

17 THREE RED-LETTER DAYS



Abdul: Sir, what's a red-letter day?

Teacher: A red-letter day means an important day. **The Indian Independence Day** is such a red-letter day. **Khongjom Day** and **Patriots' Day** are also red-letter days of Manipur. Do you know when we celebrate Independence Day?

Ragui: Yes sir, 15th of August every year.

Teacher: Very nice. Now, do you know why we call it **Independence Day**?

Tombi: Sir, we do not know much about it. Please tell us about it.

Teacher: Now listen carefully. About three hundred and fifty years ago, the British came to India. At first, they came to do business. But they were very clever people. Soon, they began to rule India. Finally, the whole of India, including Manipur, was under their rule. During this period, the Indians lost their independence or freedom. That means they had to obey the British like a servant obeys his master.

Radha: That's very bad, sir. Please tell us what happened after that.

Teacher: But after many years the Indians also became very clever. They now did not want the British to rule over them. So they told the British to go to their own land. But the British refused to do so. The Indians then began to agitate against them. This is known as the Indian **Independence movement** or the **Freedom Struggle**. The British put many freedom fighters in jail. They even hanged many of them. Then Mahatma Gandhi became leader of the Freedom Struggle. After many years of Struggle, the British finally decided that they could not rule India any more. So, on 15th of August 1947, they left India. We call this day **Independence Day**?



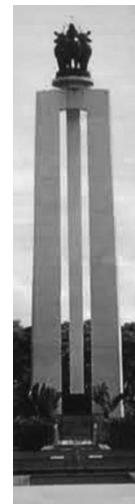
Mobi: What do we do on this day, sir?

Teacher: We celebrate it with great joy and merriment. The whole nation observes a holiday. The Indian National Flags are flown not only on Government buildings, but on the tops of people's houses too. The Prime Minister talks to the people of India from the Red Fort in Delhi. Children sing patriotic songs. It shows how important independence is to us.

Radha: Sir, we now know the importance of **Independence Day**. Please tell us about **Khongjom Day**.



Teacher: The British were ruling over almost all of India, but Manipur was still not under them. They, then thought of ruling over Manipur also. But Koirang Yubraj(Tikendrajit) and Thangal General did not like it. Manipuris did not wish that Manipur should lose freedom. At that time the English had a Residency at Imphal. They were looking for a chance to bring the Manipuris under them. They plotted to arrest Koirang Yubraj (Tikendrajit) with a night attack at the palace. As a result, the five English officers were captured and killed at Kangla. The British took that Koirang (Tikendrajit and) Thangal General were responsible for it.



Joy: What happened after that, sir?

Teacher: The British were very strong. They sent soldiers to defeat the Manipuri king. The Manipuris fought the British at Khongjom. The British had good guns. The Manipuris had only a few. But the Manipuris fought bravely.

Many Manipuris laid down their lives here at Khongjom to save their motherland.



Major Paona Brajabashi was one such brave son of Manipur. The British defeated the Manipuris at Khongjom on April 23rd, 1891.

In the Khongjom battle the Manipuris showed to the world their deep love of their Motherland. The Manipuris lost the battle, but they showed that they could lay down their lives for their motherland. Today, Manipuris hold Khongjom as a *tirtha*, a sacred place. Every year on April 23rd, the Manipuris pay their loving tribute to the Heroes of Manipur who died at Khongjom. They offer *tarpan* to the martyrs of Manipur on this day. We call this day **Khongjom Day**.

Joy: Wonderful! And what is **Patriots' Day**, Sir?

Teacher: After the Khongjam battle the British arrested Koireng (Tikendrajit), General Thangal and many others. Then

they hanged Koireng (Tikendrajit) and General Thangal on 13th August 1891 at the place, which we now call Tikendrajit Park. Many others were also hanged in the Imphal Jail. These brave sons of Manipur lost their lives because they were great patriots. All of them tried to save Manipur from losing her freedom. That is why we observe 13th August every year as the **Patriots' Day**. On this day we pay our respect to Koireng (Tikendrajit), Thangal General and many others who died for their motherland.

The children: Sir, we have learnt many things about the great patriots. We also shall love our country like them. Thank you, sir.

EXERCISES

1.(a) Answer the following questions:

- (i) What is a red-letter day?
- (ii) Why is **Independence Day** a red-letter day?
- (iii) What did the British do to many Indians during the **Indian Freedom Struggle**?
- (iv) What did Koireng (Tikendrajit) and General Thangal do to some of the English officers in Imphal?
- (v) Where did Major Paona die?
- (vi) Why is Khongjom a holy place to the Manipuris?
- (vii) What do we do on the **Patriots' Day**?

