

General Knowledge on Komrem Society of Manipur (NEI)

This small book is a collection on the various aspects of Komrem society in India. It is expected that the book will serve the interest of many students and general readers. Due to inadequate information, proper treatment can not be given to many aspects,

I am grateful to my father S. Mangte who is a constant source of inspirations and to my friend K. Jenny for her help and the 'Interlink, a bi-monthly Newsletter of Komrem Student Union, Delhi' for all the valuable information. A suggestion for further improvement of the book is most welcomed.

M.T. Kom
J.N.U, New Delhi

18.11.1999

Contents

1. General Knowledge on Komrem
2. Komrem origin and folktales
3. Wars in Komrem
4. New Names
5. Months in Komrem
6. Dances in Komrem
7. Custom and Festivals
8. Magical terms
9. Traditional Dress items
10. Birds and Animals
11. Who's who in Komrem
12. Movies
13. Distinction in Education
14. National Awards
15. Republic Day participation
16. Popular Singers
17. Komrem Associations
18. Journals
19. Musical Instruments
20. Traditional Shawls
21. Clans in Komrem
22. Old villages
23. Komrem Areas
24. Farthest and the Nearest
25. Important Events & Elections
26. Old and New Languages
27. Komrem and Neighbours
28. Bibliography

Introduction

The Country of Komrem is marked by hills and plains where there is the pleasure of leading both plain and hill life. The Komrem comprises of Aimol, Chiru, Koireng, Kom and Purum who are recognized by the Government as scheduled Tribe. They are racially closed to mongoloid stock of the Tibeto-Burman speaking family. Their forefathers claimed that they emerged out from the mythical cave which was guarded by a Tiger. The Komrem genesis is traced from this cave incident. The culture and tradition exhibited by these five tribes are common and similar.

Komrems are found in the states of Manipur, Assam, Tripura, etc. Major chunk of their population are found in Manipur, occupying the buffer areas between the hills and plains of the state. They are present in almost all the districts.

Profile:

Communities	: Aimol, Chiru, Koireng, Kom and Purum
States	: Manipur, Assam, Tripura
Dialects	: Aimol, Chiru, Koireng, Kom, Purum, Manipuri and English
Villages	: 90
Religion	: Christianity
Population	: Approx. 40000
Economy	: Primary (Jhum, Wet cultivation)
Polity	: Tradition based (hereditary chieftainship)

Social Organization

The Komrem are patrilineal society where descent is traced through the male line. Authority in the family is exercised by the eldest male. They have many clans and sub-clans who traced their origin from the cave. Matrilateral cross cousin marriage is very common among them. Some clans believe in the totemic objects. The Leivon, Karong, Chaithu are such examples. The Komrem bury

their dead, followed by many rites. Dressing of ancestor's skulls is a unique custom of the Komrem. It involves an elaborate procedure.

Komrems have many festivals associated with their economic, political and religious activities. They are: Sather kuhmei, Nailom, Muchi mathlak, etc. Komrems have adopted Christianity as a true religion. Their ancestors were followers of animism and naturism. Magic was a common profession among them in olden days.

Komrem Origin and Folktales

1. Who coined the term Komrem and when?
- The Chief of Dolang Chiru village in 1958.
2. What was the name of the first Village of Komrem?
- Chungkhophai.
3. The word Komrem comes from where?
- It comes from lukakom
4. What is the original name of pasepon?
- The original name is Ponthe (Thepon)
5. Lanu Clan belongs to which tribe?
- Aimol
6. Lunglai clan belongs to which tribe?
- Koireng
7. Sampar clans belong to which tribe?
- Chiru
8. Vainel clan is from which tribe?
- Purum
9. Who was Saichepa?
- He was the man who killed the tiger.
10. What does Karong clan signify?
- Karong means expert in waylaying or making friendship with the tiger.
11. Who made Pasepon?
- Pi Chongnu made the pasepon.
12. Who was Ngambom's sweetheart?
- It was Pi Jortling.
13. Who were the Manmasis?
- They were the ancestors of Komrem who inhabited the moon.
14. What were the names of the three powerful gods followed by our ancestors?
- Rampu, Okpa and Sentai.
15. Name the legendary magician of Komrem folktales?
- Pu. Rengam
16. Who were Puhring and pudams?

-They were the great ancestors of Komrems who escaped from the moon along with their families to earth by their Rotrakong (Spacecraft).

17. **What is Rotrakong?**

-It is the name of the flying saucer owned by Puhring and Pudam.

18. **Name the two brothers who rescued a beautiful girl?**

-Phothir and Hrangche.

