

Tourism Potential in Manipur, India

Dr. Doreshor Khwairakpam¹, Mr. Nitish Kumar², Ar. Rakesh Kumar³

¹Associate Professor, Amity School of Architecture and Planning,, Amity University, Haryana, India

^{2,3} Assistant Professor, Amity School of Architecture and Planning,, Amity University, Haryana, India

Abstract - Manipur state has unexplored potential for tourism in India. Natural scenic beauty/landscape, rich cultures are dominant characters of Manipur state, India. It is located in north eastern part of India and bordering with Myanmar country. In this context, this paper identified the potential of resources in order to promote the tourism in Manipur, India.

Key Words: Tourism, Tourist Potential, Development, Natural Resources.

1. INTRODUCTION

Tourism emerged as the largest global industry of the 20th century and projected to be growing even faster in the 21st century (Sintayehu Aynale et al., 2016). Tourism created employment opportunities through number of activities such as hotel staff, tour operators, cook etc (Alberto F. Lemma, 2014). India is fast emerging as important of different type's tourist destination e.g. Pilgrimage tourism, Historical tourism, Medical tourism, Ayurveda and Yoga tourism, Adventure tourism, Sport tourism, Wildlife tourism. It has generated of Rs. 6.4 trillion or 6.6 of the nation Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2012 in India and expected to growth 7.9 from 2013 to 2023 (Sultan Singh Jaswal, 2014). Manipur is one of the state in India that could be promoted for tourism by exploring the potential of tourism such as natural scenic beauty, rich culture, business, Religious place, cultural, adventure and sport, leisure, rural tourist etc.

The aim of this research paper is to find the tourist potential in Manipur and hence the following objectives has been identified - (i) to study the tourist potential and identified the types of tourist in Manipur; (2) to study the significant of tourist resources/potential to promote tourism in Manipur; (3) to study the flow of tourist - domestic and international tourist. Research Methodology has adopted based on the secondary data that available to public domain such as research papers, government report, government photos etc.

2. CASE STUDY OF MANIPUR STATE

Manipur is described as "Land of Jewel" by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (S. C., Joshi, 2002). Manipur is surrounded by Myanmar in the south east, Assam in the West, Nagaland in the North and Mizoram in South. It lies in latitude of 23° 68' N - 25° 68' N and in a longitude of 93° 03' E - 94° 78' E. Maximum population density is in the

Imphal west and Imphal East district and lowest is in the Ukhrul, Chandel and Tamenglong districts (Khwairakpam et al., 2015) (Fig. 1). The state occupies a geographical area of about 22,327 km. sq (Directorate of Economics and Statistics, 2016). Imphal is a capital of Manipur state and oval-shaped valley which is covers by 90 percent of hill area and remaining is covered by plain (Environment and Ecology Office., 2016).

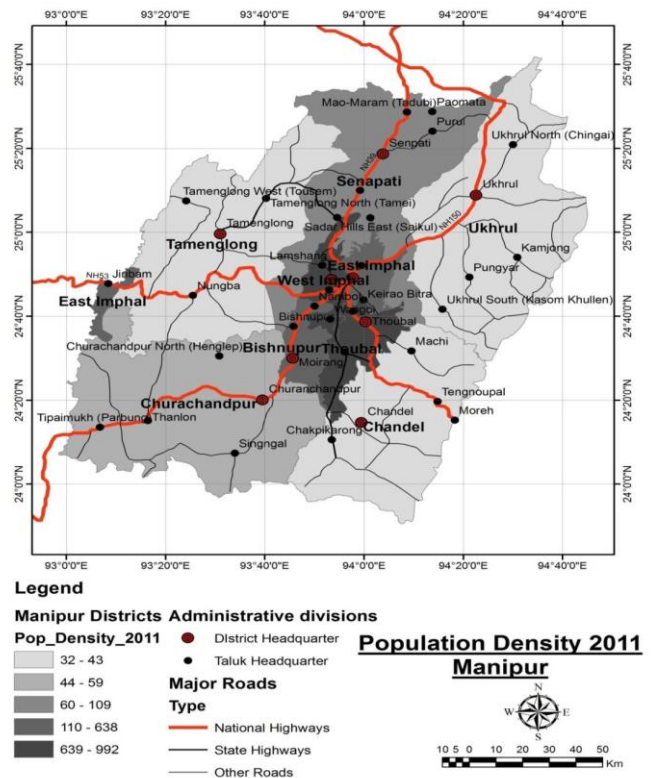


Fig-1: Map of Manipur State and Population Density

The state of Manipur is blessed with an amazing variety of flora and fauna namely; Siroi Lily and most unique animal known as Dancing Deer (Sangai- Local name) (L M Khaute, 2010). Manipur state has shared maximum by Hindu community around 41.39 percent and 41.29 percent by Christian, 8.40 percent by Muslim and rest small percentage shared by other religious like Jain, Sikh, Buddhist etc (Census, 2011). The state has well connectivity by road and air with other metropolitan city like Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati. The fact about Manipur state as per census 2011 is represented in Table.1.

