

**"Syu-La"**

.....

**CHALAPOTHAR  
KHAMYANG VILLAGE**

(Established on 1868-----1869)

An Overlook

(Registered as "Nara Gaon" in per Government Record)

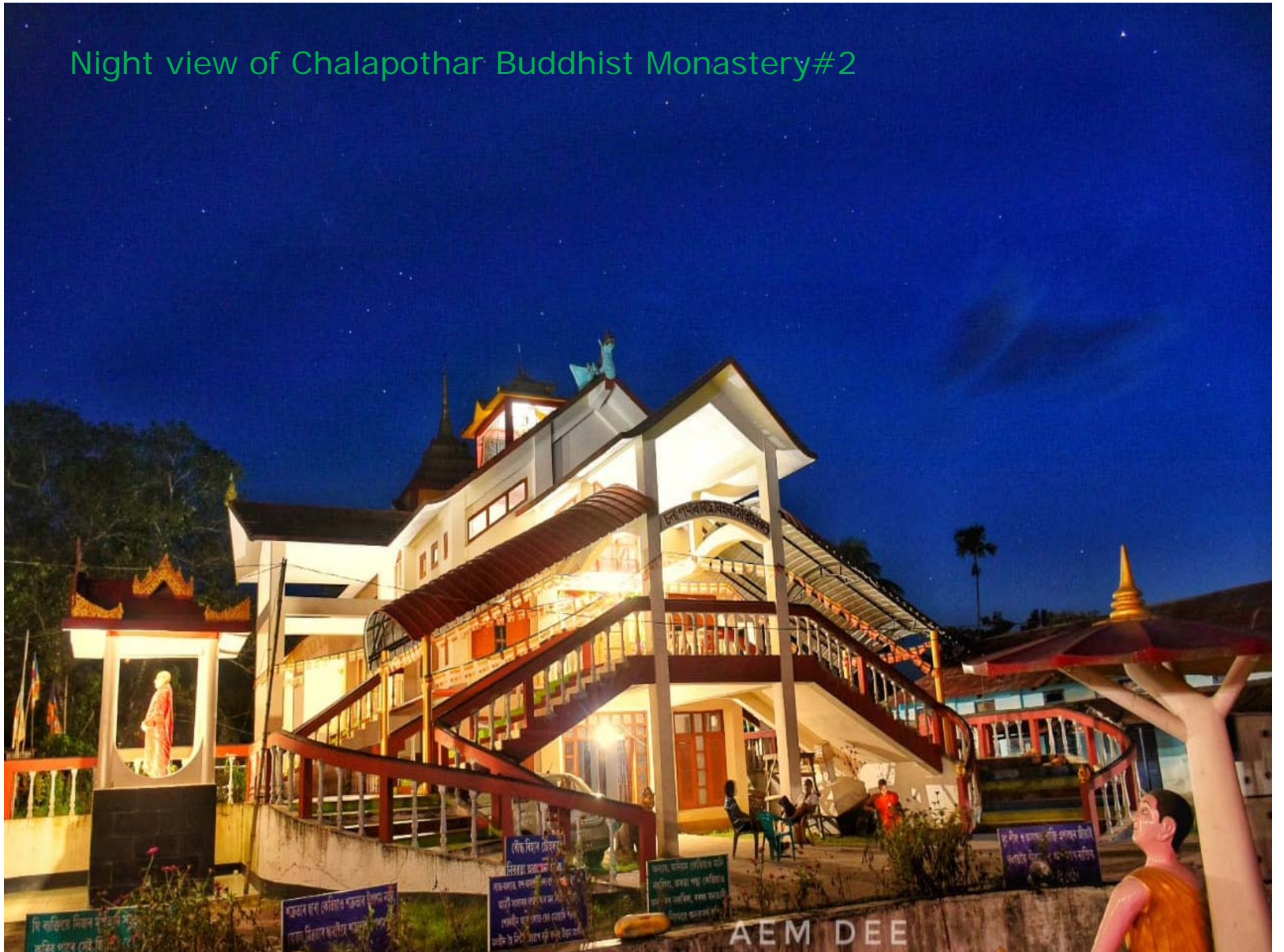
The statue of "Chow-Fra" (lord) Buddha....at Chalapothar Buddhist Monastery#2.....





Present day Chalapothar Khamyang Village "Kyong" Buddhist Monastery#2

# Night view of Chalapothar Buddhist Monastery#2



- At East: "Se-fai" river & Khona TE.
- At west: Chalapothar Chang-mai gaon and Lakwa area.
- At North: "Rajgarh" constructed by Swargadeo "Su-seng Pha" & Disang river.
- At South: Lakwa TE Garden & NF Railway.
- Inside Village: "Harihatta-ali" road constructed by Pik-chai Holou Phukan and "Senehi-ali" road.
- Chalapothar Khamyang village is scattered by 2.5 KM in East-West direction & equally scattered in North-South directions.

**Chala Reserve Forest is adjacent to the village in East-West direction having big role in food-habits and village ecosystem.**

- Village Established on Year 1868.
- Population: Approximately 919; male: 490, female: 429.
- Numbers of household families 144.
- Literacy 97%.
- Religion followed is Theravada Buddhism.