19. **Who was Rengchonghoi's boyfriend?**

-He was Mathlumtepa.

20. **Name the handsome boyfriend of Chunnei?**

-He was Jorpher.

21. **Who was Kharbompu?**

-He was a forest beast.

22. **What is Khori?**

-It is a witch.

23. **Who was Warlong?**

-He was a brave hunter adored by his faithful dogs and killed by a warhog while undertaking a hunt for his wicked witch wife. And his dogs were called kahne.

Famous Wars in Komrem:

1. **What was Dondo-re?**

-They were people with no joints and limbs.

2. **What is Janpa-re?**

-The war fought by the Japanese.

3. **What is Saneireng-re?**

-They are dwarf people who can be trapped easily.

4. **What is Mineo-re?**

-In this war killing took place only at night.

5. **What is Akamhao-re?**

-The war fought between the Komrem and the Tiddim tribes.

6. **What do you know about Kurang village?**

-It is also called Thaitlang where the entire population of this Komrem village was killed by the Sukte or present Guite.

New Names

1. **What is the new name of Uibok?**

-Songpher

2. **What is the old name of Lamdangmei?**

-Lungdo.

3. **What is the old name of Sagang?**

-Sakang.

4. What is the old name of Saikul?

-Saikur.

Months in Komrem

1. What are Mhurva, Jingpui, Erthla?

-July, August and October.

2. What is Tebe, Mavi, Matai, Martun?

-January, February, March, April.

Dances in Komrem

What is Khurlam?

- It is the famous cave dance of the Komrem depicting the killing of the tiger and their successful journey.

Name two popular dances of Komrem?

- Vaikhonglam (Athekepi) and Lomlam.

What is Lenkhom Lam?- In this dance, during social gathering boys and girls dance together.

Customs and Festivals:

What is Reiju?

-The wine made by the women from flower.

What is seju-in-le Lomlam?

-It is a cattle and wine festival.

What is Jutluk?

-The wineserved by the rich people.

What is nimju?

-The wine made from maize and grain.

What is berphun?

-It is an object hung on a pole by the rich for shooting event.

What is som-karek?

-It is a custom for the boys to spend the nights together at alternate household everyday.

What is nuchan?

-It means share of the bride's mother to be paid by the boy's family.

What is Puhrang?

-It is a bride price offered to the grand maternal uncle of the girl.

What is Sakong le Sadar?

-t is an offering made to the maternal uncle.

What is serjor?

-It means one's sisters related by blood or clan.

Who are the sakamaks?

-They are the son-in-laws.

What is lukasun?

-It is a custom of washing and dressing of the ancestors skulls.

What is Thenlo?

-It is the food prepared for the death ancestors.

What is Derpui?

-It is a red coloured garment used to wrap the dead body.

What is Naite-so?

-It is a custom of exposing the newly born child to others.

What is Nailom?

-It is the celebration of a newly born child.

- **Chinglhei-** It is a jhum cultivation.
- **Muchi Mathlak-**It is a sowing festival
- **Khongpuithluk-**Celebration of completion of making a drum.
- **Sade-**Festival marked with wine and meat.
- **Reiju-in:** Menfolk are served with wine by the women when given flowers.
- **Se ju-** The boys bring cattle and the girls prepare wine and dine together for three days.
- **Nimju-** Wine prepared from corns.

Magical Terms

1. **What is Vokhlim doi?**

-Offering of pig's meat to the deity for benevolent returns.

2. **What is thlasan Doi?**

-It is a magical rite associated with predicting events.

3. **What is khengsum doi?**

-It is to trap the soul of a man in a makeshift hole.

4. **What is Marilim Manson?**

-In this magic, an image of a snake is molded out of clay and thrown into the river to cure illnesses associated with snakes.

5. **What is Tuipui doi?**

-To cure illness due to contact with water.

Traditional Dresses :

1. Har

7. Hesang

13. Arakong

- | | | |
|------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 2. Kutkhi | 8. Kongpui-cap | 14. Arkoi |
| 3. Mathli | 9. Dumdepui | 15. Sakhi hapui |
| 4. Kordang | 10. Perang hme | 16. Humpui ha, amatin |
| 5. Pherpum | 11. Vakurkoi | 17. Hmuvanlai Hme |
| 6. Vahme | 12. Repuiikadang. | 18. Jaksher Saikor |

