

Department of History and Culture
Faculty of Humanities and Languages
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Invites you to a lecture

By

Joy LK Pachuau

On

The Colonial Encounter in Mizoram (Lushai Hill): Aspects of Identity Formation

22 November, 2012 (Thursday), 12:15 PM

Venue: Seminar Room, Department of History and Culture, JMI

Mr. Mukul Kesavan, Department of History and Culture will chair the session

A significant shift in the narrative of the histories of the people of Northeast India, as in the rest of India, was their interface with colonialism. A broad sweep of the unfolding of events related to the colonial expansion generally begins with the Treaty of Yandabo, signed in 1826 between the British government in Bengal and the Burmese. The British entry into Assam created opportunities for further inroads into the lands of the various 'hill-tribes' surrounding the plains.

The attempt in this paper is two-fold – firstly, to try and see the nature of the colonial presence with specific reference to Mizoram, formerly known as the Lushai Hills. Secondly, the paper will try and locate how colonialism formed Mizo identity. The nature of colonial presence in the Hills was somewhat different from the rest of the county. The difference among other things also stemmed from the nature of the cultural landscape that colonialism encountered. Thus, the paper will explore aspects of Mizo socio-cultural formation that impinged on and was affected by the colonial presence. It will explore how colonial rule became a cultural tool of identity formation in the Lushai Hills. It should be borne in mind that the presentation also has, as its aim making known a region and its peoples while discussing its colonial history.

About the Speaker

Dr. Joy LK Pachuau is an Associate Professor at the Centre for Historical Studies, JNU. Her research interest includes European expansion in the Indian Ocean world during the 16th-17th centuries, with a special interest in the socio-religious aspects of the engagement. More recently she has taken to the study of the Northeast, especially aspects related to identity making in the 19th and 20th centuries with special reference to Mizoram.