

SUBJECT 29 : LORD SHIVA IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

M - 50%, R - 30%, GEO - 10% H - 10%

The reference material establishes the presence of Lord Shiva and his worshippers in Arunachal Pradesh. It is claimed that India's one of the highest Shiva Linga came out itself from earth due to some seismic activities near Ziro (probably made by Lord Shiva's worshipper Banasur). It is recorded in Shiv Puran that Lord Shiva himself took the help of Kiratas, the tribals of Arunachal Pradesh to test Arjuna. In Shiva Purana, Vishnu Purana, Mahabharata and in many Puranas it is mentioned that Lord Shiva was living with his wife in this region. The facts are supported by archeological excavations at places like Malinithan.

Reference:-

1. Bose, ML (1997); History of Arunachal Pradesh: Concept of Pub Coy; pn - 41
2. Raman, Saraswati (2014): Steps to Momentum in Human Evolution; pn - 10
3. Bareh, HM (2001 & 2004): Encyclopedia of North East India Vol I Arunachal Pradesh; pn - 323.
4. Loyi, Jommi (2011); Colonial Intervention into Adi Areas (1825-1947); Dept of History, RGU; pn - 81
5. Osik, NN (1996) A Brief History of Arunachal Pradesh (From Earliest Times to 1823AD) : Omsons Publications; pn - 28
6. States Shivalinga at Kardo Hills www.journeyindia.com.

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- M - Mythology
- R - Religious
- GEO - Geography
- H - History

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Refer Attachment 1

(Bose, ML (1997); History of Arunachal Pradesh: Concept of Pub Coy; pn - 41)

Arunachal Pradesh Land, People and Culture

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that Krishna while going back to his home, Dwaraka, rested here with Rukmini, the daughter of Bhismaka, whom he had married, as the guest of Lord Siva and his consort Parvati. During their sojourn, Parvati had offered garlands of beautiful flowers from her garden. Lord Krishna, who was overwhelmed with the charm and beauty of these flowers, addressed Parvati as Malini or mistress of the garden. Since then the place was known as Malinithan or the abode of mistress of the garden. The *Kalikapurana* says that when the body of Sati, wife of Siva, was cut to pieces by Vishnu with his holy discus, her head fell somewhere on the Akasi Ganga. Some hold that the same river flowed once by the present site of Malinithan. The North-East Frontier Agency authorised L.N. Chakravarty, Deputy Director of Research (History), who had traced out the Sivalinga or the phallic stone at Bhismaknagar in 1968, to undertake the excavation of Malinithan. He has already exhumed over one hundred images of various gods and goddesses of Hindu pantheon, Yaksas in dancing postures, figurines, sculptured panels, animal motifs such as those of bull, lion, elephant, etc., and some iron dowels or clamps used to hold building materials instead of mortar; some geometric and floral designs have also been discovered by him. An eight-foot high plinth of a temple, most beautifully and florally decorated, has also been unearthed. Images of Indra, seated on elephant, Kartikeya on a peacock and Ganesh have also been found, besides Sarawati and Nandi, the vehicle of Lord Siva. The excavations have proved conclusively that the ruins are of Hindu civilisation that flourished perhaps before the tenth century.¹⁴⁷

son Bana was contemporary of legendary Naraka of Kamakhya. The king Bana, who had a palace at Bhalukpong, had a very beautiful daughter Usha by name. Krishna's son Aniruddha was charmed by her beauty and she consented to marry him; the two lovers secretly escaped from the palace. Bana, enraged at this, chased the fugitives, but they were rescued by Krishna who had meanwhile arrived on the spot and defeated Bana's contingent.¹⁸⁸ Besides, the Bhairav Kund of this district is associated with the king Bana who was a devotee of Lord Siva.

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Refer Attachment 2

(Raman, Saraswati (2014) : Steps to Momentum in Human Evolution; pn - 10)

There has never been a direct Avatar of Mahadeva, of Shiva Himself. He has come in form for special purposes served by that form but not as an incarnation or avatar going through the whole process from birth to death. If we look at the great epic the Mahabharata, we find Him appearing in the form of the hunter, the Kirata, testing the intuition of Arjuna, and struggling with him to test his strength, his courage, and finally his devotion to Himself. But that is a mere form taken for a purpose and cast aside the moment the purpose is served. Over and over again we find such appearances of Mahadeva.

