## Glossary

**Aba** : Honorific title for an elderly man in Monpa language.

**Bon** : Pre-Buddhist indigenous religious form of the Monpa.

**Buru** : An elusive, monstrous reptile believed to dwell in swampy areas as maintained in the folklore of Thanyi tribes of central Arunachal Pradesh.

**Chang** : Assamese word for wooden building and also referred to by the term *kachcha*.

**Ganggi** : Name of the prayer hall of the indigenous Donyi Polo faith movement in Galo language.

**Genaa** : Assamese word for ritual taboo.

**Lah chogan lama** : Monpa practitioner of bonesetter and chiropractor.

**Mauza** : Revenue or Administrative unit below a district during the Ahom and the British period.

**Mauzadar** : Revenue officer of the Ahom and the British period.

**Moh** : Text used by the Monpa chiropractor to determine the course of treatment.

**Nyich** : A patient under a priests’ treatment in Galo language.

**Nyele** : Traditional village council of the Nyishi.

**Nyiga** : An adult male in Galo language.

**Nyib** : Priest in Galo language.

**Nyikok** : A person well versed in traditional rituals (but who is not a priest), customary laws and oral traditions in Galo language. A *nyikok* is considered higher in position than the *nyib* (priest).

**Nyubh** : Indigenous priest and healers of the tribes of central Arunachal Pradesh in Nyishi language.
**Orom/ Urom**: Spirit of a dead person in Galo language; also prefixed before a dead person's name colloquially.

**Posa**: Payments in kind or cash made to the hill tribes by the present day Arunachal Pradesh by the Ahom which was later followed by the Colonial administration.

**Tago-Nygre**: Priests of high order in Galo language. They have occult powers and can willingly transform themselves into animals, notably the tiger.

**Takww**: Dysentery in Galo language.

**Thanyi/ Abotani**: Mythical and first human ancestor of the Tani tribes of central Arunachal Pradesh. Thanyi is central to genealogical history of these tribes. The Thanyi tribes are the Nyishi, the Apatani, the Tagin, the Galo and the Adi.

**Uyi Moko**: World below the Sichi (Earth) where the soul of the dead live in Galo language. ‘Nether world’ is the nearest but poor English equivalent. Sichi (earth) is regarded as the ultimate source from which human beings are borne.

**Yapom**: A sylvan deity bearing a feminine name commonly believed amongst the Tyanyi tribes of Arunachal Pradesh to cause different kinds of illness.

**Yudum**: Sacrificial offerings in the form of animals in the indigenous rituals in Galo language.

**Yumin**: Monpa equivalent of nyubh (priest); representative of the Bon faith.