**Village Basic data.....**



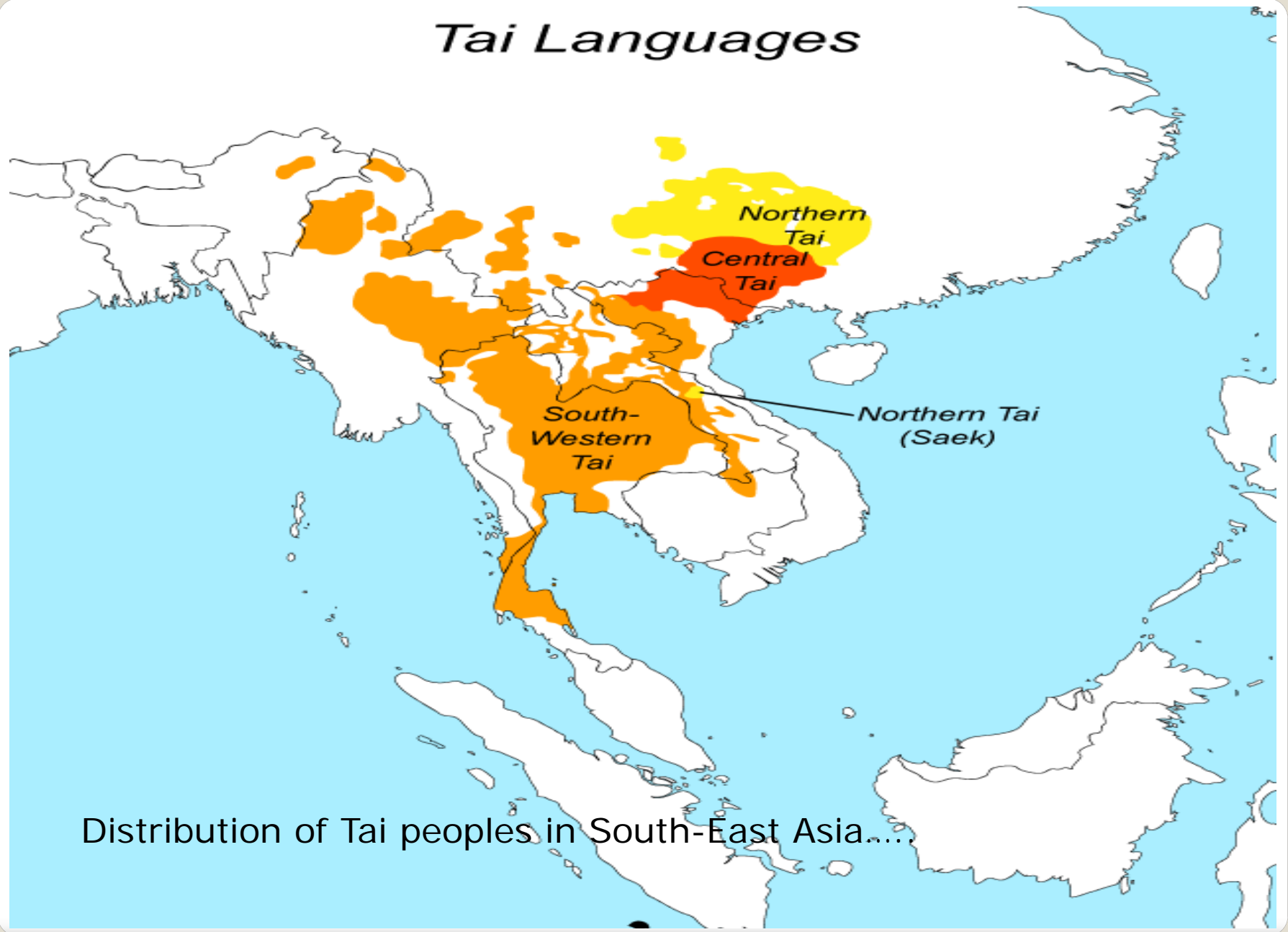
The old "Kyong" Monastery#2 of Chalapothar Khamyang Village with "Jaa Lin-Jaa Lai" Grandmothers

- Originated from a place "KHAM-YANG" (Kham-means Gold, Yang-means to have it) area of Shan State of Myanmar (Burma) between "MOUNG-KONG" and "MOUNG-MIT" states.
- Migrated to Assam "Moung-dun-sun-Kham" crossing "PAT-KAI" (Pat-means to cut, Kai-means hen) mountain "Kau-doi-rong" (Meeting point of nine mountains) bordering India and Myanmar in 1300 Century.
- Migrated from formerly established village Disangpani Khamyang (established on 1836) to establish a new village Chalapohtar Khamyang on 1868.

**Migration.....and Origin.....**



# Tai Languages



Distribution of Tai peoples in South-East Asia.....



- “PAT-KONWAR Dhap”.....Located inside Chala Reserve Forest, in North-South direction, constructed during Ahom regime.
- “Raja-Pukhuri” of Ahom regime.....Located inside Chala Reserve forest.
- “Juria-Pukhuri” of Ahom regime..... Located inside Chala Reserve forest.
- Ruins of “Har-bheti of Uni Brahman”..... Located inside Chala Reserve forest.

