

## Reading A

### Tattoos - A Tribal Heritage

Centuries before rockstars and celebrities, tattoos were used by tribal men and women across the world, whether it was the Maoris of New Zealand or the Apatanis of Arunachal Pradesh, to mark out identity and territory.

On his Orkut profile, Michi Laling, a 20-year-old Delhi University student, describes himself as a “free soul with strategically placed tattoos and body piercing.” Ink, in fact, runs in Michi’s blood. Back in his village in Arunachal Pradesh’s Ziro valley, his 80-year-old grandmother also wears a tattoo, though for entirely different reasons. While body art is a fashion statement for Michi, his grandmother was forced to get her face tattooed when she was barely eight.

Centuries before it became an accessory for rock stars and celebrities, Arunachal Pradesh’s Apatani tribe - to which Michi belongs - was tattooing its womenfolk to make them unattractive to rival tribes in neighbouring districts, who might otherwise abduct their prettiest women. Today’s quintessential fashion statement, a tattoo, was a way to protect the identity of various tribes, revealing a rich and eerie intersection of primitive art and violence.

“Apatani women were often abducted by the neighbouring Nishi tribesmen for their beauty, so to make themselves look unattractive, they tattooed their faces and wore huge circular nose plugs,” says S.K. Baruah, an anthropologist who has researched on the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh for more than 30 years. Though not many women born in the last three decades have chosen to get their faces inked - the ‘inhuman’ practice was banned by the government in the ’70s - elderly Apatani women can still be seen with a thick blue line running from their forehead to the tip of the nose and six smaller lines on their lower chin.

The Apatani tattooing procedure used to be a very painful affair. Unlike the state-of-the-art tattoo guns and ink used today, the Apatanis used thorns to cut the skin and soot mixed in animal fat for the dark blue colour. The wounds were allowed to get infected so that the tattoos became larger and clearer.

The Apatanis are not the only tattooed tribe in northeastern India. The headhunting Konyaks of Nagaland used to tattoo their faces like headhunters from the Philippines, Taiwan and other Pacific islands. Facial tattoos were marks of the head-taker, the various designs indicating the person’s prowess in battle and his head-count, write Aditya Arya

and Vibha Joshi in their book *Land of the Nagas*. Researchers also say that tattoos helped establish tribal identity besides enabling recognition after death in a war or a fatal accident. Facial tattooing was prevalent among Noctes and Wanchos of Arunachal as well.

The married women of the Singpho tribe found both in Assam and Arunachal, were tattooed on both legs from the ankle to the knee, while the men tattooed their limbs, while unmarried Singpho girls were barred from wearing a tattoo.

With the modernisation and urbanisation of northeast India over the decades, the tattoo culture has shifted significantly. The traditional patterns may have been replaced by modern motifs, but the meaning behind the pain-inducing practice hasn't changed much - just like today's city bred youth, Nagas regarded tattoos as a sign of strength, courage, and virility because of the pain associated with it.

Indian tribes are not the only ones that tattooed themselves. The Ainu of Japan traditionally wore facial tattoos. Today, one can find Berbers of Tamazgha (North Africa), Maoris of New Zealand, Arabic people in east Turkey and the Atayal of Taiwan with facial tattoos. The practice was widespread among Polynesian peoples and among tribes in the Philippines, Borneo, Samoa, and Cambodia.

Despite some taboos surrounding tattooing, the art continues to be popular in many parts of the world.

*Sanghamitra Baruah* (The Times of India, June 12, 2010)

### Meanings in context

orkut	:	social networking
profile	:	sketch
free soul	:	a bold and daring person
strategically	:	purposefully
rival	:	enemy
abduct	:	kidnap
quintessential	:	ideal, model
eerie	:	strange, odd
intersection	:	combination



Tattoo

- soot : black powder that comes from burning things (gets collected in chimneys)
- proWess : skill, ability
- motifs : designs
- virility : strength

## Comprehension

### I. How was tattooing in old days different from the way it has been in the recent times?

Complete the table.

<b>Tattooing</b>		
	Olden times	Recent times
Why?		
With What?		
Part of body?		

