

Lesson 6

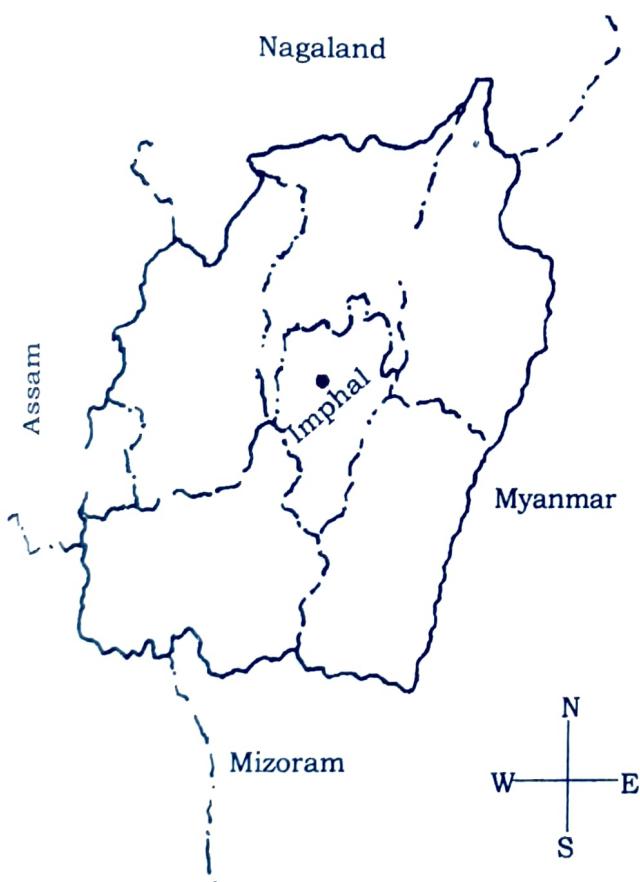
**Manipur, the Jewel of the North-East**

Smriti loves to read story books, specially the historical stories and legends. Her father bought her 'The Stories from Mahabharata'. She has just finished the book. She read in the book that one of Arjuna's wives Chitrangada belonged to the state of Manipur. Smriti had already heard so much about Manipur that she was eager to visit it. Her uncle lives in Imphal, the capital city of Manipur. So she decided to visit the place during her winter vacation. Her father informed her uncle about the visit and made the necessary arrangements for her journey. In a

fine morning Smriti boarded a bus to Imphal with her mother.

It was almost evening when Smriti reached her uncle's house. She was greeted by her aunt and cousins, Rik and Beli. They were very happy to see her after a long time. During her stay in her uncle's house Smriti learnt a lot about Manipur.

Manipur has a fascinating history from the ancient time. The princely state of Manipur came under the British rule in 1891. After independence of India in 1947, a democratic government was formed in Manipur.



Manipur is called 'a land of jewels'. It is situated in the north-east of India. It is a place of exquisite natural beauty and splendour. To the north of the state there is Nagaland. Cachar district of Assam and Mizoram are to the west and south of the state respectively. To its east there is Myanmar.

Smriti learnt from her aunt that Manipur is the only tribal state of north-east where most of the people are Hindus. Some of them are the followers of Vaishnavite culture which is its unique feature.

Manipur is very rich in culture. Many tribes like Meitei, Naga, Kuki, Mizo and some others have contributed to enrich its culture. The people of Manipur are artistic and creative by nature. Their handloom and handicraft products are the best examples of their artistic mind. Smriti bought a beautiful bag and a few show pieces made of bamboo and cane. She was very excited to see the beautiful Manipuri girls wearing colourful traditional dresses.

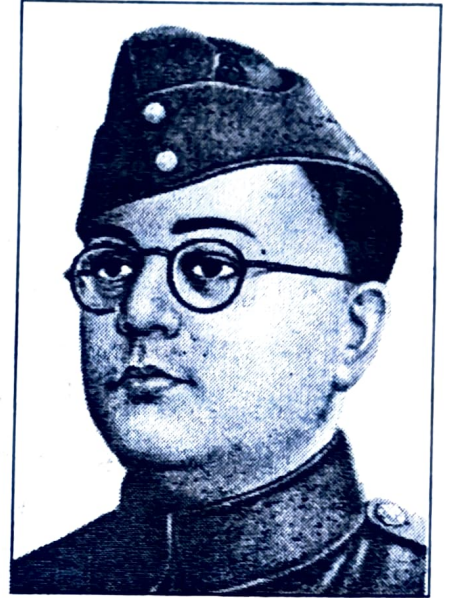
Manipur is a place of festivals. 'Laiharaoba' is the main festival of Manipur. Some other popular festivals are Dol Jatra, Rath Jatra, Cheiraoba (The Manipuri New Year) etc. People celebrate these festivals with great enthusiasm.

The Ras Lila, the epitome of Manipuri classical dance is based on the eternal love of Radha and Krishna. Manipuri classical dance is recognized as one of the most graceful classical dances of India. Manipuri theatre is also very famous. Great theatre personality Ratan Theam has made Manipuri theatre internationally famous.