**Foot prints of History.....**

- Present day village location was formerly known as "SYU-LA" (Tai-Khamyang), Syu- means Tiger and La- means valley, where tigers (Black panthers and Leopards) were found abundantly.
- Tigers and Wild Elephants were roaming in the "Syu-La" area with dense forest and river "Se-fai", (Se-means to put-off and fai-means fire) flowing from Nagaland to join into "Disang" river.

**"Syu-La" The Tiger Valley.....present day CHALAPOTHAR KHAMYANG.....**

- Established "Kyong" (Buddha Vihara) at "Syu-La" under lots of adversities by remembering the ancestors with the "Fra" (Buddha statue) carried from Disangpani Khamyang village.
- Firstly Constructed seven nos of "Houn-hang" (hang-means log, houn-means house) of single room for seven nos of families in 1-bigha land.

**Ancestors....."Khun-hang" &  
"Khun-chang".....**



Old "Kyong" Buddha Vihara of Chalapothar Khamyang village.....



Tai Khamyang "houn-hang" log house at Chalapohtar Khaymang village with "Jaa" (grandma) Bhugeswari Shyam and "laan" (grand child).....



Tai-Khamyang "Jaa" (grand-maa) and "Puchow" (grandpaa).....





A "houn hang" log house of Tai Khamyang family at Rohan Khamyang village.....



A typical "houn hang" log house of Tai Khamyang people.....

- For the security, survival and growth of future generations, our ancestors did great endeavour and sacrifices were: -
- Poking Chowlu, Po-Ahina, Po-Choi, Nang-Dumoni, Nang-Ahini, Chow-ghin Pangyuk, Chow-takwa, Chow-kandura, Nang-Jena, Po-chali Tungkhang, Po-lathong Chetia, Po-chali Chowlik.

**Struggle and Endeavour for  
Establishment of Village.....**

- As “thikadaar” (contractor) of Lakwa TE, he was awarded a big piece of Land the “Hipaar pothar” (paddy field at the other side of the river) at the North East side of river “Se-fai” for his loyalty with then British Tea Garden Manager.
- Only due to his contributions and distribution of that land among all the villagers, people of Chalapothar Khamyang are today able to make their own food grains.

**“Thikadaar Burha” Angmet  
Shyam.....The saviour.....**

- His life is an inspiration to the whole Tai-Khamyang society who born in Chalapothar Khamyang village on 27<sup>th</sup> of October'1926 .
- His life is like a story tale which is unknown to the literate society.
- He has contributed to the society in many directions with his intellect.
- His Most important job-→ Translation of 45-numbers of books from Pali language to Assamese language. Before that Buddhist preaching in North East India was of great inconvenience due to language barrier.

**Living legend.....Venerable  
Sasanabansha Mahathera.....**

- His books are popular among people of Buddhist and non-Buddhist population of North-East India.
- The Assamese literate society has recognized his contributions.
- In 1942, while studying in Nazira High School 32 kms away from Chalapothar, he got involved in Indian Freedom fighting movement and left school for good.

**Living legend.....Venerable  
Sasanabansha Mahathera.....**



Living legend....Venerable Sasanabansha Mahathera....infront of Chalapothis Buddhist Monastery#2....



Statue of Venerable Sasanabansha Mahathera donated by his Patriarchal clan "Pangyuk" and other devotees.....





Venerable Ssanabangsha Mahathera inaugurating "Bodhidrum" the wall magazine of Chalapothar Khamyang village.....

- On 27<sup>th</sup> of Dec'1947, he went to Myanmar on foot within 20-days.
- On 1949, he took over his new life as "Sasanabansha Bhikhu" after a long foreign tour.
- Achievements of Venerable Sasanabansha Mahathera.

**Living legend.....Venerable  
Sasanabansha Mahathera.....**

- He constructed the first bridge over river "Se-fai" (now as Safrai).
- He has contributed extensively in various social activities for the progress of Tai Khamyang people.

**"Holi-burha".....**

- He was a Tai scholar and has major contributions for the progress and revival of Tai-Khamyang language.
- He has authored several Tai manuscripts.
- He has struggled in his scholarly life without the basic amenities of life.

**“Pathek-burha” Angsha Chowlu.....**



A "kong-mu" doul and "Musi-landa" donated by devoted families of Chalapoathar.....

A monument donated by one of the devoted family of Chalapoathar....





A side view of the new "Kyong" Chalapothar Buddhist Monastery....



"Kyong-fraa" donated by "Chowlu" dynasty and other villagers.....





"Chala Jnanudyay Pali Vidyalaya".....Chalapochar Khamyang Village.....



Inside "Chalapoathar Jnanudyay Puthibharal" library with more than 5000 books at Chalapoathar Buddhist monastery#2.....

- Kula Mongyang Chowlu ("Kula Burha") led another group from Disangpani Khamyang and landed at 288 Grant near Burha pothar where they stayed there for 2---3 years and finally settled at Chalapothar Khamyang village.
- Khamyang people of all clans settled at present village after great struggle and sacrifice for a bright and vibrant future of its future generations.

