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A Portrait of the Festivals of Nagaland

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ABSTRACT

"Festivals foster variety, they draw neighbors into conversations, they boost creativity, they offer possibilities for civic pride, and they improve our general psychological well-being," said David Binder, one of the most influential socialists of all time. He made an excellent point on the importance of festivals. It is an important aspect of the human world's story. India is known for its festivities. This area is home to a diverse group of people from many religions. Nagaland is a highland state in India's north-east that is home to a number of tribes. Each tribe has its unique rituals and traditions, which translate into a place where people may celebrate virtually all year. The festivals of the Nagas are mostly related to elements like the spirits that saunter the villages and forests; the fertility of soil; community bonding; sowing and harvesting of fields and merry meaning after harvest to, and this paper will focus on the various seasonal festivals performed by Naga in Nagaland.

Keywords – festivals, culture, celebration, season, society.

Objectives

The objectives of this paper is

- i) To highlight the different seasonal festivals performed in the state of Nagaland
- ii) To focus on the pattern and style of festivals in the festival.
- iii) To underline the view of the government regarding the festivals

Literature Review-

Festivals have been a feature of human life since the beginning of time. Naturally, this has enticed academics, writers, and educators to write about various aspects of the issue. Harish Chandola's "The Naga Story: India's First Armed Struggle" is one such wonderful work. This book paints a vivid image of the Nagamise's year-round events. "Nagaland: The Term of Festivals," published by Heritage Publishing House, is another book on the topic. This publication is the result of a collaborative effort between the Tribal Research Cultural Nagaland University and others. The majority of Naga festivals have similar natures and customs that are strongly linked to their farming pursuits. It focuses on the Naga tribes' festivals, their procedural characteristics, sequential events, and philosophical interpretations through examining their customs and traditional practices within their value systems as observed via their numerous festivals.

Introduction :

Festivals act as stress relievers and allow us to maintain emotional equilibrium. Negativity is naturally reduced when you think more optimistically. Harvest time is associated with several festivities all around the world. Over the years, religious festivals such as Christmas, Diwali, and Eid have gained cultural significance. They are a joyous and celebratory occasion that may also be linked to national cultural events.

They are vital to the functioning of society. They bring us together in a feeling of camaraderie and togetherness, reminding us that there is much good in the world. They appear just when you need them to break up the routine and bring joy into your life. India is a country where festivities are celebrated all year long. Nagaland is a culturally diverse state. Nagaland is home to a wide range of cultures and eloquent tribes. The word 'Mongmong' has a definite definition that may be translated as 'everlasting togetherness.' The Sangtam is a significant tribe of North East India, and one of Nagaland's seventeen tribes. Sangtam tribes have a strong grasp of their beliefs and traditions. Their culture is reflected in the many rites and

ceremonies they perform. Their traditional music and folk dance also reflect their ethnicity. The Sangtam tribe recognizes a total of twelve festivals, with the Mongmong festival being the most important and proudly observed. Significantly, the occasion is observed in all of its glory. The majority of the Sangtam tribe's members are from Nagaland's Kiphire district. The Mongmong festival is one of Nagaland's most popular events, as it honors the state's most well-known tribe. The festival, with its element of fun, contributes to Nagaland's increasing tourism. The festival's focus is mostly on the issue of harvest. The event is commemorated by honoring God for all of his blessings throughout one's life. During the holidays, the entire neighborhood is put to work to prepare for this celebration, which incorporates ritualistic elements.

Festivals are observed by honoring God for all of his blessings throughout one's life. During the holidays, the entire region is put to work preparing for this celebration, which includes ritualistic ceremonies and eating.

History of the Festival :

Once the seeds sowed in their lush grounds begin to nourish and grow, the Sangtam people pay their respects and pray. The prayers are for a very successful crop. The Mongmong celebration separates the living from the dead.

The festival's essential core is the separation of the two. A specified rite is spoken twice by the religious advocate in charge of the district known as Beburu.

The prayer is recited twice a day, once in the evening and once in the morning.

The Morning Prayer is seen to be more powerful and prosperous.

The nighttime prayer, on the other hand, is composed for the deportation of evil spirits that stay around their territories and spread negative energy.

Duration of the Festival:

Mongmong is observed from the 1st to the 6th of September each year. Every year, the festival lasts for six days. In the Sangtam tribe, the number six has a significant meaning. A new born newborn is christened after the sixth day of his or her life. People also lament the loss of a loved one for six days after they pass away. Every day of the festival is crucial to the overall success of the event.

Important Rituals of the Festival

People go to the forests on the first day, known as Sinkkitsa, to gather materials for the event, including as firewood, cooking fuel, veggies, and millet. People also make wine for the duration of the celebration.

On the second day, animals are slaughtered so that their flesh can be procured and distributed to the general public. It is usual for the village's oldest ladies to drink the first taste of water on this day. It is completely forbidden and regarded quite disrespectful to break this practice. The third day, Musuanguap, is marked by the performance of a series of ceremonies. To begin, three worshiping stones are fed, each representing a different God. On top of the stones, rice and cakes are arranged, and wine is poured over them. The act is a metaphor for feeding the gods. Food and water are not allowed to be consumed during the ritual for both humans and animals. On this day, people avoid leaving the village or visiting their farms because they fear it will harm their crops' growth. The community, farms, and wells are all cleaned on the fourth day. The fifth day has passed, and we are now socializing. People get together with their friends and families to have a good time. Frequently, gifts and tokens are exchanged. Shilang Wuba Nyumong is the name of the fifth day. To ward off evil spirits, people plant nettle leaves on their roofs. People feel relieved on this final day, known as Akatisingkitsa, since they know that god has blessed them, and thus they rejoice.