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Refer Attachment 3

(Bareh, HM (2001 & 2004):

Encyclopedia of North East India Vol I

Arunachal Pradesh; pn - 323)

The main themes depicted in the entire structural form is that **Shiva** in the form of *Pursha* sacrifices himself as *Yajmana* in the temple, he gets decorated with sixteen art values having all values of *Brahma* as a *Purna Brahma* depicted by *Purna Kumbha*. **Shiva** gets himself transformed into *Purna Brahma* and gets transmitted into the cosmos as **Shiva Shakti**. The temple thus is the landmark of **Shiva Shakti** cult. It also preserves the ancient **Shiva Linga**. **Shiva** is considered the *Trans-Himalayan God*, the entire Himalayan belt is influenced by this deity. The existence of **Shiva** Linga in ancient times in **Arunachal** also reveals the historic fact of cult of Trans-Himalayan deity-**Shiva**-which prevailed in the state.

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Refer Attachment 4

(Loyi, Jommi (2011); Colonial Intervention into Adi Areas (1825-1947); Dept of History, RGU; Pn - 81)

Kamarupa. If Sonitpur, Vidarbha and Sedi were the contemporary Hindu Kingdoms of Kamrupa, Arunachal including Siang itself was the homeland of Shiva-Parvati worshippers. The existence of Sivalinga in Upper Subansiri (at the confluence of Subansiri-Menga river), Yoni (stone-vagina) in East Siang (at Pade village) and other Sila-Murtis (Stone images) found all over Arunachal testify it.⁸

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Refer Attachment 5

(Osik, NN (1996) A Brief History of
Arunachal Pradesh (From Earliest
times to 1823AD) : Omsons
Pub; pn - 28)

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BRIEF HISTORY OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

extended from the river Karatoya in the west to the Dikrang in the east. Naraka settled the people of Aryan race in his kingdom after driving out the Mongolian Kiratas from the land.

Narakasura was pious and was greatly favoured by Vishnu who taught him to worship the Goddess Kamakhya. Naraka was at first respectful to the Aryan gods and goddesses and protected the Aryans properly. But subsequently he became irreligious and asked Goddess Kamakhya to marry him. He came under the influence of Ban Asur, king of Sonitpur (modern Tezpur) and became proud. He ill-treated the Aryan settlers of Pragjyotisha and incurred displeasure of both Kamakhya and Vishnu. He was eventually slain by Vishnu in his boar incarnation who installed Bhagadatta, the eldest son of Naraka's four sons on the throne of Pragjyotisha.

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Ref Att 6

(States Shivalinga at Kardo Hills

www.journeyindia.com)

Shivalinga at Kardo Hills Arunachal Pradesh

Happens to be one of the largest Shiva linga unearthed in recent times, Shiva Lingam in the Kardo Forest is the miraculous discovery of Mr. Prem Subha, who found this 25 ft tall and 22 ft wide Shiva lingam while cutting a tree during the holy month of Shravana. It is believed that the tree was on the verge of falling. Fortunately, nothing happened to the lingam, and the tree falls a few kilometers away. Suddenly something struck in his mind and realized that it was not a mere stone. It stood clearly visible which appealed him to believe it as Shiva Lingam. One can see the traces of this ancient Lingam in the 17th chapter of the ninth section (Nava Khand ke Satrahwa Adhyaya) edition 1893, where it mentioned that the tallest Shiva Lingam will appear at a place which will be called Lingalaya. At the spot, one can not only see the lingam but also the image of Goddess Parvati and Lord Ganesha with trunk turning leftward. One can also find the river passing by the bottom of the lingam.

Getting There

This Shiva Lingam is located at Kardo Forest in Ziro is approximately 4 kilometers from Hapoli township. To visit Shivalinga, one can find good number of taxis from Hapoli.

Best Time to Visit

You can visit Shiva Lingam throughout the year.



Things to Do & See in and around

After seeking blessings of Lord Shiva, tourists can take part in trekking activities that start from here.