**"Se-fai" to "Safry";**

**"Syu-La" to "Chalapothar"**

- Tai-Khamyangs are followers of Theravada Buddhism. They follow the great sayings and philosophies of Lord Buddha in their daily lives.
- "Panchasheel"-----Five numbers of Philosophies for Way of Life. Those are barring from five deeds (killing, stealing, speaking lie, consuming alcohols and narcotics, and adultery).
- "Asthantik-marg" (Asthasheel)-----Journey towards spiritually. Followed by elderly peoples.
- Chalapothar Buddhsit Monastery#2:- It is a Centre of Religion, Education, Pali-studies and Tai-studies. Assamese and Bangla studies were conducted here. Monks and Toursits from all over the world use to visit it regularly.
- They have no system of upper and lower class.

**Religion.....**

Pilgrimage to Bodh  
Gaya on 2018.....





Pilgrimage to Bodh-gaya with people of other village.....



Pilgrimage to Bodh gaya.....

- Tai-Kahamyangs belong to the family of the great Tai race.
- The people of Chalapothar Khamyang have nine clans.....Chowlu, Panyuk, Chowlik, Tungkhong, Manse, Maloi, Kumsai, Chowteu mung (Pomong/Barik) and Kamthong.....

**Tai-Khamyang Ethnicity.....**





Preparation for Poi-Sangken at "Kyong-fraa".....



ကျ နေတ် ငွံ



ကျ လှိုင်



ထိုင် တဲ

Tai Khamyang attire for Gents.....

Editing By ; ကွံ မွက် မွမေ ကွံသွင်



Tai-Khamyang man in traditional attire.....



Tai-khamyang ladies in traditional attire....Chalapoathar Khamyang....

WELCOME TO

# POI-PUNG MAW-SAW TAI KHAMYNAG

1st-5th May 2014

Organized by Myanmar Tourism from Pokon Pagan, Jitra



Young Tai-Khamynag girls in traditional attire

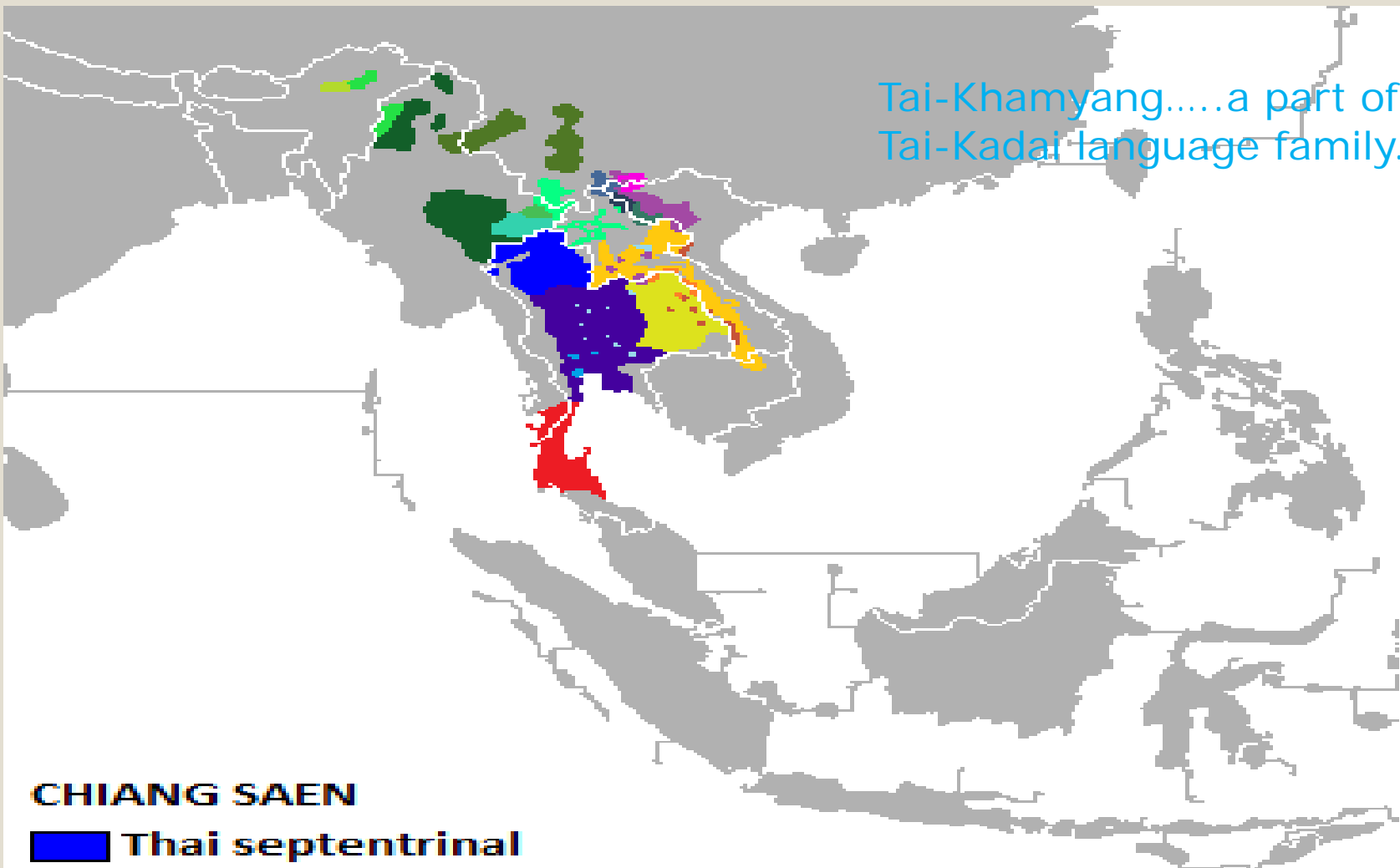
“Kathung-tai” dance performed by Tai-Khamyang youths of Chalapohtar Khamyang.....