Komrem Personalities

1. **Who is the first KR-Union President?**
-Pu. Teba Karong
2. **Who was Pu. Bounhlut Telien?**
-He was the brave and gallant son of Komrem who led them in many wars. He was killed by Thingsats with poisoned arrow.
3. **Who was Pu Sompaa?**
-The gifted politician and beloved master of many. He was thrice the president of Komrem Union He is the Father of modern Komrem polity and neutrality.
4. **Who is Pu Alar Thoitak?**
-He is a politician and social worker and also the former president of Chiru tribe union.
5. **Who was Pu Longkhobel Karong?**
-He was the first Komrem to accept Christianity and the pioneer of hill missionary movement in Manipur.
6. **Who is Hensei Telien?**
-He was the former secretary of KR Union.
7. **Where is the Head quarter of KR Union?**
-At present in Palace Gate, Imphal.
8. **Whose policy is neutrality from Komrems?**
-Pu M.S. Sompaa.
9. **Who is K. John?**
-He was the Chief of Saikul Village.
10. **Who is Pu K. Lakhopao?**
-He is the former president of Komrem Union and former Gen. Secy. of Manipur Congress Party

Komrem Baptist Churches Association

- **When was KRBCS founded?**
-It was founded in 1952.
- **Who was the first Executive head of KRBCA?**
-Pu. Sonkhosei Karong.
- **Where is the HQ of KRBCA?**
-KRBCA Complex, Langol, Imphal.
- **Who was Pu Romeo Serto?**

-He was one of the pioneers of Christianity among the Komrem and the first to finish B.D and M.Th.

- **Who was Pu Sumkholen Serto?**

-He is the father of modern KRBCA and the first matriculate, G.Th & Reverend.

- **Who was Pu Zampi Chiru?**

-He was the former Executive head of KRBCA.

- **Who was Pu Seksel Koireng?**

-He was the former Executive head of KRBCA and an active member of KRBCA's Secretariat building project.

- **Who was Pu Thadai?**

-He was the former Executive head of KRBCA

- **Where is the KRBCA Complex?**

-KRBCA Complex, Tarung, Imphal-795004

Books and Authors

- **Who is Pu K. Sonjachung?**

-He is the author of Komrem Thlut.

- **Who is Pu Serkhopao?**

-He is the author of Hmathlir, Lungdaizen, The Komrem of Manipur (NEI) and many others.

- **Who is Pu Benjamin?**

-The first to finish M.Phil and the author of the Komrem people.

- **Who is Pu Pakhup Lupheng?**

-He is the author of Komrem Christian Hlather and Tenlai Joruu.

- **Who is Pi Awei Telien?**

-She is the author of Hringkho Omchen.

- **Who is Pu Mangpu Karong?**

-He is the author of Culture and Language of Kom.

- **Who is Pu Henneichung Leivon?**

-He is the author of Komrem Thlut leh Khang.

- **Who is Pu Ngamsokhup Serto?**

-He is the author of Rengam Thuhming.

Household Items

- **What is Rathi?**

-It is an artifact made of bamboo for keeping clothes.

- **What is Bor?**

-It is a tray made of bamboo.

- **What is Hlongkhai?**

-It is an artifact made of bamboo for carrying foods.

- **What is Sahre?**

-It is a wooden bar (Piston) used for crushing grain (chaff).

- **What is Khotlei le Makhe?**

-They are kitchen equipments made of bamboo and used for serving food and curry.

- **What is Karap?**

-It is a place where fresh meats are dried in the hearth.

Birds and Animals

Ulengnu : It is a seasonal bird singing at the time of sunset.

Chi phon phon : It is a small insect found in the sand surrounding the house. Children play with it.

Rengchangnu : It is a small bird fond of singing at noon.

Facts about Komrems

- The biggest KR village : Sagang Khopui.
- Smallest KR village : Teraphai
- The first KR village to receive Christianity : Makokching.
- The first Matriculate among KR : Sumkholen Serto.
- The first B.A. among Komrem : Sonneithang Karong
- The first M.A. among Komrem : Paokhup Telien
- The first M. Phil among Komrem : Benjamin Leivon
- The first S.T. M. among Komrem : Asong Mangte.
- The first I.A.S. : Sonchungam Yatak.
- The first IPS : Kailun Lupheng.
- The first IES : Lunneithang Mangte
- The first M.E : Ahmun Siallo
- The first MBBS : Buipa Telien (Dr. T.R. Kom)
- The first Advocate : Songboi Serto.
- The first AI school : Lenjamang Karong
- The First Headmaster : Sonneithang Karong
- The first to visit foreign country : Teba Karong
- The first State Minister : Teba karong
- The first Christian : Longkhobel Karong
- The first to publish booking Komrem dialect : Teba Karong
- The first to become MLA : Sonkhothang Karong
- The first venue where Students' Conference was held : Saikul
- The first Christian fellowship : Senpangjar Village
- The first military zamindar : Pakhup Mangte
- The first to finish M. Sc Life Science integrated from J.N. U : K. Jenny Hmangte.
- The Gold Medalist in English from NEHU : Thangkim Serto.
- The first to receive computer degree (Diploma) : Hegin Karong
- The first Income tax officer : Kailen Lupheng