### II. Where are these tribes from?

<b>Tribes</b>	<b>Country</b>
Ainu	
Gond	
Berbers	
Maoris	
Atayal	

### III. What is the difference between tattooing and applying *Mehendi*?

	<b>Tattoo</b>	<b><i>Mehendi</i></b>
Colour		
Parts of body		
How it is prepared		
Life		
Pain		

#### IV. Answer the following questions.

1. Apatani women were beautiful. Pick out the line from the text which conveys this.
2. Is tattooing still practised in Arunachal Pradesh? Substantiate your answer from the text.
3. What is tattooing called in your local language? Do you find people tattooing today? How do they get these tattoos?
4. What is the name of the book written by Aditya Arya and Vibha Joshi?
5. How are modern-day tattoos different from the traditional tattoos?
6. Is tattooing harmful for the body? Write two precautions that need to be taken before getting ourselves tattooed?
7. "... unmarried Singpho girls were barred from wearing a tattoo." Are there any such restrictions (related to ornaments, applying of henna/aalta etc.) in the present society for the unmarried girls. If yes, what are they?

### Vocabulary

#### I. Opposite Words

Pick out from the text the words which mean opposite to the words given below.

Words	Opposite
neglect	
harmless	
release	
weakness	
joy	

#### II. Suffixes and Prefixes

1. A scientific study of human past and present is called anthropology.  
A person who studies anthropology is an anthropologist.
2. What do you call someone who studies geology?  
Geologist
3. What do you call someone who studies biology?  
Biologist

4. What do you call someone who studies zoology?

.....

The suffix in all the above underlined words is .....

**I. Read the suffixes and their examples carefully. Write the change in meaning after adding the suffix.**

For example, when we add ‘-ess’ to the word ‘lion’, it becomes feminine.

Suffixes	Example	Meaning
-ess	lioness, actress	
-est	tallest, biggest	
-ful	beautiful, thankful	
-hood	childhood, neighbourhood	
-ese	Japanese, Chinese	

However, ‘ess’ is not always a suffix as you can see from the words given here: ‘congress’, ‘mess’ ‘less’ like ‘prowess’. Give five more words which end in ‘ess’ where ‘ess’ is not a suffix.

- i. ....
- ii. ....
- iii. ....
- iv. ....
- v. ....

**II. Prefixes also add certain meanings to the words. For example, in ‘rewrite’, *re-* gives the meaning of ‘doing again’.**

**Circle the prefixes in the following words:**

autobiography, television, semi-circle, co-editor, tricycle, regain,  
pre-historic, anti-government

**Now complete the following table with the appropriate prefixes.**

Meaning	Prefix	Meaning	Prefix	Meaning	Prefix
again, back	re	against		far	
more		three		self	
together		before		half	

III. Read the following words carefully and circle the prefixes in them. Also write in the blank column what each prefix means. One has been done.

Words	Meaning
disappear	
bicycle	two
anti-naxal	
Vice Principal	
Ex. Prime Minister	
incomplete	
mini-bus	

IV. Complete the blanks with words in brackets after adding appropriate suffixes and prefixes.

1. You shouldn't eat too much fast food. It is ..... (health)
2. He behaves in a very \_\_\_\_\_ manner. (child)
3. The team was able to win the \_\_\_\_\_. (champion)
4. He was forced to \_\_\_\_\_ his decision to resign. (consider)
5. There were only a \_\_\_\_\_ of people in the audience. (hand)



## Grammar

I. Read these sentences carefully.

1. Tattoos were used by tribal men and women across the world.
2. Apatani women were often abducted by the neighbouring Nishi tribesmen for their beauty.
3. The 'inhuman' practice was banned by the government in the 70's.
4. The Apatani women can still be seen with a thick blue line running from their fore head.....

As you can see from the verbs underlined, all the sentences are in the passive voice. In sentences 1-3 the agent of the action is mentioned, whereas in sentence 4 the agent is unknown.

1. Pick out from the text 5 sentences used in the passive voice.
2. Pick out the agent of the action mentioned in each sentence.

*In news items, it is very common to use the passive to report an action rather than who did it.*

**II. Read the newspaper cuttings carefully and suggest appropriate headings and write it on the given space.**

A. \_\_\_\_\_

The city cinema hall was damaged badly. Several buildings collapsed and many others...

B. \_\_\_\_\_

Police were attacked by crowds of youths throwing stones and home-made bombs. One police vehicle...

C. \_\_\_\_\_

Three railway officials were suspended on Tuesday for negligence of duty.

D. \_\_\_\_\_

Twenty five children were given bravery awards on the Republic Day.


## Writing

Here is an advertisement of a Henna Tattoo Centre. Prepare an advertisement about a skill in which you feel you have expertise.

1. Name the area/ skill (e.g tailoring, pottery, hair styling)
2. List the specialities



Very Economical  
Not Painful  
Not Infectious



And Looks Beautiful!