Smriti's aunt informed her that Manipuri people are very much interested in games and sports. Manipur has always had a strong association with sports. The game of polo is believed to have originated in Manipur. This small state has produced some of the finest sports persons in India, both at the national and international levels. The weightlifter Kunjarani Devi has brought glory to Manipur as well as to India by her performances in many international games. She was awarded the Arjuna award in 1990. Sanamacha Chanu is another prominent weightlifter from Manipur. Dingko Singh and M.C. Merykom

have also won many medals at the national and international level in boxing. Merykom was awarded with the Arjuna award in 2003. In football and hockey Manipuri players have shown their talent.

During her stay in Imphal, Smriti visited many places in and around the town. She liked Shri Shri Govindaji Temple which is adjacent to the Palace of Manipur. It is a sacred place for the Vaishnavites. Smriti visited Swahid Miner, War Cemetry, Orchid Centre etc., with her aunt and cousins. Her aunt took her to the Ima market. It is probably the biggest market in Asia which is run by women only. Another beautiful place near Imphal is Moirang. This place has a historical importance. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose hoisted the first flag of Azad Hind Fauz here. There is a museum here which is worth to be visited. Three kilometres away from Moirang, there is the famous Loktak lake. The only floating national park of India 'Keibul Lamjao' is situated here. 'Sangai', a rare species of deer is found in this national park.



After staying for ten days at her uncle's house, Smiriti left Imphal. She took leave of her uncle and aunt; she promised Rik and Beli to come again.

## Wordnote

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| exquisite (adj)     | : extremely beautiful or delicate   |
| epitome (n)         | : a thing that shows on a small scale all the characteristics of something much larger                                    |
| Vaishnavite culture | : The Vaishnavites are Hindus and their culture has been influenced by Vaishnavism. They are the devotees of Lord Vishnu. |

- eternal (adj) : lasting or existing for ever
- Ratan Theam : a famous Manipuri Theatre personality who has written and directed many plays and has given a new dimension to Manipur Theatre
- Polo : a game played on horseback with a ball and a stick. England, Argentina and the United States are the chief polo centres of the world.
- adjacent (adj) : situated near or next to something

**EXERCISE**

**Comprehension**

1. Answer each of the following questions in a single sentence. 1×7=7
  - a) Where does Smriti's uncle live ?
  - b) What is Manipur called ?
  - c) When did Manipur come under the British rule ?
  - d) When did it become a full fledged state of India ?
  - e) Who are the two Arjuna award winners from Manipur ?
  - f) What is the speciality of the Ima market ?
  - g) Where is the only floating national park of India situated ?
2. Give brief answers. 2×4=8
  - a) What is the unique feature of Manipuri culture ?
  - b) Write the boundaries of Manipur.
  - c) What are the festivals celebrated in Manipur ?
  - d) What is the historical importance of Moirang ?
3. What is the contribution of Manipur in the field of sports ? 3
4. What are the places visited by Smriti during her stay in Manipur ? 3

## Grammar and usage

[ A phrase is a group of words without a finite verb. For example :

(1) He is *fond of* sweets.

(2) The boy is standing *in front of* the gate.

A clause is a group of words that includes a subject and a verb which form a sentence or part of a sentence. For example : **A.** He told me that he often visited his uncle's house.

There are two parts in this sentence.

(i) He told me. (ii) that he often visited his uncle's house. Each part of this sentence is called a clause. The first part can be used independently and it is called principal clause. The second part depends on the first part to express its meaning. So it is called subordinate clause.

**B.** He is tall but his brother is short. In this sentence the two clauses (i) He is tall. and (ii) His brother is short are connected by conjunction 'but'. Both these clauses can express their meaning independently. These types of clauses are called co-ordinate clauses. ]

5. Find out the principal clauses, subordinate clauses and co-ordinate clauses from the following sentences.
- Tell me where you live.
  - They returned when it was dark.
  - He is honest but his brother is dishonest.
  - He is a teacher and his brother is a doctor.
  - You must work hard otherwise you will fail.
  - I asked him how he did the sum.

- g) She was suffering from fever so she could not attend school.
- h) You must finish your homework or you will be punished.
6. Turn the phrases in italics into clauses by changing the non-finite verbs into finite verbs.

One is done for you.

a) She is afraid of *getting punishment*.

Ans. : She is afraid that she will get punishment.

b) She is wearing a dress *made of silk*.

c) He is writing with *a red pen*.

d) Arjun saw the Mount Everest *covered with snow*.

e) Give the cake to the *crying child*.

f) The *boy playing* there is my brother.

### Vocabulary

7. Choose the correct word for each sentence. (Take help from a dictionary)
- a) Thunder — throughout the night.  
(i) roared (ii) howled (iii) clattered
- b) The dishes — to the floor.  
(i) crashed (ii) collapsed (iii) rustled
- c) Dust was — about the street.  
(i) blowing (ii) whistling (iii) swinging
- d) A time bomb —.  
(i) bangs (ii) clicks (iii) ticks
- e) I heard the — of horses' hoofs on the street.  
(i) clamp (ii) rattle (iii) buzz

## 8. Match the antonyms.

soft	-	dissuade
arrival	-	reject
accept	-	suddenly
gradually	-	hard
persuade	-	deparature

## 9. Make sentences with the following phrases.

give up; on account of; look into; bring up

**Composition**

10. Write an essay on your visit to a place of interest. Use the given outline.

[Outlines : Name of the place - when you visited - your companions - preparation for the journey - its influence on you - conclusion.]

**Spoken activity**

11. Tell your friend about a place you have visited.

**Note to the teacher**

The students are expected to learn phrase and clause in this lesson. They should be taught how to write an essay on the given outlines.

