

# Editorial

Imphal Wednesday, May 24, 2017

## Redefining Manipuri Hindu

The arrival of Hinduism to the Manipuri Society during the 17th Century is the root of all this confused state of today's society. Various Manipuri scholars, historians and social activists had interpreted the entry of the Hinduism in their own views and perspectives. Some said it was the beginning of a new Manipuri civilization but some said it was an invasion. As found at some of the writings of social scientists - the arrival of Hinduism during the reign of Miedingu Pamheiba (1709-1748) had brought tremendous change in the religious practices of Manipur.

In his letter to his daughter Indira Gandhi, the first prime Minister of India wrote - Gods comes as a product of the fear of mankind. If scientists have succeeded in making a time travel machine, where we could go back to the prehistoric days, all sorts of confusions would have been solved. Even though we don't have the opportunity to go back to the pass we could still culled the series of events that might have happened during the days.

Scholars say - early people had to struggle hard for their survival. Professor Ratan Kumar Singh of the Manipur University while presenting his famous paper - "God in Manipuri Literature" in the Oxford Round Table Conference during April month in 2011 vividly explain the life our ancestors. As according to his presentation the early people were surrounded by hostile forces of nature and the environment. Their living conditions, to a great extent were influenced by the forces beyond their control. And they had a need to provide some explanations and accounts for the good and the bad things which happened to them along with those of the favourable and the adversaries. It is a very interesting fact that many of the forces were often personified and given name and personalities. This phenomenon was perhaps the first step for having beliefs and religious rituals. And consequently a number of gods and goddess representing the various elemental forces and qualities appeared.

The reason for bringing up this piece of write up is to remind that religions and rituals are the product of human civilization. Be it metiesm Sanamahi or the Hinduism or the Christianity - they are product of the human civilization.

May be our foremost ancestors might not have a god or a religion as they were yet to begin a civilization. The great grandparents of our great grandparents who were survived before the reign of Miedingu Pamheiba might have been following a religion which was counterproductive of their ancestors. May be, after force conversions or willy-nilly adoption, my ancestors, who were born after the reign of Miedingu Pamheiba have become Hindu. In course of time the Hindu rituals finds its way to the veins of the Manipuri society and become a part of it. The rich culture of the region which were flourished since Meitei civilization became into existence began to establish in a new outlook. These new traditions, along with the ancient indigenous traditions, were in existence simultaneously in Manipuri Culture. To the words of Professor Ratan - It was in some aspects we find a beautiful amalgamation of pre-Hinduism and Hinduism element in Manipuri Culture.

The rich heritage of Manipuri Culture and its recognition to the world community is the product of the ancient indigenous traditions streams through the newly invaded religion called Hindu. The Hindu that has been flourishing to the society this erstwhile kingdom is in no way a curse but rather a boon. Indeed the traditional Meiteism culture and the newly entered Hinduism adopted by our ancestors are the two sides of the same coin. There are beauty and respect to the rituals of Hindu and we have reason to feel proud to the rituals of my Sanamahi religion.

Except that our looks sometimes made us guilty in identifying as Hindu while travelling to the mainland country.

## Textile godown gutted in Kolkata

**PIT**  
**Kolkata, May 24:** A major fire gutted a textile godown inside a market in Khidderpore area in southern part of the metropolis today.

The fire broke out on the fifth floor of the 'Five Star Market' adjacent to the popular 'Fancy Market' at about 6.10 am, a fire department official said.

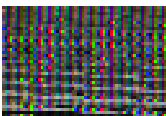
Besides the godown, six shops on the fifth and sixth floor of the

market were gutted, he said adding that nobody was injured as the market remained closed at that time. Around 12 fire tenders were pressed into service for nearly two and half hours to douse the blaze. An electrical short-circuit inside the godown might be the cause of the fire, he said.

"It was challenging for us to fight the fire because of the congested area. Hydraulic ladders and foam were used to control the fire," he said.

### WHENEVER YOU SEE CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENTS, JUST THINK OF US

A SOLUTION FOR EVERY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT



Automobile Engineering Works-1  
**R K WORKSHOP**  
New Checkon Road, Purana Rajbari  
Imphal East,  
Manipur - 795 001

ALL NUMBER OF SPARE PARTS AVAILABLE

AFTER SALES SERVICE TO YOUR SATISFACTION

Authorised dealer **BEML Limited**

(A Government of India Mini Ratna Company under Ministry of Defence)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: [imphaltimes@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimes@gmail.com). For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (O)

## National and International News

### Pakistan harbouring terrorists in Afghanistan: US Intel official

**PTI**  
**Washington, May 24:** Pakistan is "harbouring terrorists" and using them as "reserve" in Afghanistan, a top US intelligence official has told lawmakers.  
"Pakistan views Afghanistan or desires for Afghanistan some of the same things we want: a safe, secure, stable Afghanistan. One addition — one that does not have heavy Indian influence in Afghanistan," Lt Gen Vincent Stewart, director, Defense Intelligence Agency told members of the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee during a Congressional hearing on worldwide threats.  
"They view all of the challenges through the lens of an Indian threat to the state of Pakistan," Stewart said.