Go for Henna Tattooing  
At  
Geetika's  
196, Shrishti blocks  
Devnir, Sukma (C.G.)

## Listening

Listen to a text about application of Henna and tick (✓) the statements that are true according to the text you have just listened to.

1. Henna was always used both by men & women.
2. Henna first originated in Egypt.
3. Henna was used in the past for colouring the cloth, leather and hair.
4. Mehendi is used by all Indians during weddings and festivals.
5. In rural areas women prepare henna from fresh henna leaves.



## Speaking

Here are some views on tattooing.



I don't get tattooed because I donate blood very often.

A tattoo can affect a person's health. So in many countries a tattooed person is not allowed to donate blood for 18 months after getting tattooed.

Candidates with tattoos (up to 3 sq inches) on the inner side of the area between the wrist and the forearm or on outer side of the palm will be considered for recruitment," Col Nisar A Seethi, Director Recruiting at the Army Recruiting Office at Amritsar, said.

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16<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Getting a tattoo is not only a style statement but also a way to express your belief, thinking and the phase you are going through in life.

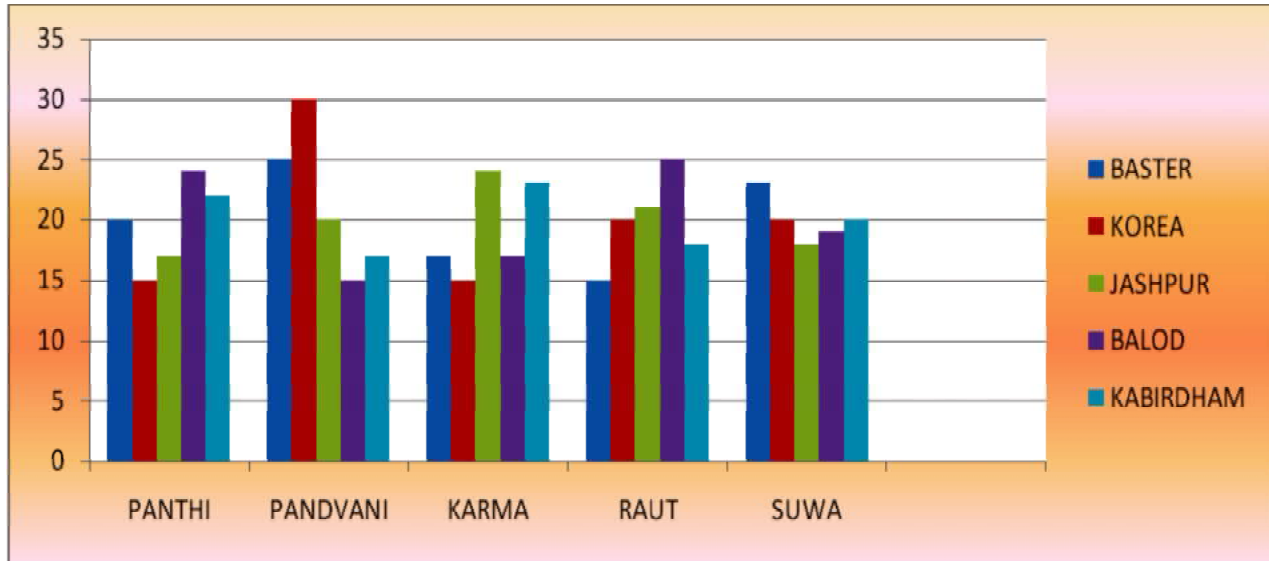
Football fans got a chance to show their loyalty and support towards the sport and different nations by getting the flags, or sport icons inked on their bodies. It not only helps define their personality but also reflects their passion for sports.

INDIAN  
EXPRESS.COM  
16<sup>th</sup> July 2014

**Tattoo/Godna is a practice in our culture. Work in groups and discuss your opinions for and against Godna/Tattoo.**

## Study Skills

Look at the bar diagram and complete the description given below.



The bar chart shows the rate of popularity in terms of percentage of people in Bastar, Koriya, ....., ....., in different forms of folk dances.

Panthi dance was ..... by 24% of the people of..... followed by ..... and ..... with 22% and 20% respectively. .... was liked mostly by the people of Koriya followed by Bastar and Jashpur.

Of all the five districts, Raut dance is appreciated the most by the people of ..... at rate of 30%. .... Balod and ..... had the next-highest interest rate in this folk form with 21% and 20%, respectively. .... had the lowest rate at 15%.

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