(b) Find out the names of at least three National Freedom Fighters and write their names.

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(c) Do the same about a few heroes of Manipur who died at Khongjam battle.

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(d) Write 'right' or 'wrong' against each sentence.

(i) The British were not clever.

(ii) The British came to do business in India.

(iii) The British ruled Manipur from the beginning.

(iv) The Manipuris fought bravely at Khongjom.

(v) Tikendrajit was a true patriot.

2.(a) Read the following passage:

I. Mr. Ibohal is sitting on the chair. The world map is behind Ibohal. The calendar is beside the map. There is a cat under the table. The electric bulb is over the head of Ibohal. The clock and a book are also on the table. But the pen is in his pocket.



Now, Answer the questions in full sentences:

(i) Where is Ibohal sitting?

.....

(ii) What are on the tables?

.....

(iii) What is over Ibohal's head?

.....

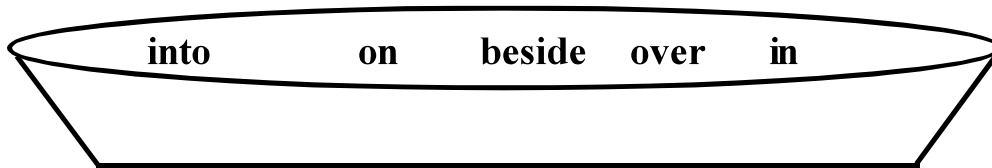
(iv) Where is the map?

.....

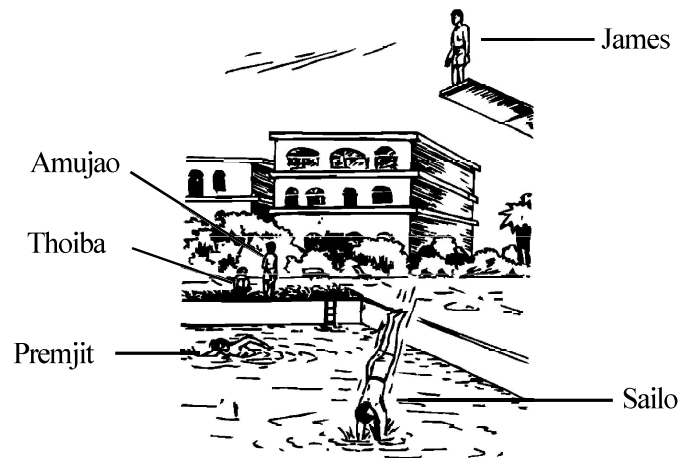
(v) Where is Ibohal's pen?

.....

(b) Fill in the blanks using the given words in the boat.

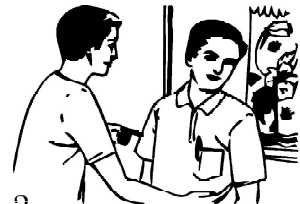


- (i) James is the diving board.
- (ii) Sailo is jumping the water.
- (iii) Premjit is swimming the water.
- (iv) Thoiba is sitting the grass.
- (v) Amujao is standing Thoiba.



(c) Complete the conversation given below. One, accepting the request and the other not accepting it, are done for you :

- ⊕ indicates accepting the request.
 ⊖ indicates not accepting the request.



Noren : May I have your pen for a minute ?

⊕ Ibobi : Certainly. Here it is.



Tomba : Can I borrow your umbrella, please ?

⊖ Mani : I am sorry, I am going out myself. It is going to rain.

Romen : Can I address you as sister ?

⊕ Reena :



Manihar: Would you like to have a cup of tea?

⊕ Tomal :

Deepa : May I come in ?

⊕ Kamala :
.....



Kamal : Could you pass the newspaper, please ?

⊖ Anupama :
.....

Romila : Could you lend me ten rupees for a day ?

⊕ Kula :
.....



Robert : Would you open the window, please ?

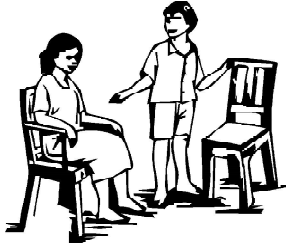
⊖ Satish :
.....

Imo : Can you lend my your bicycle this morning ?

⊕ Chaoba:
.....



A Composite Modern English Text Book - IV



Sija : Would you mind exchanging your seat with mine ?

⊖ Arun :
.....

Thambal : Can you help me with my homework ?

⊕ Manisang :
.....



Mahesh : Can you lend me your book, please ?

⊕ Yaima :
.....