treaty with the Britishers to repel an invasion of Burmans from Myanmar (Burma). The Britishers were again requested to expel the Burmans.





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[Image Source: Wikipedia]

- The controversial successions were a continual origin of political confusion until **Chura Chand** was nominated Raja in 1891 who was a five-year-old member of the ruling family.
- For the next eight years, the administration was conducted under British supervision; slavery and forced labour were abolished, and roads were constructed.
- After an uprising of **the Kuki hill tribes** in 1917, a new system of government was adopted; the region was divided into three subdivisions, each headed by an officer from the neighbouring government of Assam.
- With the elevation of Manipur to India in **1947**, the political agency exercised by Assam was abolished.
- Two years later Manipur became a union territory governed by a chief commissioner and an elected territorial council.
- In 1969, the office of chief commissioner was replaced by the lieutenant governor and status was changed to governor when Manipur became a constituent state of the Indian union on **July 21, 1972**.

Now let's switch to the environmental aspects of Manipur.

Environment of Manipur

Ecologically, the state has rich and rare fauna and flora, fine scenic beauty and environmental peace that are very hard to find in other places. The state has an abundance of natural resources. There are colourful flowering plants, sacred forests, and ever-flowing rivers, lush green splits on the mountains and hills and crooked waterfalls. Moreover, as the state lies in the monsoonal belt, Manipur receives a good amount of rainfall from the south-west monsoon.

- On a physical basis, the state can be divided into two parts, hills and valleys. There are hills all around and a valley in between.
- Manipur is also known as the '**Orchid Basket**' of the country. 500 species of orchid flowers are found in the state. A special type of floral Shirui lily is found in the Shirui hills, Manipur situated at an altitude of about 5000 feet above sea level. Shirui lily is produced only in Manipur all over the world and is the state flower.

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[Image Source: The Statesman]

- Within the State of Manipur, there are two major river basins namely the **Barak River Basin** and the **Manipur River Basin**. The Manipur river basin has seven major rivers such as **Imphal, Iri, Nambul, Sekmai, Chakpi, Thoubal and Khuga**. All these rivers originate from the surrounding hills.
- **Loktak Lake** is an important lake as almost all the rivers in the valley area are in the mature stage and therefore, deposit the load in the Loktak Lake.



[Image Source: Wikipedia]

- The Keibul Lamjao National Park in the Bishnupur district of Manipur is the only floating national park in the world and is an integral part of Loktak Lake with an area of 40 km². The national park is characterised by **many floating decomposed plant materials locally called Phumdis**
- The national park which was initially declared to be a sanctuary in 1966 was subsequently declared to be a national park in 1977 to preserve the natural refuge of the endangered Manipur, **Sangai also called the dancing deer**.

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[Image Source: Wikipedia]

Let's talk about the economic status of Manipur.

Economy of Manipur

Agriculture and agro-based industries are the main sources of income and the basis of the economy of the state. **Rice** is the major crop grown in the state and also supports the production of other crops like maize, sugarcane, mustard, tobacco, orchard fruits, and legumes.

- Terracing is common in the hills of Manipur where the farmers of the state plough the ground with hand hoes.
- Among some of the hill tribes, domestic animals are kept only for meat and are not milked or used for hauling. Teak and bamboo are major forestry products.
- **The Nagas** are known to use intoxicants to catch fish.
- The state is a suitable place for information technology-based businesses.
- There is immense investment potential, especially in the field of agriculture and food processing.
- There are many possibilities in the field of handloom, handicrafts and tourism to attract investors in the state, the government has formulated several policies as well as several incentives to attract investors have also been announced.

GDP: ₹ 0.231 lakh crore

Rank (as per GDP): 29th

Growth (as per GDP): 10.63% (2016-17)

Per capita GDP: ₹286,328

Rank (GDP per capita): 31th



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Revenues: ₹ 3.49lakh crore

Unemployment: 11.6%

Education of Manipur

Literacy rate of Manipur is **79.85%** which exceeds the national average literacy rate which stands at **74.04%**. The introduction of a separate education department in 1950 was a step forward towards improved educational conditions in Manipur. The education system adopted by the state government has indeed changed the face of secondary and higher secondary education in Manipur. The number of students who passed with first division has also increased greatly over the years.

Sports of Manipur

The modern-day polo game is said to have its roots in **Sagol Kangjei** and is the traditional sport of the state. Imphal boasts of Imphal Polo Ground being the oldest one in the world. The Manipuri style of polo is known as the Pana which is different from the polo played in the international style.

Here are **some more interesting facts about MANIPUR:**

- **Mukna** is the popular folk form of wrestling that is practiced in Manipur.
- **Red Hill –Lokpaching** is the place in Manipur where the Japanese and the Britishers fought a memorial war during World War II.
- **Meitei Tribe** is the primary ethnic group of Manipur which constitutes almost 50% of the population.
- **Manipur** is a dry state where people relish the country liquor made from Manipuri rice.
- **Irom Chanu Sharmila** is known as the Iron lady of Manipur. She is a civil activist who started her hunger strike in 2000 against AFSPA and the strike lasted till 2016.

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[Image Source: Hindustan Times]

Therefore, this was all about the state of Manipur that will help in your preparation for competitive exams like **SSC CGL**, **CDS**, **Civil Services** and **NDA** etc.

Thank You

