

THE TAI PHAKE OF INDIA

Shouts and hoots of laughter resounded at the **Tai Phake** village as the Poi Changken Festival began, marking the traditional New Year. Amti and Let shrieked as a group of laughing youths aimed buckets of water at them, completely drenching them to the skin. “Just you wait, Fai!” yelled Let as the laughing youths ran off. “We girls will hit back!” “Oh, is that Fai?” exclaimed Amti, quickly trying to comb her wet, bedraggled long hair. “Oh no, I can’t let him see me like this!” “Silly girl! He likes you regardless of whether your hair is in a mess or not!” laughed Let. “Quick, let’s get those plastic pails and attack them back! They will need lots of water to cleanse their sins!”

The **Tai Phake**’s forefathers were originally from northern Myanmar. They are said to have migrated to northeast India’s Assam state which borders Myanmar during the 18th century. Numbering 8,300 people, they are a gentle people who avoid killing animals for food. Their speech is a complex language of rising and falling tones, with complex rules for adding suffixes to base words.

The **Tai Phake** have a strong Theravada Buddhist tradition, which they mix with animism. The custom of splashing water at one another during the Poi Changken New Year Festival is aimed at washing away bad luck and cleansing away sins. There are no reports of any **Tai Phake** believers.

- Pray against age old spiritual strongholds over the **Tai Phake**.
- Pray that God will send workers who will be willing to learn the **Tai Phake**’s complex and colourful language as well as beautiful culture, and who will be able to explain how they can be truly cleansed from their sins.
- Pray that the **Tai Phake** people will soon sing praises to the One who alone can wash away their sins.

This is a series of useful prayer profile compilations to pray for people groups collated from various online sources. Please click on the links below for more info: <https://joshuaproject.net/>, <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/>, <http://asiaharvest.org/people-group-profiles/>