

Lesson 5

How tribes in Nagaland get their names-2

A. Question and answers :

1. Explain the three different versions of the origin of the name of kachari tribe?

Ans. In the first version, a legend says that one of the ancestors of kacharis settled in a tract of land between the rivers Brahmaputra and Koshi. The area was called kachar by the Nepalese, and the descendants of the man came to be called kachari. The second source is from J.D Anderson who stated that the term kachari comes from the name Koch referring to the Koch dynasty of North Bengal. It is pronounced as koss in Assam and the Assamese refer to the kacharis as kossari. The third source is from N.K Burman who says that the northeast area was mentioned in the great epic, the Mahabharata, and called 'kachcha'.

2. What is the meaning of the word “khiamniungan”? What does it refer to?

Ans. The word khiamniungan means 'source of great water or river'. It refers to the biggest river in the territory named Laang, which flows into the river Chindwin in Myanmar.

3. Discuss the origin of the word, 'chakhasang' and the language that they speak?

Ans. The nomenclature “chakhasang” was coined by extracting the first syllable of the names of its three communities, i.e., cha for chokri, khe for khezha and sang for Sangtam (now Pochury). Thus, chakhasang is formed by three major communities. The chakhasang Naga tribe can speak chokri, khezha, Poiine, sangtam, sümi, Rangma and Tenyidie language.

4. Describe the different beliefs of the Chang people that led to its origin?

Ans. The Chang tribe have a belief that they came from a great tree called changnyu. It was a Banyan tree and could be seen from every direction. Other versions say that the word Chang is derived from the word Changennyu which means 'standing tall'. Yet another version it is said that Chang people came from the east.

5. Discuss the circumstances of the version of the youngest brother that led to the origin of the Sümi tribe?

Ans. The Sümiis believed to have originated from the Angaminumber 'Se' meaning three. This is based on the legend that the Angamis, the chakhasang and the Sümi were son of one man and they all lived together in khezhakenoma. Sümi was the youngest son. The ancestor of the Sümi was called Seme which means 'the third person'.

6. Name the three groups of people who migrated to the present territory of the Pochury tribe? How did they merge into one group and explain their migration?

Ans. Sopo are the group of people who came from Shaphongri village, the küchury group came from southeast Nagaland and the khwiry group came from east of Nagaland which is also under Myanmar now. These three groups of people migrated to the present territory of the Pochury people in different waves from Myanmar. After some years, the three groups merged into one group and became a major Naga tribe.

7. **Discuss the two versions of the origin of the Rengma tribe?**

Ans. The tribe known as Rengma have an interesting story about the origin of their name. In their own language they called themselves Nzonyu. Nzon means a person and Nyu means people of Nzo. They gave themselves this name after NzonTegibu, the greatest hero of the tribe. In later years, when the British came to Assam the British official gave the name Rema or Rengma to the tribe.

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Chongnyu
2. Terogvii
3. India and Myanmar
4. Three
5. Shaphongri
6. ' Se' (three)
7. Chokri, khezha , Sangtam

C. Match the following:

A	B
Chang	Multilingual community (2)
Chakhasang	B) source of great water or river (4)
Kachari	C) Standing tall. (1)
Khiamniungan	D) People of Nzon. (6)
Pochury	E) Brahmaputra and koshi .(3)
Rengma	F) The third person. (7)
Sümi	G) Sapo, küchury, khwiry. (5)

Lesson- 6
The legend of Sopfiinuo

A. Use the words which you have learnt to fill in the blanks.

1. Encountered
2. Native
3. Nursing child
4. Sprout
5. Concluded
6. Mysterious

B. Answer these questions.

1. Who was Sopfünuo?

Ans. Sopfünuo was a woman of Rüsoma village who married a man from Mao area and went to live there.

2. Why did Sopfünuo decide to return to her village?

Ans. Sopfünuo decided to return to her village because her husband began to see another woman.

3. What happened to Sopfünuo and her child while they were returning to her native village?

Ans. Sopfünuo and her child met with an accident while they were returning to her native village.

4. What did Sopfünuo's parents find when they went searching for her and her child?

Ans. When Sopfünuo's parents went to search for her and her child, they came across two stone figures resembled an adult and child at the spot where her husband had last seen the light of the burning torch go out.

5. How were the villagers of Rüsoma able to bring back the two stones at Rüsoma village?

Ans. The entire village of Rüsoma decided to go and bring back the stone very powerful storm broke out. It was also noticed that when the villagers tried to drag the bigger stone, they could not move the stone at all. So when both the stones were tied together, they could without much difficulty drag the stones to the village which lies there to this day.

