



The Khamtis of Arunachal Pradesh

The Khamti Janajati is a sub-group of the Shan people found in the Sagaing Division, Hkamti District in northwestern Burma as well as Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh in India. Smaller numbers can be found in parts of Assam as well as the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Tai-Khamti are followers of Theravada Buddhism. The Tai-Khampti adopted a script of Shan origin, known as Lik-Tai for their language.



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

National Conference on Puranic Heritage of NE Gets Under Way

GUWAHATI, May 19: Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi. in collaboration with the Department of Sanskrit, Gauhati University, has organized a National Sanskrit Conference on 'Puranic Heritage of North-east India' at the Phanidhar Datta Seminar Hall in Gauhati University. The conference, which started today, will conclude on May 21. The objective of organizing the conference is to disseminate information about the Puranas and to decipher the link that connects the Puranas to the people of the Northeast.

Addressing the seminar today, Prof SP Sharma, Head of the Department of Sanskrit from Aligarh Muslim University said, 'Puranic literature reflects the cultural heritage of the country. Puranic literature was composed at Naimisaranya near Lucknow. But many Upapuranas were composed in the North-east, specially those related to the Shiva-Shakti cult.'

"Kamrup and Pragjyotishpur find mention in the Puranas but Bengal and other States of today's Northeast are rarely mentioned in Puranic literature. In fact, the history of Northeast was limited to the history of Pragjyotishpur and Kamrup," he further said.

While delivering the keynote address, eminent Sanskrit scholar Prof. Ashok Kumar Goswami talked about Kalika Purana where one can find mention of Assam.

Talking to The Sentinel, Gauhati University professor Sudeshna Bhattacharya said, 'Puranas give us knowledge about ancient history. In fact, different theories have evolved based on the Pu,-anas like creation, destruction and geneology. Assam-is famous for Kalika Purano where the worship of Goddess Kamakhya depicted. Kalika Purana is widely studied in Assam. In fact, it has played a vital role in shaping the social life of people, thus influencing the human society along with the culture of the North East India.'

UNLF Welcomes Any Means to Indo-Manipur Solution: RK Meghen

IMPHAL, May 20: The UNLF will welcome any proposal or means formulated by any organisation of Manipur to bring an end to the India-Manipur conflict other than plebiscite. This was stated RK Meghen, chairmen of the UNLF who is currently under custody of NIA. Meghen was produced before a special NIA court today in Guwahati.

While inside the NIA court, RK Meghen spoke to mediapersons including some from Manipur. Reacting to some opposition made by an underground organisation with regard to holding plebiscite in Manipur, Meghen said he consider it as lack of understanding.

The UNLF consider plebiscite as the most favoured means to bring an end to the conflict in Manipur but the outfit does not fix plebiscite as the only means to bring solution to the India-Manipur conflict, Meghen said adding the outfit is not against any other means formulated by other organisations. However, such other means should be acceptable to the people and workable, Meghen asserted. While stating that plebiscite is not solely for the UNLF but a property of the people, Meghen said India's annexation of Manipur in 1949 was illegal and this led to conflict.

Our desire is to regain lost freedom of the Manipur people. We want peace and plebiscite is one right step towards bringing peace, Meghen said adding entering in peace talk is just like surrendering. Asking as to how could the outfit surrender at this point of time, Meghen said bringing solution to conflict situation in Manipur lies entirely at the hand of the people.

While expressing his strong condemnation to extortion and placing of bombs at private residence, Meghen said there had been enough of experiences



Arrested UNLF chairman RK Meghen talking to mediapersons inside the NIA court.

on lack of unity but the process is on to bring unity amongst all organisations. Meghen also said he is hopeful of regaining Manipur's lost freedom as people of the land have the courage and wits to do so. Organisation secretary of the UNLF, Nongyai who was also produced today at NIA court told mediaperson that plebiscite is a means to regain freedom.

Instead of opposing and criticising proposal of an organisation, it is better to formulate even more meaningful and better means, Nongyai said while reacting to opposition raised by an organisation against holding plebiscite in Manipur. He also appealed the people not to treat all revolutionary groups equally as some are fighting to regain freedom while others are operating only to extort money.

Apart from cadres of the UNLF who were produced before the NIA court, Landhoni and Henbi were also produced before the special court today.

(<http://kanglaonline.com/2011/05/unlf-welcomes-any-means-to-indomanipur-solution-rk-meghen/>)