Table -1: Manipur State at Glance

Population	2855794 as per census 2011
Population Growth	24.50%
Percentage of total Population	0.24%
Sex Ratio	985
Area in Km ²	22,327
Literacy	76.94 %
Male Literacy	83.58 %
Female Literacy	70.26 %
Per Capita Income (at 2001 prices)	Rs. 12823 per month

Source: Census, 2011

2. 1 IDENTIFIED TOURIST POTENTIAL RESOURCES IN MANIPUR

Manipur has very rich in culture and natural scenic beauty. The arts-form and culture of Manipur is very unique in music, dance and customary. The potentials of Arts and Culture are (i) Ras Lila, (ii) Nupa Pala (iii) Pung Cholom (iv) Maibi Dance (v) Khamba Thoibi Dance (vi) Sagol Kangjei (Manipur Polo) (vii) Sangai Festival (viii) Yubi Lakpi (ix) Hiyang Tannaba (boat race) and (x) Thang Ta and Sarit Sarat. The following resources are described as follow:

(i) Ras Lila- It is epitomes of Manipur classical dance that inter-woven through the celestial and eternal love of Radha and Krishna. It’s described the Hindu scripture and inspiring the transcendental love of Krishna and Radha and devote to the Lord. It practice in front of the temple Shree Shree Govindajee in Imphal on Basanta Purnima (full moon) through night and watched with a deep sense of devotion. Solo and duet and group dance is a combination of Ras Lila and richness of the costumes and luster to the beauty of the art (Fig. 5), (ii) Nupa Pala- It is known as “Kartal Cholom” or “Cybal Dance” and used performed as dance with music in a group of male partners using a cymbal and wearing snow white ball shaped large turbans. This dance is to accompaniments of as classical drum “Pung” as it is connected to the religious rites too (Fig. 6), (iii) Pung Cholom- It is also another classical dance of Manipur state and important ritual character. It is a indispensable part of all social and devotional ceremonies in Manipur. it is highly refined classical dance number characters by the modulelation of sound soft whisper to a thunderous climax (Fig. 7), (iv) Maibi Dance- Maibi Dance is used to perform every year during Lai-Haraoba (Religious Festival) which is ritual festival of the Meitei community. The Maibi (Priestesses) considered as a spiritual medium, trace through their dance the whole concept of cosmogony of the Meitei

community and describe the life for future ahead (Fig. 8), (v) Khamba Thoibi Dance- It is dance perform by Khamba act as hero and Thoibi act as heroine and dedicating to the sylvan deity at Thanjing of Moirang during Moirang episode of the hoary past. Usually it is performing at Moirang Lai Haraoba. Duet performs together in front of Lord Thanjing (Fig. 9), (vi) Sagol Kangjei (Manipur Polo) - The Sagol Kangjei has been recognized international enthusiasts of the game as Polo and now it is played worldwide. Today world has been accepted this game (Polo game) and it’s been originated from Manipur. Play with Polo-stick made of bamboo root that mount and ride ponies. The ponies are full decorated with various guards of protecting the eyes, forehead, flanks etc (Fig. 10), (vii) Sangai Festival-Sangai Festival is one of the biggest festivals in Manipur state and this festival is in the name of state animal “Sangai” (the Brow-antlered deer) only found in Manipur. This festival has been started in 2010 and also aims to promote the rich traditional and culture to national and international level. This festival shows the potential of state in field of Arts and Culture, Handloom, Handicrafts, Indigenous sport, cuisine, Music, adventure sport of the state etc, (viii) Yubi Lakpi- Yubi (coconut) is local name of Manipur and Lakpi (Lakpi is local name and its means the snatching). It is a game played on the lush green turf of the palace ground or at Bijoy Govinda Temple ground. Each team has 7 members of player in the field of 45×18 metres in an area of which forms the central portion of the goal line. The coconut services the purpose of all balls and is offered to the king or judge who sits behind the goal line (Fig. 11), (ix) Hiyang Tannaba (Boat Race- It is a game of race boad with regard to the religious and spiritual powers and generally held this race in month of November every year. Locally Hiyang is Boat and Tannaba is race. The community of Meitei (one of the community in Manipur) believes that worship of Hiyang Hiren will prevent from evil omens. The rowers used to wear traditional dress and head-gears. This game is also conducted during spells of natural calamity (Fig. 12) and (x) Thang-Ta and Sarit Sarat- This is a Martial Arts of Manipur and traditional skill of which has been passed over the centuries. Hone one’s battle-craft used during war to serve his country (Fig. 13).