Lesson 7

Festivals of Nagaland- 2

A. Complete the given sentence after reading the lesson :

1. A decorated bamboo gate is erected at the village entrance.
2. To go out till the festival is over.
3. Love on their married sisters and daughters by gifting them the best rice brew and specially prepared food.
4. Maternal uncles and the children of his sisters.
5. Their men for dinner who comes bearing gifts of meat and food.
6. Sanctify them for the rest of their lives.
7. Making new friends and getting engaged.
8. That the souls of those who died that very year leave the village and go to the land of the dead.
9. Darkness in the world vanished.

B. Answer the given questions :

1. Which is the Naga festival dedicated to women? How do the men show love and respect for their women?

Ans. Monyiü is the Naga festival dedicated to the women. The men show love and respect for their women by gifting them the best rice brew and specially prepared food.

2. What is the importance of the fire in Mileingi festival?

Ans. Fire plays an important part here; young purified men make fire with fresh bamboo at the Morung on this day. This fire is not allowed to go out till the festival is over.

3. What does the name ' Bishu' stand for? What kind of musical instrument is played at this time?

Ans. Literally, ' Bi' means to pray while, ' shu' stands for asking for peace. They played musical instruments like Muri (flute) and drum beat.

4. What is the meaning of ' yemshe'? What sort of work did people do in the village during Yemshe?

Ans. 'Yemshe' means the aroma of the house or the aroma of food coming out of the house. During Yemshe the villagers clean their villages, footpaths, wells, fields and construct resting places.

5. What is the significance of Naknyulüm festival?

Ans. Naknyulüm festival signifies 'the conquest of darkness by light'.

6. **Rangma celebrate ' Ngada' for eight days. What do they do on these eight days?**
Ans. These specific eight days are observed for rice_brewing, cleaning of grave and offering of food to the departed ancestors, bathing and cleaning of clothes and weapons, feasting, dancing and visiting other khels in one's finery and joining in their revelry. A grand feast is arranged on the eight day for everyone.
7. **From what does the Tuluni festival of the Sümis derive its name from?**
Ans. A huge feast is prepared along with rice brew which is served in plantain leaf. This rice-beer is called Tuluni, hence the festival derives its name from this drink.
8. **Why do boys and men bath during the Sokrönye festival of the chakhasangs?**
Ans. Boys and men are sanctified by ritual bathing at the water source at the break of dawn while the water is still unpolluted.
9. **How do you know that Miu is a festival which celebrates the relationship between maternal uncles and their nieces and nephews?**
Ans. Miu festival is celebrated on 5th May. On this day, the uncle offers a prayer to their deity to invoke blessings upon his nieces and nephews. The nieces and nephews in turn visit their uncle with gifts such as cloths, dao, and food. This festival strengthens the relationship between maternal uncles and the children of his sisters.

C. Find synonyms of the given words :

1. Occupied
2. Clean
3. Adoration
4. Success
5. Save
6. Highest
7. Forefather
8. Offering
9. Daybreak
10. Dirty

Lesson 8 Feast of Merit

A. Answer the given questions:

1. **Why is the feast of Merit different from other Naga festivals?**
Ans. Many feasts were celebrated to appease the Gods or seek their blessings for health, prosperity and protection; hence they were religious in nature. However there is an event which stands apart from all these, it is the feast of Merit.
2. **Who can host the feast of Merit and how is it celebrated?**
Ans. A married man can host the feast of Merit. It generally begins with a Mithun sacrifice, but a lot of other animal meats are also used in preparing this huge lavish feast of meat, rice and rice- beer.
3. **What are the reasons for which people host the Feast of merit?**
Ans. It is a matter of people to be able to host such a big feast and naturally earns the feast giver higher prestige and privileges among this people.

4. How do Nagas mark the special occasion of the feast of Merit?

Ans. To mark this special event, some tribes pull huge stones and erect monoliths, some erect wooden Y-post either with a carved Mithun head or without it. Some get to have house horns on the front part of their roofs.

5. What are the special privileges gained by the feast giver?

Ans. In some tribes the feast giver and his family members earn the right to wear special clothes and ornaments which others cannot. Thus a person gains honour and respect among his people through the feast of Merit.

B. Tick the right answer:

1. Ans. B) celebrated when a rich person gives a feast to the whole village.
 2. Ans. A) Able to promote his social status.
 3. Ans. D) all of the above.
 4. Ans. D) a rich married man.
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