



Heritage Explorer

LET KNOWLEDGE COME FROM ALL THE SIDES
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2 Mizo districts declared 'gender critical' for census

AIZAWL, Feb 16: Women population in Mizoram will be given extra attention during population enumeration beginning February 9 with two of the eight districts being classified as gender critical. Based on certain indicators in the Census 2011, Lawngtlai district and Mamit district in the male-dominated state of Mizoram have been identified as gender critical among 262 districts and cities in the country.

"Lawngtlai and Mamit districts have been declared gender critical with sex ratio in the two districts less than 900," said Dr Chiranjeeb Kakoty, regional co-coordinator (North East), Alliance, with which the Government of India has tied up to carry out the gigantic task, for the first time in the history of the Indian Census. While the sex ratio in Lawngtlai (rural) is 899, it is 889 in Mamit (rural), Dr Kakoty said.

The other two conditions to determine gender critical districts are female work participation and female literacy rate. While female literacy rate in Lawngtlai district is 57.8 per cent, female work participation stands at 41.2 per cent. In Mamit district, 74.8 per cent of female population is literate while its female work participation is 53.1 per cent.

The rates of female literary and female work participation in the two districts are not at all low compared to the other 24 gender critical districts in the NE region. "Since the two districts fail in the single criteria, they are declared as gender critical districts," Dr Kakoty said. It was also pointed out that the eight per cent of the households in Lawngtlai district and 10 per cent of households in Mamit district are female-headed households.

(The Sentinel - 17.02.2011)

'Spiritual development is the root of knowledge'

HOWRAGHAT, Feb 10: Spiritual development is the root of knowledge," said Bhupendra Nath Deka while inaugurating the literary convention on the second day of the 80th annual conference of the Srimanta Sankardev Sangha at the Jay Hari Kshetra at Bakaliaghat here today.

Both Sankardev and Madhanbdev had laid stress on education, Deka said, and urged the people to follow the ideology of the two great saints so as to reform society for peace, harmony and development.

During the literary convention, most of the spiritual leaders dwelt at length on the need for unity and harmony among various castes and creeds in society. Bodo Sahitya Sabha's (BSS) Karbi Anglong district president Nripen Baglary, Karbi Anglong District Xahitya Xabha president Subhash Das and Tiwa Sahitya Sabha president Lalsing Madar also took part in the convention. (The Sentinel - 11.02.2011)



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Articles on Eternal Faith and Culture and different Socio-Cultural movements in Northeast are invited for publication.

ISKCON Wins a Battle on Krishna

A nun in Warsaw, Poland, filed a case against ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness). The case came up in court.

The nun remarked that ISKCON was spreading its activities and gaining followers in Poland. She wanted ISKCON banned because its followers were glorifying a character called Krishna "who had loose morals," having married 16,000 women called Gopikas.

The ISKCON defendant to the Judge: "Please ask the nun to repeat the oath she took when she was ordained as a nun."

The Judge asked the nun to recite the oath loudly. She would not.

The ISKCON man asked whether he could read out the oath for the nun.

Go ahead, said the judge.

The oath said in effect that 'she (the nun) is married to Jesus Christ'. The ISKCON man said, "Your Lordship! Lord Krishna is alleged to have 'married' 16,000 women. There are more than a million nuns who assert that they are married to Jesus Christ. Between the two, who has a loose character?"

The case was dismissed. (January 16, 2011 www.organiser.org)

Save Rangfra Mandirs in Arunachal: Janajati Body's SOS to PM

GUWAHATI, Feb 17: The Janajati Dharma Sanskriti Suraksha Manch (JDSSM) sent a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on February 14, 2011 requesting him to ensure immediate arrest of armed cadres responsible for creating panic at Kothung village in Tirap district, including Lazu Circle, and the entire Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh. In its letter, the Manch has also sought appropriate security to the office-bearers of Rangsomhum (Rangfra mandirs) in all the villages in the neighboring State of Assam.

The Manch, through the letter, has also requested the Prime Minister: "Check the 'conversion crusade' and the 'menace of missionaries' sponsored by different churches of Nagaland who are moving freely under the protection of armed terrorists of the NSCN-K and the NSCN-IM".

"One Wangdong Chaktey, a self-styled central intelligence officer (CIO) UT/III of the government of people's republic of Nagaland (GPRN-NSCN-K) served a threat letter on January 4, 2011 to the president of the Central Rangfra Administrative Council (CRAC), district Changlang in Arunachal Pradesh. The NSCN-K has ordered the CRAC... to stop its activities by January 9, 2011, and thereafter all socio-cultural and faith promotional activities of Rangsomhum (Rangfra temple) of Kothung village of Tirap district, including Lazu circle, and the whole of Changlang district. The NSCN-K has warned that non-compliance of that order would invite dire consequences," the letter to the Prime Minister said, and added: "NSCN-K official Wangdong Chaktey has ordered that no Rangsomhum (Rangfra mandir) could be constructed any more in any village of that area. Neither, the followers of Rangfra faith can take any religious and cultural activity anywhere. When Wangjam Chaktey and Kamjam Hangphuk, the priest and secretary respectively of the Rangfra Administrative Council (RAC) of Kothung village, could not comply with orders of the NSCN-K, they were summoned to their designated camp located in the nearby jungle. There, priest Wangjam Chaktey (75), was tied in a post and tortured them for four hours from 11 am to 3 pm on January 11."

The letter further said: "Earlier, the same militant official of the NSCN-K had issued similar a threat letter on October 30, 2010 to stop all religious activities of Rangfra religion: Again on February 1, Kamjam Hangphuk was kidnapped and retained in their designated camp for 6 days till February 6. He was thoroughly beaten up and released only when Rs 65,000 in cash was paid and a pig worth Rs 10,000 was given to them. This is with an intention of converting the followers of Rangfra religion into Christianity, and integrating Changlang and Tirap districts of Arunachal Pradesh into their proposed 'greater Nagaland'."

"Further, armed groups in hundreds, brandishing lethal weapons, have been roaming in the villages since November 2010 creating tension and fear-psychosis among the common masses, especially the villagers, so that they cannot celebrate their festivals... And with the latest spurt in armed conflicts, the villagers have not been able to move out to clear their jhum fields causing serious concern among the people. The hardest hit is Khonsa, the district headquarters of Tirap which is under control of cadres of the two warring factions. NSCN-IM and NSCN-K," the letter said, and added: "On January 14, chief of Ozakho village, Awang Wangsu, the lone son of his parents, was shot dead. A decade ago, his father was also killed by militants... The entire generation of the chief of Ozakha village has become extinct due to the armed conflicts... A number of government officials have also been receiving intimidation and threat letters leading to hampering of many developmental activities. While taking into account the intensity, magnitude and movement of the latest turn of events, it is apprehended that the war of supremacy between two factions will become more vigorous with potential of damaging the prospect of peaceful survival of innocent people of these two districts - Changlang and Tirap - which have become the battleground of the NSCN-IM and the NSCN-K."

"... The official logos of both the factions of the militant outfit bear prominently the slogan 'Nagaland for Christ signaling that Christianity is the only recognized religion in the area of their control,' the Manch told the Prime Minister in its letter. (The sentinel - 18.02.2011)