



## Editorials

### Culture Matters

How much is culture responsible for progress made by any given society? How much is culture responsible for the embrace or resistance to modernity? These are questions which keep returning because of their continued relevance. There have been so many books written on the subject, addressing and seeking the roots of so much disparity in development all over the world. The intriguing nature of the question has also assured many of these books are best-sellers. Jared M. Diamond's "Guns, Germs and Steel" and Professor David S. Landes' "Wealth and Poverty of Nations" would belong to this category. But another one which promises to satiate further this universal thirst is "The Central Liberal Truth" by foreign aid worker, Lawrence E Harrison, which says culture does make a world of difference in attitudes to modernity and development. The thought if pursued, developed, and applied earnestly and consensually, can also pay dividends for Manipur. How much have our own varying cultures been a catalyst or inhibitor of modernity and development? What has been the role of culture and tradition in our grappling with this issue? It would indeed be an interesting academic study to make an assessment of the correlation between development and the willingness of a community to accept scientific reforms.

Another study by American economists Raymond Fisman and Edward Miguel and critiqued by an American journal, demonstrates the same interrelation between cultural grounding and development. The study takes into account records of illegal parking tickets earned by diplomatic vehicles from different countries outside the UN headquarters in New York. The figures seem hardly a coincidence. The two economists found out that diplomats from countries that rank high on the Transparency International corruption index pile up huge numbers of unpaid tickets, whereas diplomats from countries that rank low on the index get barely any at all. For instance, between 1997 and 2002, they found out, the UN Mission of Kuwait picked up 246 parking violations per diplomat. Diplomats from Egypt, Chad, Sudan, Mozambique, Pakistan, Ethiopia and Syria also committed huge numbers of violations. By contrast, not a single parking violation by a Swedish diplomat was recorded. Nor were there any by diplomats from Denmark, Japan, Israel, Norway or Canada. The reason for this as per their conclusion is, human beings are not merely products of economics, but are also shaped by cultural and moral norms. "If you are Swedish and you have a chance to pull up in front of a fire hydrant, you still don't do it. You are Swedish. That's who you are." Getting at the crux of his argument, Brook quotes another politician thinker of the mid 20th Century, Walter Lippmann, who once said in a speech: "All cultures have value because they provide coherence, but some foster development while others retard it. Some cultures check corruption, while others permit it. Some cultures focus on the future, while others focus on the past. The question that is at the centre of politics today: Can we self-consciously change cultures so they encourage development and modernization?"

## Random Items

### DESAM alleges funds for newly started vocational degree courses misused

IMPHAL, April 17: The Democratic Students' Alliance of Manipur (DESAM) today visited Nambol Sanoi College and inspected the newly established vocational courses of National Skill Qualification Framework under UGC. Speaking to media persons at their offi.....

18-Apr-2016 | Our Staff Reporter | 0 Comments

### Wangkhem Constituency BJP intending candidate conducts political conference

IMPHAL, April 17: Intending BJP candidate from Wangkhem Assembly constituency for the 2017 general election in the State today said that the coming together of people of the constituency especially the womenfolk to strengthen the BJP will bring about a ch.....

18-Apr-2016 | Our Staff Reporter | 0 Comments

### ILP meet resolves to launch agitations

IMPHAL, Apr 17: A Thoubal district leaders' meet on the Inner Line Permit Issue was held today at the kakching Keithel Public Hall. The meeting has resolved to demand that the government should enact the three bills passed to safeguard the indigenous peo.....

18-Apr-2016 | Our Staff Reporter | 0 Comments

### Heingang Police conducts Swachh Bharat cleanliness drive at Sangakpham

IMPHAL, Apr 17: A cleanliness drive under the Swachh Bharat Mission was today conducted at Sangakpham Bazar and its surrounding areas under the initiative of the Heingang Police Station. The drive was also participated by local MLA Nongthombam Biren. The.....

18-Apr-2016 | Our Staff Reporter | 0 Comments

## Latest Comments

[Kh. Omorendro singh-Melodious Mangka](#)

[Okendro Irengbam-Shrinking Playfields](#)

[jacopa thongamcha-Melodious Mangka](#)

[sur-Melodious Mangka](#)

[naoroibam Kapu-Let Mangka Grow Taller](#)

[romi meitei-Let Mangka Grow Taller](#)

[kangleikanba-Let Mangka Grow Taller](#)

[Goroba-Melodious Mangka](#)

[malemnganba-Melodious Mangka](#)

[Ojit Meitei-Melodious Mangka](#)

[Rajesh-I Am A Manipuri, So I Am A Liar: Globally speaking](#)

[JOSHY JOSEPH-Readiness is All](#)

[Reuben Tuboi-A book entitled "Are you a Student?" release](#)

[R Hemam-Melodious Mangka](#)

[Bhushan-TSA objects NPF's take on FCI godown site](#)

[C Balagopal-Irom Sharmila and the Catch-22 paradox](#)

[bnding-Socio-Economic Situation In Manipur: Poverty, budget and all that](#)

[Norkooi-The Pursuit of Happiness](#)

[sana-No tax to NSCN or KTU re-affirms Kuki CSOs](#)

[B S Akoijam-Demystify Your Anxieties](#)

[Michael-Irom Sharmila and the Catch-22 paradox](#)

[goroba-IJK rewards Sarita with National Pride Award](#)

[JOSHY JOSEPH-The Modi Divide](#)

[Rahul-The Unemployment Time Bomb](#)

[O.J. Metei-Silent Crises In Manipur: Time for application of mind, evolution of policy and action for change](#)

[Manglal Chongloi-On Mary Kom Debate](#)

[Narendra Kumar-Irom Sharmila and the Catch-22 paradox](#)

[tongsin-Indefinite holiday for educational](#)

The question is profoundly relevant to our situation. How receptive has our own cultures been to a vision of a modernised future. Can we say the same thing that has been said of the Swedish diplomats who would not park in front of a fire hydrant even if no one was watching, in referring to our own elite? Do we see signs of any moral and social obligations that would stop someone from littering the streets with their kitchen garbage? Do our consciences come to play in checking personal urges for unfair and corrupt practices? Are there any unwritten norms that make people guilty at breaking traffic norms? There have also been debates about the infamous, lethargic work culture in official establishments, but has there ever been an inherent, cultural checking mechanism coming to play to end this? What relation do all these have with development or modernity? The evidences are overwhelming and they all show there is indeed a correlation between cultural attitudes and the march of modernity.