- “Kham-Tai-Khamynag” is the original mother tongue.....belongs to “South Western Tai” of greater “Tai-Kadai” language family.
- Classified as “Tai-Sino” member of Indo-Mongolian languages as per Linguistic studies recognised in India.
- Present day Tai-Khamyangs are bilingual, they both speak Tai-Khamyang and Assamese in their daily life.....
- Revival and development programs are on for Khamyang language.....

**Tai-Khamyang Language.....**

Tai-Khamyang.....a part of the  
Tai-Kadai language family.....



**CHIANG SAEN**

- Thai septentrinal
- Thai central (Siamés)
- Thai song
- Tai Dón
- Tai Daeng
- Tày Tac
- Tai negro
- Thu Lao
- Phuan

**MERIDIONAL**

- Pak Thai

**LAO-PUTHAI**

- Isan
- Lao
- Nyaw
- Phu Thai

**NOROCCIDENTAL**

- Tai Lü
- Khamti
- Tai laing
- Khün
- Ls. Asam
- Tai Nüa
- Shan



က → KA

ခ → KHA

င → NGA

ဆ → CHA

ဇ → SA

ဇာ → NYA

တ → TA

ထ → THA

ဏ → NA

ပ → PA

ဖ → PHA

မ → MA

ယ → YA

ရ → RA

လ → LA

ဝ → WA

ဟ → HA

အ → AA

လွ → LUNG

ဆွ → SONG

ဆာ → SAM

ဆိ → SI

ဆာ → HA

ဆဲ → HOK

ဆဲ → CHET

ဆဲ → PET

ဆဲ → KAO

ဆဲ → SI (10)



SHOT ON REDMI 7  
AI DUAL CAMERA

- Poi-Sangken.....Water festival on April.
- Poi-Lu-Fra.....Offering Buddha statue.
- Poi-Kanta-sangha.....Offering to Bhikkhu sangha.
- Poi-Lu-Kyong.....Offering Monastery.
- Poi-Kathin.....Offering Kathin to Fra.
- Poi-Leng.....Offering Chariot and burning with mortal remains on death of Monks.
- Poi-Ok-wa.....Starting of Barsha-brat.
- Poi-Khaw-wa.....Ending of Barsha-brat.
- Poi-Pee-mau-Tai.....Tai New Year Celebration.
- Poi-Mai-ko-sum-fai.....Offering and burning of Log Wooden rig.

## Festivals and Rituals.....



 alamy stock photo "Poi-Sangken" festival.....

E69T50  
www.alamy.com



Clean water being poured on Buddha statue during Poi-Sangken festival.....



Poi-Sangken festival at Chalapothar Buddhist Monastery during April.....



Glimpses of Poi-Sangken festival.....worshipping.....



Poi-lu-Fra festival.....Chalapothar Khamyang village.....

Poi Mai-ko-sum-fai festival of Tai-Khamyang.....Photo taken at Arunachal Pradesh.....







Tai-Khamyang youth in traditional attire....



Tai-Khamyang women in traditional attire at Kalioni kyong.....Karbi Anglong.....



Tai-Khamyang youth performing at "Poi-pee-mau" festival.....



"Poi-Ok-wa" & "Poi-Khaw-wa" festival celebrated by Tai Khamyang people of Chalapothar Khamyang village.....at new Monastery building.....



Tai-Khamyang young girls in traditional attire.....

Welcome To  
Poi-fung-mau-sau Tai-Khamyang  
(Tai-Khamyang Youth Festival)  
18th-19th January 2014



"Poi-fung-mau-sau Tai-Khamyang" youth festival....



পাশ্চাত্য গাঁৱৰ ডেৰশ বছৰীয়া জ

[instagram/talahomchannel/](https://www.instagram.com/talahomchannel/)

150 Years Celebration of Chalapothar  
Khamyang village...

- Democratic system of management.
- Follow “Kau-hai” (nine-member male-female council from all nine clans) the Traditional way of management.
- “Chow-maan” (Chow-head, maan-village; Chairman of the council) head the village management.
- “Chow-maan” takes the General responsibilities, amends Rules & Regulations, do Emergency handling and various approvals.

