HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHEAST INDIA

Trends and Perspectives





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STRUCTURING THE PAST OF KHEZHAKENO VILLAGE: An Ancestral Site

TSUTSHOWE-Ü SEKHAMO

Introduction

Khezhakeno also called as "Khezhakenoma" or "Kozabomi", is located in Phek district, Nagaland State and is considered as historical sites for some Nagas. It is located in the region 25.30'N and 94.12'E at an elevation of 1660 meters (5,450 ft) above sea level and shares its border with the Manipur in the south. This ancestral site derived its name from 'Khezha' language 'Kozabomi' which means, 'the native people of Koza'. At present, Khezhakeno is divided into three khels known as the Upper khel (Chisomi), the Middle khel (Zhipfemi) and the Lower khel (Kumuno). Chisomi khel comprises of two sub-khels called Tepfuno and Abvumi while Zhipfemi khel has Thasoumi and Tshemiladumi as sub-khels.

Oral stories suggest that the group settled in and around a magical stone which is located in Kumuno khel. So most probably they made their first settlement area in the lower khel and later moved to the upper two khels. Kozabomis normally followed a pattern of Compact or nucleated settlement where large number of houses is built very close to each other. Communities are closely knit and share common occupation. Folk stories state that the descendents of Koza shifted their inhabitant area about seven times. The villages/areas however are located inside the present Khezhakeno jurisdiction. The reasons for the abandonment of the old sites are different and mostly related to internal factors.

Khezhakeno village as written by historians was the dwelling place for other Naga tribes like the Chakhesangs, Lothas, Angamis, Rengmas and Aos. To know the migration of the other Nagas, it becomes necessary to understand the pre- migration period of Khezhakeno. Written records