18-Apr-2016 / IFP Editorials / 0 Comments

0

### Comments

No comments found for this entry!

Name:

Priority:

Email:

Comments:



**Imphal Free Press**  
12,352 likes

Be the first of your friends to like this



## Eklavya Model Residential School buildings developed cracks after recent earthquake

CHANDEL, April 17: The Eklavya Model Residential School, Chikim Veng Moreh building has developed cracks due to the earthquake that struck the State on April 13. Apart from the school building, both the boys and girls hostels have also developed cracks o.....

18-Apr-2016 | Correspondent | 0 Comments

## Gram Kishan Sabha held widely across Bishnupur district

BISHNUPUR, April 17: A Gram Kishan Sabha was conducted today at the Keinou Thongkha Community Hall organised by the Keinou GP with the aim to strengthen the panchayati raj system and help the farmers. Keinou Zilla Parishad member L Sumati Devi, Keinou G.....

18-Apr-2016 | Correspondent | 0 Comments

## Narendra Modi's Act East Policy should be beneficial to NE people

By Oken Jeet Sandham India's Look East Policy (LEP) was to foster extensive economic and strategic relations with member nations of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) in order to bolster its standing as a regional power and a counterweight t.....

18-Apr-2016 | IFP Articles | 0 Comments

## State government employees demand implementation of 7th pay commission

IMPHAL, April 17: The State Government employees under the banner All India State Government Employees Confederation today demanded the State government to implement the 7th pay commission in the State at the earliest. The second State conference of the.....

18-Apr-2016 | Our Staff Reporter | 0 Comments

## AMWJU condemns misuse of press Id-card

IMPHAL, April 17: The All Manipur Working Journalists' Union has condemned, in the strongest term, the case of misusing a Press Identify Card detected by the

[institutes announced](#)

[Elizabeth-Money And It's Value Among the Young Adults: Manipur picture](#)

[JONA Zou-Khuga displaced village yet to see electric light after eight years of re-location](#)

[mayori-6-year-old boy saves 4-year-old girl from drowning](#)

[Dr. A. Bimol Akoijam-Irom Sharmila and the Catch-22 paradox](#)

[Sad-Mass peace rally turns violent in Ukhrul, end peaceful elsewhere](#)

[shantamano-Thoughts and Ideas from England](#)

[Helio brutality namz-Melodious Mangka](#)

[JOSHY JOSEPH-Breathing Space for Sharmila](#)

[Aroh Dahamdohinti-Tribal students' bodies oppose ATSUM bandh](#)

[manglal-Uncertainty hangs over SoO extension](#)

[Saka, Khaling Hongsha Tontang Ronglo Charang-Applications called for LIME scholarship](#)

[Luwang-Electricity employees seek public cooperation](#)

[Kullait-Of bans and privilege motions against the State media](#)

[kabichandra-Melodious Mangka](#)

[manglal chongloi-MOA congratulates State medals winners](#)

[Geetarani Loushigam-A Chat with Meiraba - the little Champ](#)

[nganthoi manthem-Melodious Mangka](#)

[sanajaoba lambamayum-Melodious Mangka](#)

[IAppriciateYou-The Pursuit of Happiness](#)

[Rexx-The Pursuit of Happiness](#)

[Roy-The Pursuit of Happiness](#)

[goroba-Green workshop and Seminar concludes](#)

Manipur Police at Alia Crossing, near Lilong Bazar on April 17. According to a statement of the .....

[18-Apr-2016](#) | [Press Release](#) | [0 Comments](#)

---

## Man charged of sexually abusing niece, JAC demands punishment

IMPHAL, April 17: A non-local from Kolkata who is married to a Meitei Pangal has been charged of sexually harassing his niece threatening her of dire consequence if she informs anyone about it. A JAC formed after the family came to know of the alleged co.....

[18-Apr-2016](#) | [Our Staff Reporter](#) | [0 Comments](#)

---

## AICC president approves appointment of new MPCC office bearers

IMPHAL, April 17: All India Congress Committee president Sonia Gandhi today approved the new office bearers of the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee appointed by the recently appointed Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee president TN Haokip. According to.....

[18-Apr-2016](#) | [Our Staff Reporter](#) | [0 Comments](#)

---

## AMSU observes 36th Realisation Day, reiterates stand to safeguard indigenous people of Manipur

IMPHAL, April 17: The All Manipur Students' Union today observed the 36th Realisation day "Meekap Thokpa Numit" with students from across the State participating in paying floral tributes at the Martyrs' Memorial site at Pishum Chingamacha commemorating t.....

[18-Apr-2016](#) | [Our Staff Reporter](#) | [0 Comments](#)

---

[home](#) | [about](#) | [contact us](#)

---

Copyright © 2005 - 2016 Imphal Free Press. Website Developed by : The Amusers & maintained by Imphal Free Press