- The first to enter IIT
- The first to get foreign citizenship

: Khupsong Koireng
: Neikhokim Karong

Women

- The first lady to visit foreign country
- The first woman to receive matriculation
- The first woman to finish M.A
- The first woman to finish B.Com
- The first woman to finish B.A.
- The first woman MBBS

: Ngahkhokim Karong.
: Darnu Telien.
: Thangkim Serto.
: Boichong Telien
: Apon Telien
: Pi (Late) Alphina Serto.

Did You Know?

- Alun Karong** : The greatest comedian
Toton Telien : A man who can drink 5 Ltrs of water at a time.
Sagang : The biggest KR Village
Mr. K.Khupmarvanrengghakminthang(S/o K. James, Saikul) : The longest name.

Komrem Movies

- Komrem Jornu**: Directed by Kamlun Telien
Hringkho Hlamro: Directed by Pu Mathew Karong

Education

- Late Pi Alphina Serto** : 5th Position in HSLC
Miss Teneichong Telien : 12th Position in HSLC

National Awards

- Pu Sonlien Karong** : For excellence in Social Service for the handicapped in 1979. He was also associated with All India Radio as Sr. Composer. He was the founder and first principal of Ideal Blind School, Imphal.
Pi K. Ngahkhokim : National Award in Social Service.

National Players

- **Pu Jacob karong** : Football(BSF)
- **Pi Thoimurei Chiru** : Football
- **Pu Wangkhupler Kom** : Football(Mohan Began)
- **Pu Nando Purum** : Football
- **M.C. Mary Kom** : Boxing (Five times world Champion)
- **Hmangte Parneichong** : Claimed 3gold medals, Youth Asian Weight lifting championship, Jordan, 2007.

Republic Day Participation:

- Aimol Dance Party at New Delhi in 1977
- Khoirentak Dance Party at Delhi in 1985.

Popular Singers

- **Pi. Ester Serto** : Love songs
- **Pi. Bobby Zaito** : Love Songs
- **Pi. Chongjalhing Mangte** : Gospel Songs
- **Pu. Thangboi Serto** : Gospel
- **Pu. Hempte Leivon** : Love songs
- **Pu. Biren Mangte** : Gospel
- **Pu. Sarat** : Gospel and Kom Classical
- **Pi. Songkhupjang** : Gospel

Komrem Associations and Organizations

- Komrem Baptist Churches Association
- Komrem Union (NEI)
- Komrem Students Union, Manipur
- Komrem Students Union, Delhi
- Komrem Christian Fellowship, Delhi
- Komrem Christian Fellowship, Shillong
- Komrem Christian Fellowship, Bangalore
- Chiru Tribe Union
- Aimol Tribe Students Union, Manipur
- Koireng Youth Organization, Manipur

Journals

Tlangva-Manipur	: Founded by Pu S. Serto
Hmeivar-Manipur	: Founded by Pu. M. T. Kom
Interlink-Delhi	: Aimol
Chongsem-Manipur	:
The Voice-Shillong	:
Tongsem-Imphal	:
Inthopuina ther-Manipur	: Late D. Chunglenhao
The Awakening-Delhi	: KRCFD
Khothir rih	: Bangalore

Musical Instruments

- **Rosem** : A musical instrument made of bamboo to produce different sounds on blowing the pipes attached tightly with the main body.
- **Serangdar** : It is a small drum

- **Seraki** : It is mainly the dried horn of yak (Setak raki in kom)
- **Shum** : It is a big gong
- **Dar** : It is a small drum
- **Khong** : Drum
- **Sumkotban**
- **Bunglir** : Flute
- **Sabupeng, Bingboi, Sumpui**
- **Khongthei** : A small drum made of wood.

