

Chiru of Northeast India

The **Chiru** people are a smaller sub-group of the larger Manipuri people group of Northeast India. The people of Manipur are grouped into three main ethnic communities - *Meiteis* those inhabiting the valley and 29 scheduled tribes in the hills dividing into two main ethnodenominations, namely *Nagas* and *Chin-Kuki*. The Chiru belong to the Chin-Kuki. The word 'Chiru' means the "seed of a plant."

The **Chiru** are concentrated in Senapati, Tamenglong and Bishnupur districts of Manipur. Their manners, customs, and language appear to identify with the Chin-Kuki, but their physique, habits, hairstyle, and bachelors' quarters are Naga way of life.

Ethnic clashes between these closely connected peoples have occurred frequently over the last three decades. Competition for the area's economic resources is fierce as is the intentional expulsion of cultural minorities, but the underlying cause of the fighting is thought to be the choice of Christianity over Hinduism.

Statistics

- **People Group:** Chiru
- **Country:** India
- **Language:** Chiru
- **Family:** Himalayan / Tibetan
- **Other Major Languages:** Anal, Assamese, Bengali, Mara Chin, Paite Chin
- **Population :** 11,290
- **Scriptures in their own language:** New Testament
- **Christian broadcasts in their own language:** None
- **Population of India:** 1,022,021,300



Prayer Points

- ◆ Pray that God will grant His wisdom and favor to the missions agencies that are currently targeting the Chiru people.
- ◆ Pray that the legislation restricting the preaching of the Gospel will not hinder its spread.
- ◆ Pray for expedient translating work to continue on the Chiru New Testament.
- ◆ Pray that the literature currently developed will be effectively published and distributed throughout the Chiru peoples and have a strong spiritual impact on the people.
- ◆ Ask God to call out Chiru believers whose heart's desire it is to know and preach the Scriptures and share Christ's love with their own people.
- ◆ Take authority over the principalities and powers that are keeping the Chiru having the whole Word of Truth.



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A fundamental approach to the 10/40 window.

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INTERNATIONAL

The **Chiru** of Northeast India

Country

The Republic of **India**, consists of 25 union states and 7 union territories, and the nation dominates South Asia and the Indian Ocean. Nearly 16% of the world's population is Indian, living on 2.4% of the world's land surface.

The great racial, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity makes a simple subdivision of the population difficult. **India** is the world's largest functioning democracy, since becoming independent from Britain in 1947. Internal tensions have steadily increased because of caste, religious and regional loyalties.



Map Courtesy:
CIA World
FactBook

Their Lives

The Chiru practice both shifting and wet cultivation. The women play an important role in agricultural work, collection of firewood and fetching water for drinking and household uses. The main cottage industries are basket and cane works, weaving, carpentry and manufacture of musical instruments.

Beliefs

The legend of the Chiru people group, and in fact all the tribes in Manipur, is they claim that they originated somewhere in the north from a cave. The difference came only in later parts of the history after Meiteis were converted to Vaishnavism and the Chiru and Chin-Kuki became Christians. The valley people treated the hill tribes as untouchables. This led to a creation of a gigantic barrier as one group accepted Hinduism and the other Christianity.



Needs

The story of the Chiru is one of successful conversion... but no access to the Scriptures. We find they now have nearly 40 churches and another generation is carrying on with truth handed from one generation to the next. Their understanding of Bible truth is very basic. We believe significant changes will take place among these people when they have the Bible in their own language.