"So they (Pakistan) hold in reserve terrorist organisation — we define them as terrorist organisations, they hold them in reserve so that — if Afghanistan leans towards India, they will no longer be supportive of an idea of a stable and secure Afghanistan that could undermine Pakistan interest," Stewart said.  
He said Pakistan needs to be told very clearly that Afghanistan's security and stability is in the interest of all of the parties in the region and does not pose a risk to Pakistan.  
"We've got to convince Pakistan that if they're harbouring any of the Haqqani network members that it is not in their interest to continue to host of Haqqani network, that we ought to be working together to go after those 20 terrorist organisations

that undermine not just Afghanistan, not just Pakistan, but all of the region," he said.  
"And so we've to make sure we're pushing them to do more against the Haqqani network. Then (they should) separate the Taliban from the Pashtun, which want a Pashtun dominated Afghanistan," he said.  
"So we've got to get the conversation going again with Pakistan about their role in not harboring any of these terrorists, helping to stabilise Afghanistan," he added.  
Hoping that US may have some progress in this, Stewart said Pakistan also have some influence in bringing the Taliban to the peace table.  
"So, we've got to get them to think about reconciliation, that the status

quo is not in their best interest," he said.  
Dan Coats, Director of National Intelligence said there is need to evaluate how to address the situation of Pakistan harbouring terrorist.  
"I think certainly an evaluation of how we work with Pakistan to address the situation of the harbouring of terrorist groups would be essential to a strategy that affects Afghanistan, going forward in Afghanistan," he said in response to a question.  
"Because that is potentially a very disrupting situation, putting our own troops at risk and undermining the strategy of dealing with the Taliban and local groups that are trying to undermine the government," Coats said.

### Priest among 14 hostages taken in siege of Philippines city

**AP**  
**Manila, May 24:** Muslim extremists abducted a Catholic priest and more than a dozen churchgoers while laying siege to a southern Philippine city overnight, burning buildings, ambushing soldiers and hoisting flags of the Islamic State group, officials said Wednesday.  
President Rodrigo Duterte has declared martial law in the southern third of the nation and warned he would enforce it harshly.  
The violence erupted Tuesday night after the army raided the hideout of Inslon Hapilon, an Abu Sayyaf commander who is on Washington's list of most-wanted terrorists with a reward of up to \$5 million for his capture. The militants called for reinforcements from an allied group, the Maute, and some 50 gunmen managed to enter the city of Marawi.  
Archbishop Socrates Villegas, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said

the militants forced their way into a cathedral in Marawi and seized a priest, 10 worshippers and three church workers.  
The priest, Father Chito, and the others had no role in the conflict, Villegas said.  
"He was not a combatant. He was not bearing arms. He was a threat to none," Villegas said of Chito.  
"His capture and that of his companions violates every norm of civilized conflict."  
Villegas says the gunmen are demanding the government recall its forces.  
Duterte declared martial law for 60 days in the entire Mindanao region, the restive southern third of the Philippine archipelago. He had vowed to be "harsh."  
"I warned everybody not to force my hand into it," Duterte said on a plane en route to the Philippines on Wednesday. "I have to do it to preserve the republic."  
Martial law allows Duterte to

harness the armed forces to carry out arrests, searches and detentions more rapidly. He has repeatedly threatened to place the south, the scene of decades-long Muslim separatist uprisings, under martial law. But human rights groups have expressed fears that martial law powers could further embolden Duterte, whom they have accused of allowing extrajudicial killings of thousands of drug suspects in a crackdown on illegal drugs.  
Details from inside Marawi were sketchy because the largely Muslim city of more than 200,000 people appeared to be largely sealed off and without electricity.  
"The whole of Marawi city is blacked out, there is no light, and there are Maute snipers all around," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said late Tuesday in Moscow, where he was accompanying Duterte on an official trip. Duterte cut the trip short and headed back to the Philippines.  
Lorenzana said dozens of gunmen occupied city hall, a hospital and a jail and burned a Catholic church, a college and some houses in an assault that killed at least two soldiers and a police officer and wounded 12 others.  
Hapilon, an Arabic-speaking Islamic preacher known for his expertise on commando assaults, pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in 2014. He is a commander of the Abu Sayyaf militant group and was wounded by a military airstrike in January. Troops sealed off major entry and exit points to prevent Hapilon from escaping, military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano told The Associated Press by telephone late Tuesday from Moscow, where he was accompanying Duterte.  
"We will conduct house-to-house clearing and do everything to