**Village Management.....**



- “Kyong” (Monastery) of Village is the Centre of all. It was constructed with the various contributions and sacrifices of villagers of all class and gender and age.
- It took over twelve-years of hard labour, sacrifice and struggle to construct the double storyed building of Chalapothar village “Kyong” monastery#2.

**Centre of Village Management.....**

- Chalapothar Buddhist Monastery#2 has overall roles of conducting discussions and decision making of all matters of Religious, Social, Cultural and resolving all kinds of disputes without inviting any interference of Civil and Police administration and maintain harmony and discipline in the village.

**Roles & Responsibilities of Village management.....**



Some of the senior villagers of Chalapothar Khamyang village.....



Old memories.....A meeting where some of the senior villagers are seen.....



Tai-Khamyang ladies receiving guests from Shan-state of Myanmar....2012



Guest from South-Korea at Chalapoathar Buddhist Monastery#2.....



Buddhist Monks from South-Korea at Chalapochar Buddhist Monastery.....



Noted scholar Dr Nagen Saikia with others at Chalapothis Buddhist Monastery....





Venerable Sasanabangsha Mahathera with visitors at Chalapothis Buddhist Monastery.....



Kathina Civara ceremony organized by Royal Thai Embassy at Chalapothar Buddhist Monastery 2019.....



Kathina Civara ceremony organized by Royal Thai Embassy at Chalapothar Buddhist Monastery 2019.....



Dignitaries from District Administration during Kathina Civara ceremony organized by Royal Thai Embassy at Chalapothar Buddhist Monastery 2019.....



Visitors at Chalpothar Buddhist Monastery.....



Young Tai Khamyang girls at a function at Chalapohtar Khamyang.....



Young Tai Khamyang girl in traditional attire....



Tai-Khamyang married ladies of Chalapothar Khamyang village.....





Tai-Khamyang "kong" drum.....



Village meeting and workshop held at Chalapothar Buddhist Monastery.....

- Simple and life style and connected to mother nature.
- Previously stayed in “Houn-hang” (hang-log, houn-house) to get rid of wild animals, flood and femines etc.
- No new log-houses constructed due to lack of raw materials abundantly.
- Depends on river “Se-fai” and river “Disang” for cultivation and fishing.

**Life style.....Chalapoathar Khamyang  
Village**



Khamyang married ladies in traditional attire serving "khaw-som" food offerings to Monks.....at "Kyong" Chalapothar Khamyang village.....



Lighting of candles-insence sticks by villagers in the evening at Kong-mu of Old Monitng Monastery Chalapohtar.....



Villagers at Kong-mu of Old Moniting Monastery Chalapothar....

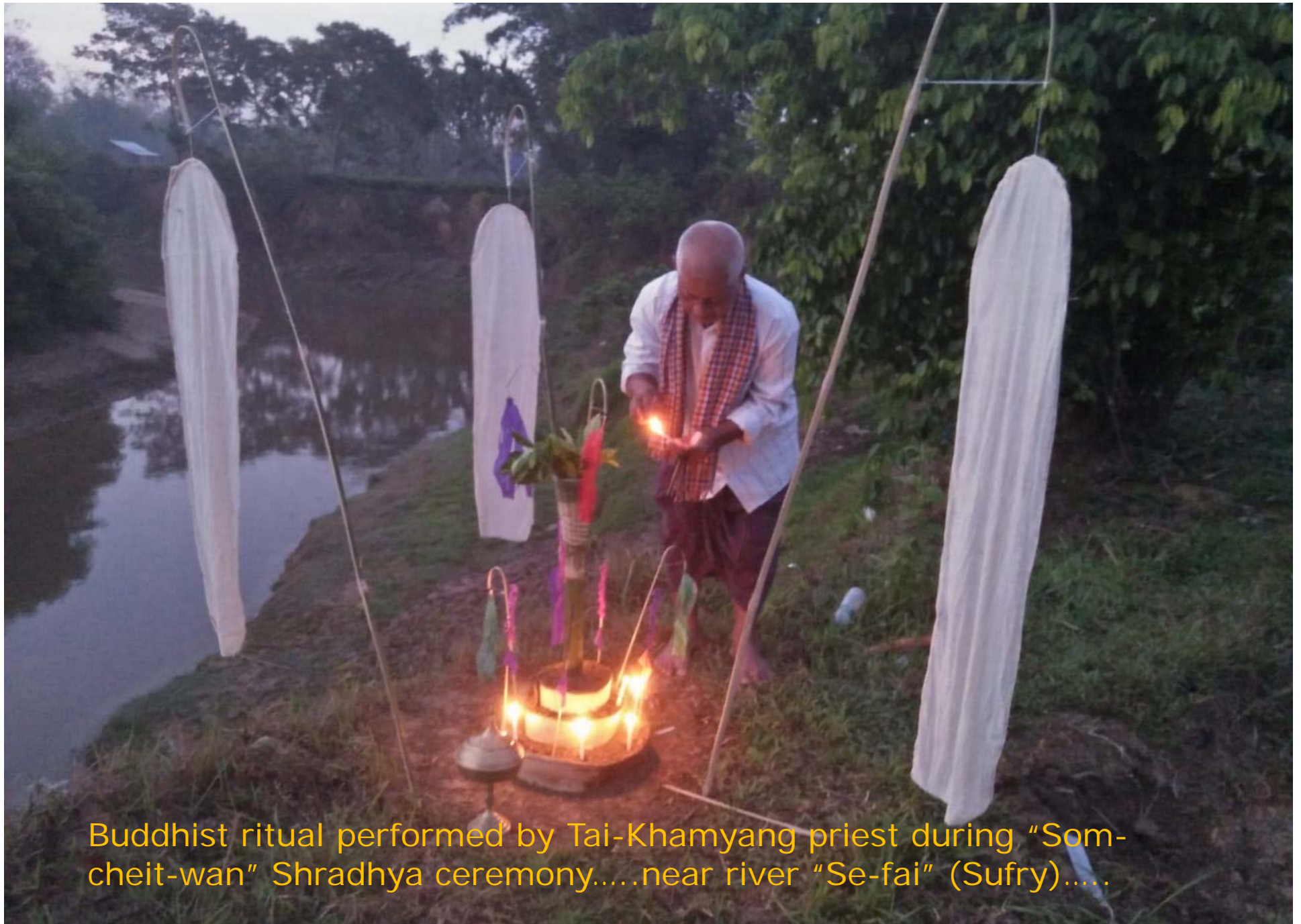
- Villagers depend heavily on “Syu-La” Chala reserve forest for various herbs with great nutritional and medicinal value.
- Villages take three meals a day (mainly rice) for doing hard labour at fields for cultivation.
- “Tang-som” a food offering with Candle-incense sticks for “Fra” Buddha and Ancestors at morning in front of “Phi-Lam” (Phi-means gods, Lam-means pole) at every household is practiced.
- “Khau-som” food offering is to be mandatorily provided to all monks and “mong-yang”s (caretakers) of the monastery at morning and forenoon everyday by two families.