The natural scenic beauties of Manipur are – (i) Manipur Zoological Garden: The Manipur Zoological Garden has attractive of endangered species to attract tourist, (ii) Dzuko Valley: It is totally green valley with full of rare terrestrial Lily called “Dzuko Lily” and the enchanting snow clad valley during January and February. The Mount Iso (highest peak) is located behind this valley (Fig. 2). (iii) Loukoi Pat: It is lake located along the NH-150 with boating facilities and natural scenic beauty. (iv) Sadu Chiru Waterfall (Sadar Hills): Chiru water fall is along the NH-150 and 20 km away from Imphal city with a picturesque site famous for its perennial waterfall at a scenic foot hill. (v) Loktak Lake: It is a largest fresh water lake in north-east, India. Small islands and floating Phummy (Floating island)

are in the Loktak Lake. Numbers of endogenous species are inhabitants (Sangai) in this Lake (Fig. 2). (vi) Keibul Lamjao National Park: This is the only floating National Park in the world known as Keibul Lamjao. Natural habitat of the “Sangai” (Rucervus eldii), the dancing deer of Manipur is in this floating park of the Loktak Lake (Fig. 2). (vii) Zailad Lake: This Lake is a very unique for spiritual and famous Natural Lake that Haipou Jadonang (Rongmei Naga spiritual leader and political activities of Manipur) obtained might and spiritual power to fight against the British.



Fig-2: Tourist Spot in Manipur, Source: Manipur Tourism Department, 2017

The another important of historical sites for tourist destination are - (i) War Cemeteries at Hatta Golapati: During world war – II, Indian and British soldier died and commemorating the memory of these soldier, Commonwealth War Grave Commission is managed with beauty of serene and well- maintained by remembering record of great soldiers (Fig. 2). (ii) Shree Shree Govindajee Temple at Palace Compound: A historic place for Maharajas (former King of Manipur). Twin domes, a paved courtyard and congregation hall in front of temple to offerings from devotees in the courtyard (Fig. 2). (iii) Shaheed Minar: It is a place symbol of spirit of the patriotic Meitei and Tribal martyrs who had been scarified their lives during fight against the British in 1891. (iv) Ima Market: Unique markets in the world where more than 3000 mother of Manipuri run the stalls known as Ima Market (Ima mean Mother) (Fig. 14). (v) Nupi Lal Memorial Complex: The complex is a mark of respect to the brave Manipuri women those who had sacrificed lives to fight for justice against the British on 12th December, 1939 (Fig. 2). (vi) Khongjom War Memorial: Khongjom War Memorial is historical place that Major General Paona Brajabashi (one of the great warriors of Manipur) proved his valor against the superior might of the invading British Army in 1891. A war memorial has been constructed in

name of great warriors and “Khongjom Day” is observed every year on 23rd April in Manipur.

2. 2 TOURIST FLOW ANALYSIS IN MANIPUR

The flow of domestic and international tourist in Manipur is increasing over the year. Domestic tourist is more than international tourist of a particular time of 2004 to 2014. The number of domestic tourist was 97054 in year of 2004-05 and reached 143059 in 2013-14. It reveals that Manipur has potential for tourism. Unfortunately, fluctuation of tourist flow is occurred mainly due to instability of social issues such as bandh, blockade of national high way in Manipur (Fig. 1). The number of international tourist was 248 in the year of 2004-05 and reached 2588 in the year of 2013-14. This sudden increase of international tourist in the year of 2013-2014 is mainly due to the Sangai Festival (Fig. 2).