Traditional Shawls

Ponthe (Pase pon)	Ponrabu	Lasenpon
Ponkokhoi	Rengnu Amm	Heapon
Khamtang	Kharam	Derpui
Chisubu	Pondum	Kahnik
Mukhamjar	Aamte Ponn	Tingsei

1. What does the intricate pattern in the shawl, Pasepon depict?
-It depicts the pattern found in the Python's skin.
2. Who was Pi. Seitinnei?
-She was a friend of Pi Chongnu, who took over the charge of weaving after Pi Chongnu's death.
3. Who was the witness to the weaving events, as found in Komrem folktales?
-The crabman

Old Villages Established by Ancestors of Komrem

Khothutpui	Khojepui	Khovaibe	Khodungsei	Kholingkun
Kholamdar	Haotak	Hmongtung	Keirap	Kharam
Khoirentak	Lutar(Litan)	Mantak,	Maibung	Ngairong
Phaileng	Purum Kholen	Sagang	Songpher	Thaitlang
Thajong	Thikhup	Thinglongkai	Tongkai etc.	

Clans in Komrem

<u>Aimol</u>	<u>Chiru</u>	<u>Koireng</u>	<u>Kom</u>	<u>Purum</u>
Chaithu(Karong)	Dalla	Lunglai	Karong	Bapui

Chongom	Dingthoi	Songthu	Serto	Songthu
Laita	Raja (Mangte)	Zaite	Mangte	Mirem
Lanu	Shampar (Karong)	Wanbe	Leivon	Vainel
Leivon	.....	tumtin	Lupheng	Khengte
Mangte Laita	.....	Tainte Telien	(Thingpui)	Tuikhang
Serto Lanu	.....	Toltung	Luphobo	Karong
.....	.....	Leiser	Saichepa	Leivon
.....	.....	Rambol	Thlangompa	.....

Komrem

Mhongtung Kom	: Those settled in the Tamenglong areas.
Sak ram Komrem	: They settled in Saikul and adjoining areas.
Thlangram Komrem	: They settled in the adjoining areas of Sagang.
Pallel Komrem	: They settled in Chingnunghut and adjoining areas
Lamdangmei Areas	: Chirus are the dominant komrem in this area.
Centre Area	: Komrem villages in the vicinity of Nungsai Chiru.

Farthest and the Nearest

The farthest village of Komrem from Imphal	: Lamdangmei
The Nearest village of Komrem from Imphal	: Kangchup Chiru

Important Events

- Biennial Fellowship of Komrem was held every 2 years.
- Students' Conference of KRSUM: Every 3 Years
- Leadership Training: Under KRBCA
- Komrem Union election: Every 5th Years.
- Gospel Youth Olympic: Incepted since 2012, January at Tonsen.

Some Old and New Languages

Old	New	Old	New
Thlunglu	Lu	Kajo-kajopa	Pa-kapa
Chunnu-kachun	Nu-Kanu	Toi-katoi-toidong	Kanai khangdonghei
Thai	Kathai	Nuhmei	Kanuhmei
Kachin	Chin	Ka'u	U
Vangkho	Kho	Siktui	Tui

Lengse	Se	Thek-ar	Ar
Korkei	Humpui	Fevok	vok
Lem-ui	Ui	Phorva	Perang
Khisa	Sakhi	Huivom	Savom-Kavom
Lim-nga	Nga	Juksel	Kajuk
Ngapa	Ma-nge	Vakhoi	Khoiva
Somsang	Shang	Thlomaran	Hlei
Lamchem	Chem-Chempong	Langpan	Pon
Nghaknu	Nunghak	Sorsam	Sam
Pheiphung	Ke	Phaihmit	Hmit
Chinkhong	Khong	Semro	Rosem
Sekel	Ke(goat)	Simni	Kani
Sorthla	Thla	Si-ar	Arsi
Hning-ju	Juhning	Lamtlang-Keirih	Lamrih
Puiro	Ropui	Lamdar	Dar
Thlasam-ram	Kathiram	Korse	Sekor
Thuva	Vathu	Sangthing	Thingler
Eai	Sak		

The Komrem Recognize their neighbours as below:

Meitei -	Meitlei	Tangkul -	Luhup	Thadou -	Khongsai
Rongmei -	Marong	Anal -	Kasen	Angami -	Releng
Zou/Paite-	Akamhao	Mizo -	Lusei	Gangte -	Vangte
Hindustan-	Kor	Bengali -	Wai	Muslim -	Pangar
Tripura -	Rengpuiram	English -	Sap hei(Mikabang)		
Burmese -	Alva	Karen -	Lukaren	Kachin -	Lukachin
Burma -	Kapo	Zemeind Lengmei-Chimak(Songpuiloi)			
Maharaja-	Maharacha.				

M. Thangminlen Kom
Ichum Keirap Village

Bibliography:

The Interlink, Hmeivar, Tlangva, Manhret sik a Katha(by K.Kampu) and The Komrem Manipur(NEI) by S. Mangte.

All rights reserved:

www.ichumkeirap.yolasite.com