remove the threat there. We can do that easily," Ano said, but added it was more difficult in an urban setting because of the need to avoid civilian casualties.  
He said the group erected Islamic State flags at several locations.  
Duterte met late Tuesday with Russian President Vladimir Putin and said he is counting on Russia to supply weapons for the Philippines to fight terrorism.  
"Of course, our country needs modern weapons, we had orders in the United States, but now the situation there is not very smooth and in order to fight the Islamic State, with their units and factions, we need modern weapons," he said, according to Russian state news agency Tass.  
While pursuing peace talks with two large Muslim rebel groups in the south of this predominantly Roman Catholic nation, Duterte has ordered the military to destroy smaller extremist groups which have tried to align with the Islamic State group.  
The Maute group is one of less than a dozen new armed Muslim groups that have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and formed a loose alliance with Hapilon reportedly designated as the alliance's leader.  
The Maute has been blamed for a bombing that killed 15 people in southern Davao city, Duterte's hometown, last September and a number of attacks on government forces in Lanao, although it has faced setbacks from a series of military offensives.  
Last month, troops backed by airstrikes killed dozens of Maute militants and captured their jungle camp near Lanao del Sur's Piapago town. Troops found homemade bombs, grenades, combat uniforms and passports of suspected Indonesian militants in the camp, the military said.

### IAF rejects reports of Pakistani fighter jets flying near Siachen

**TOI**  
**New Delhi, May 24:** Indian Air Force has categorically rejected reports in Pakistani media that Pakistani fighter jets flew near Siachen on the Indian side.  
Earlier in the day, Pakistani media claimed that Pakistan Air Force (PAF) fighter jets conducted flights near the Siachen Glacier on Wednesday.  
Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has declared its all its forward airbases operational, Pakistan's Waqt News reported quoting sources.  
According to Waqt News, Sohail Aman, the Chief of Air Staff, visited the Skardu forward base along with other top leadership of the Pakistan

Air Force.  
Aman also met the pilots and technical staff of the fighting force and himself flew a Mirage jet on the occasion.  
"The decision was taken during visit of PAF Sohai Aman to Forward Operation Airbase where he personally took part in exercises of the air force," Waqt News said quoting sources.  
In New Delhi, IAF sources said there was no violation of India's air space. The report came a day after the Indian Army announced that it launched "punitive fire assaults" on Pakistani positions across the Line of Control earlier this month, inflicting some damage.

### Letter to editor

#### Shirui festival : Let us not go with words but with actions

Dear Editor

As a student of Botany I would like to discuss an important issue that includes saving one of the most endangered species i.e Shirui Lily (Lilium mackliniae) in the world and also the state flower of Manipur. A week ago, a Shirui Lily festival took place in Ukhrul.

I have come across in an article name Shirui Lily-promoting harmony which was published on 23rd of this month in the newspaper "The Statesman" saying "The festival is held not only to promote district tourism, to protect and conserve Shirui Lily" but in contrast to this, I have seen people plucking and damaging the rarest species. If this continue unabated the plant will perish forever in the near future. So, I request the concerned Department Minister to look after this issue ASAP before it fully extinct. Let the Slogan of Shirui festival of conserving the plant make it happen and let us not go with the words or speech but with actions. It's actions not words that matter. Shirui Lily is not just plant but an identity not only for our State but also for our Country.

So, I request the higher authorities to take actions and let us make our State a better place.

Yours Sincerely  
Elyc Sharma Shamuraiatpam  
M.Sc Botany

### Advertisement at Imphal Times

Imphal Times is an English evening daily published in Imphal. The newspaper bearing RNI No. MANENG/2013/51092 also runs a web page [www.imphaltimes.com](http://www.imphaltimes.com) and is also the first news organization to launch Android App in the state of Manipur. We also have a team to promote our news content through Social networking site like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc. Besides our hard copy circulation our web site is visited regularly from across 152 different countries around the world and the number of visitors reached 5000 to 10,000 per day. Around 29000 plus individuals had downloaded our Android App.

#### Rate quotation for Advertisement in Imphal Times media group

For hard Copy publication - Rs. 200 per square cm (Front page) and Rs. 100 per square cm (back page)  
Web page - Range from Rs 50 to 100 per day depending upon the size and nature of the advertisement. It is mandatory that each advertisement in our web page should not be less than at least 1 month. - Promotion through our Facebook page is depended on the advertisers and extra will be charged on the condition that the advertisement link is copied from the Imphal Times official Web site. Payment can be made on either directly or through net banking.

For details call 9862860745 or 9774270499 or email us at [imphaltimes@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimes@gmail.com).