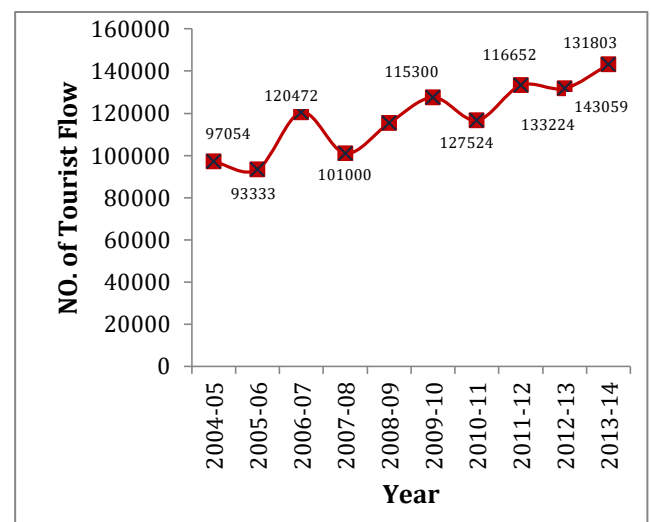


Fig-3: Domestic Tourist Flow in Manipur

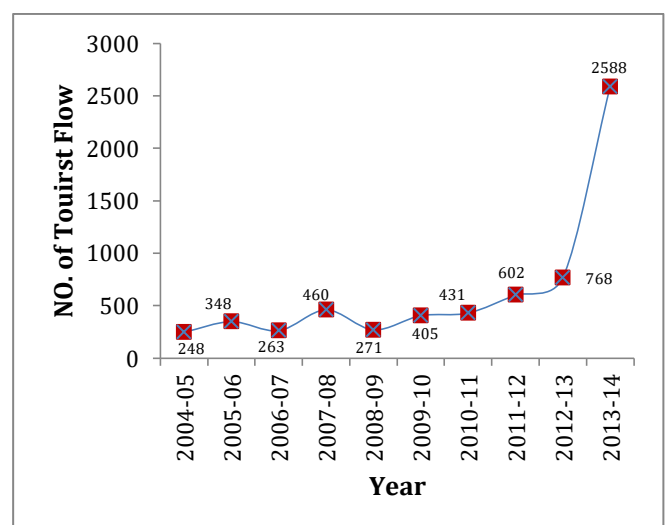


Fig -4: International Tourist Flow in Manipur



Fig-5: Ras Lila



Fig. 9: Khamba Thoibi Dance



Fig- 6: Nupa Pala



Fig-10: Sagol Kangjei (Manipur Polo)



Fig-7: Pung Cholom



Fig-11: Yupi Lakpi



Fig. 8: Maibi Dance



Fig-12: Hyang Tannaba



Fig-13: Thang Ta and Sarit Sarat



Fig-14: Ima Market

4. Doreshor Khwairakpam, Waikhom Rahul Singh, Vickyson Naorem., Strategy for Urban Infrastructure Development in Identified Towns of Manipur., International Journal of Humanities and Social Invention, Vol. (1), pp 42-50, 2015
5. Environment and Ecology Office., Status of Environment Report, Environment and Ecology Office, Government of Manipur, Imphal, 2017
6. L M Khaute., The Sangai The Pride of Manipur, Kalpaz Publications, Delhi, 2010
7. S.C. Joshi., Manipur The Jewel of India, Akansha Publishing House, Delhi, 2002
8. Sintayehu Aynalem, Kassegn Birhanu Birhanu and Sewent Tesefay., Employment Opportunities and Challenges in Tourism and Hospitality, OMICS International, Vol. 5 (6), pp 5-6, 2016
9. Sultant Singh Jaswal., Role of Tourism Industry in India's Development, Tourism and Hospital, Vol. (3) 2, pp 1-6, 2014
10. Tourism Department., Manipur Tourism, Government of Manipur, Imphal, 2017

3. CONCLUSIONS

Manipur state has a lot of potential to growth for tourism as discussed in table No. 2. For the last decade, the existing unexplored potential of tourism is not fully expertise to the tourist both domestic and international tourist. Due to Sangai festival, the flow of tourist is increasing and gets the opportunity to expertise the potential of tourism. Hence, tourism department and state government need to works on the development of tourism sector in order to promote the tourism. And lastly, eco-tourism has to maintain mainly in hilly area of Manipur state.

REFERENCES

1. Alberto F. Lemma., Tourism Impacts – Evidence of Impacts on Employment, Gender, Income, Overseas Development Institute, 2014
2. Directorate of Census., District Hand Book, Directorate of Census Manipur, Imphal, 2011
3. Directorate of Economic & Statistics., Economic Survey, Directorate of Economic & Statistics, Government of Manipur, Imphal, 2016