

Name of the Element: Sankirtan of Manipur

Community/ies: Hindus of Manipur.

Region: In the province of Manipur in the North East of India and also in the region of Assam and other places where Manipuris are settled.

Brief Description: Sankirtana is the artistic manifestation of Manipuri worship. To the Manipuris Sankirtana is the visible form of God. Woven within the framework of sacrosanct rituals and ceremonies the art consists of narrative singing and dancing. Always performed in a Mandala (circular area) inside a Mandapa (hall) attached to a temple or erected in a courtyard. The rituals and formalities are strict and even the audience are seated according to set rules. It employs musical instruments like drums and cymbals. The artistes play these instruments and dance at the same time. An artiste spends a life-time specializing only in one aspect.