**Life style.....Chalapoathar Khamyang Village**

- Very important side-----Tai Khamyang society---→Practice Social thinking and understanding for progressing in Life against all odds.
- They contribute socially in occasions like “Ao-posau” Marriage, “Som” (last rituals), New house gaining with active involvements like monetary help, food grains, vegetables which are traditionally being followed.
- During times of Flood, Famine, Storm, Earth quake etc, Tai Khamyangs of Chalapothar socially help each other in all possible ways.

**Life style.....Chalapothar Khamyang Village**





Buddhist ritual performed by Tai-Khamyang priest during "Som-cheit-wan" Shradhya ceremony.....near river "Se-fai" (Sufry).....



Som-cheit-wan ceremony of Tai-Khamyang at Chalapothar Khamyang.....

- In the Year 1936, village Bifurcated into Chalapothar Khamyang & Moniting Khamyang with good understanding.
- On the grounds of: - Population Increase and shrinkage of Agricultural land.....
- Two separate Monasteries; Moniting Kyong Monastery (No#1), Chalapothar Kyong Monastery (No#2).

**Bifurcation of Village.....**

- Cultivation.....major occupation: rice (Sali, Lahi, Bora), vegetables (Mastard, Matimah, Cabbage, Cauliflower, , Chillies, brinjal, Guard, Water melon, Potato), poultry, piggery & fishery.
- Fruits.....Mango, Jack fruit, Banana, Sugar cane, Papaya, Pine apple, Beetle nut, Coconut etc.
- Small Tea Gardening is the emerging cultivation and business among villagers.

**Lively hood.....**

- Staple food-----Rice (Lahi, Bora, Joha etc), Khaw-lam, Khaw-hu, Tong-tep, Khaw-tek, Khaw-tek pan etc. Fak-tam (pitika) is a regular recipe among them.
- Meat (Pork, Chicken, Goat, Duck, pigeon), Fish, baby red-ant (Amlori tup), Crab etc.
- Herbs-----Pata khai (Nefafu), Makat chang (Mejenga), Cheng mora, Tikoni Baruwa agg, Pacha khang, Bamboo shoot, Bet gaaj, Tora gaaj, Raidang gaaj etc.
- Po-foi-hom, Ling leaf used as spices & Khai-long seeds-leaf are exclusively used among Chalapothar Tai-Khamyangs.

**Food habits.....**



Various herbal foods consumed by Tai-Khamyang people.....



"Khaw peng" (sweet of rice)  
"Tong-tep" prepared by Tai-  
Khamyang ladies.....

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# TAI KHAMYANG CUISINE

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- Recognised by Govt of Assam as Scheduled Tribes (Hills) living in plains.....after a lot of struggle by first generation of student-leaders.
- Due to lack of consciousness among villagers, the numbers of Govt Employees are limited to only 80 as on 2018-19, where 53 are male employee and 21 are female employee.

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC Status.....& Employment.....**

- Employed in ONGC, OIL, IOCL, BCPL, BSNL, BPCCL and other State and Central Govt Departments along with other Private Firms.
- Many of them are employed as staff and few are employed as Executives in these organizations.

**Employment of Villagers.....**

- Established of No#155 Chala Lower Primary School 1918.
- First Govt Teacher-----Late Lileswar Shyam 1918.
- Established of Chala Jnanudyay Pali Vidyalaya in 1948.
- Established of Chala Jnaudyay Puthibharal (Library) 1948. It has accommodated more than 5000 books in various subjects and fields.

**Milestones.....CHALAPOTHAR**

- First HLSC Passed from Chalapothar on 1952 (Akon Chandra Shyam, Horen Shyam).
- First Diploma Holder from Chalapothar 1957 (Akon Chandra Shyam).
- First Pharmachist from Chalapothar 1957 (Late Thaneswar Shyam).
- First Post Graduate from Chalapothar on 1959 (Ven Sasanabansha Mahasthabir, MA, Pali, Gold Medalist, Nalanda Universisty, Bihar)

**Milestones.....CHALAPOTHAR**

- Establishment of Chala ME School on 1959.
- First Head Master of Chala ME School (Late Suren Shyam) on 1959.
- First Govt Principal of Chala Jnanuday Pali Vidyalaya (Ven Sasanabansha Mahasthabir) on 1960. He has authored 45 numbers of books in various subject matters.
- Establishment of Sub Post Office at Chalapothar on 1960.

**Milestones.....CHALAPOTHAR**

- First VFI Diploma holder from Chalapothar (Late Joneswar Shyam) on 1961.
- First ITI Holder from Chalapothar (Prabodh Shyam) On 1962.
- First Art Graduate from Chalapothar (Late Manik Chanadra Shyam) on 1964.
- Establishment of Chala High School on 1965.
- First Head Master of Chala High School (Late Manik Ch Shyam) on 1965.

**Milestones.....CHALAPOTHAR**

- First Women HSLC passed (Golapi Shyam) on 1968.
- Construction of Holi-Dollong (Bridge) over Safrai (Se-fai) river on 1968.
- Established of Chala Sishu Mandir LP School on 1972.
- First MBBS Graduate from Chalapothar (DR Pradip Kr Shyam) on 1974.
- First Women Graduate from Chalapothar (Mollika Shyam) on 1975.
- First Commerce Graduate from Chalapothar (Bhaben Shyam) on 1975.

**Milestones.....CHALAPOTHAR**

- First Graduate on Agriculture (Dilip Shyam) on 1976.
- First Science Graduate (Chikon Shyam Chowlu) on 1977.
- First Gazetted Officer (Dilip Shyam) on 1977.
- Establishment of Medical Sub Centre on 1981.
- Electrification of Chalapothar on 1985.

**Milestones.....CHALAPOTHAR**



- Establishment of Water supply Centre on 1986.
- First Science Post Graduate (Bipul Gohain) on 1987.
- First MCA Post Graduate (Amal Shyam) on 1991.
- First Agriculture Post Graduate (Dilip Shyam) on 1991.
- First Women Post Graduate (Ricky Shyam, MA) on 2002

**Milestones.....CHALAPOTHAR**

- First LLB from Chalapothar (Marrygold Shyam) on 2004.
- First Telephone Service on 2004.
- First BE (AEC Guwahati) (Aie Cheng King Chowlu) on 2006.
- First M.Tech (IIT Guwahati) (Aie Cheng King Chowlu) on 2008.
- First MBA (Supriya Shyam) on 2009.
- First Mphil (Suprity Shyam) on 2010.
- First LLM (Suporna Shyam) on 2014.

**Milestones.....CHALAPOTHAR**

- Created First Post Graduate in whole Lakwa area.
- Created First MBBS Graduate in whole Lakwa area.
- Created First Engineering Post Graduate in whole Lakwa area.
- Celebrated 150 years of its establishment.

**Milestones.....CHALAPOTHAR**

- Language-→Language shifting is a major issue. Most people do not have deep knowledge on their own language. Various workshops and revival programmes are in continuation. Minimal use of Tai-script is the obvious reason.

**Burning issues.....**

# The Tai-Kadai Languages

Edited by  
Anthony V. N. Diller  
Jerold A. Edmondson  
Yongxian Luo

ROUTLEDGE LANGUAGE FAMILY SERIES

One of the Reference book for Tai studies.....

- Health-→Various health issues like Cancer, Diabetes, Kidney diseases are occurring. Adulterated foods, change in life style and possible water contamination may be the causes.

**Burning issues.....**



River "Se-fai" Sufry has changed its course.....

- Education-→Aspiration for Higher Education among students are decreasing due to higher income only from short term courses. Primarily, Female students have higher tendencies towards higher education. More graduates and post graduates are from female society.
- Socio-Economic status-→Intellectual development is not upto the mark even after having Socio-Economic status.

**Burning issues.....**



- Political status-→Being minority (only 8000 population all over North East India) in overall scenario, no political foot prints so far.

**Burning issues.....**

- Conservation of “Chala Village Sanctuary” is the hope for the conservation of flora, fauna and the lifestyle, culture and indigenous food habits of Tai Khamyang people.

**Future Prospects.....**



Plantation drive at Chalapoathar Khamyang village.....



Plantation drive at Chalapoathar Khatiyang village,...

"Chala Reserve Forest" has been converted to "Chala Village Sanctuary"





"Green-revolution" for the conservation of nature....