The Hornbill Festival in Nagaland

This is a very popular Nagaland celebration. The Hornbill Festival, often known as the "Festival of All Festivals," is a magnificent celebration held each year in Nagaland, North East India. Through exquisite indigenous music, dancing, and performances, the festival is gritting in its element and a compelling depiction of Naga culture. The performances are likely to be quite eye-catching and draw a lot of attention. All of Nagaland's varied tribes contribute their heartfelt efforts to make the festival more lively and enjoyable.

To make this event an incredible possibility, everyone comes together under one roof. People from all over the world travel to this exciting event to either observe or participate, or sometimes both.

Visitors can have a better understanding of Naga culture by attending the festival. Various spectacular dance and musical performances, as well as competitions, are open to the public. It's a stunning presentation of Nagaland's traditional practices. Nagaland's inhabitants are even more generous with their helping hands and smiles. Various lavish dance and musical performances, as well as competitions, have been held as part of this lovely celebration. It's a stunning presentation of Nagaland's traditional practices.

With their helpful hands and 5 grins, the people of Nagaland are even more generous. This lovely event has captivated visitors and travelers who come to see it during the holidays.

History of the Festival

The Indian Hornbill inspired the festival's name. The Hornbill is a common bird in Nagaland's folklore and tribes, and can often be spotted prancing around in the state's woodlands. The many tribes in Nagaland treat their culture with utmost care, making it absolutely necessary for them to be present at the event. As a result, it is greeted with pride and zeal. The festival has been held for the past 16 years. What began as a cultural mash-up in the year 2000 is still becoming stronger with each passing year. The goal of this celebration is to ensure the survival and protection of Naga culture. The celebration promotes togetherness and better relations among Nagaland's many tribes. The festival has been a huge success thanks to the efforts of Nagaland's tourism agency

Duration of the Festival

The Hornbill Festival is held every year. Each year, the celebration begins in the first week of December. The cultural festival is organized by Nagaland's government. From the 1st to the 7th of December, the festivities will take place around the country. The festival begins in Kohima, Nagaland's capital city.

Important Rituals of the Festival

Religious and ceremonial parades are held. Each tribe has its unique ritual performance that is both stunningly beautiful and oddly executed. The energetic traditional folk dance and musical acts that follow as the activities progress are a close portrayal of Nagaland's cultural heritages. Sports, crafts, dance, fashion presentations, and beauty pageants are all held. During the festival, Naga culture and ethnicity are performed and appreciated to encourage people to compete

Miu Festival in Nagaland

The Khiamniungan Nagas, a small group in Nagaland, celebrate Miu, another Naga holiday. It is one of Nagaland's most prominent and well-known festivals. Jhum agriculture is practiced by the Khiamniungan in their traditional form.

Jhum cultivation is a type of agricultural practice that involves slashing and burning. The festival is held with considerable pomp and honors the Khiamniungan tribe's ancient traditions and culture. The festival is mostly observed in portions of North East India, particularly in Nagaland's Tuesang region. It commemorates the anticipation of a bountiful harvest. When it's time to plant for a new crop, Miu is celebrated with zeal. People express their most genuine prayers to God, asking him to look after their crops and bless them. The people show their gratitude and appreciation through a variety of rites and celebrations, which include the luxury of dancing, singing, and feasting as a group. Nagaland's tourism industry is mainly reliant on its vibrant harvest festivals, which showcase the state's cultural heritage and ethnicity. When visiting Nagaland for the holidays. It is critical to work together as a community. Nagaland's tourism industry is mainly reliant on its vibrant harvest festivals, which showcase the state's cultural heritage and ethnicity. It is mandatory to visit and participate in at least one Naga harvest festival while on vacation in Nagaland.

History of the Festival

This celebration promotes the reunification of relatives and families. It expresses the special relationship that maternal uncles have with their nieces and nephews. There is an opportunity to strengthen relationships between uncles and their nieces or nephews on this specific occasion. The uncles pray for their sister's children and invoke a great deity to look after and bless them.

It contains merriment, holistic ceremonies, and a well-planned feast. The event is also a prayer for a successful harvest in the coming season, which is offered at the time of sowing fresh harvest.

Duration of the Festival

The month of May is dedicated to Miu. Every year in the first week of the month, it is commemorated. This celebration takes place on the 5th of May every year.

Monyu Festival in Nagaland

The Phom Nagas of Nagaland hold a huge event called Monyu. Monyu, Moha, Bongvum, and Paangmo are the four festivals observed by the Phoms. Monyu is the most important of the four. The Phom Nagas live in North East India, with a large population in the village of Yongnyah.

This major occasion is celebrated with true devotion and excitement in the village of Yongnyah. The Monyu is one of Nagaland's most prominent festivals, marking the beginning of the harvest season. It signifies the end of the winter season and the beginning of the bright spring and summer seasons. After the paddy fields have been sown, the festival begins. At the festival's seven intervals, people pray for the blessing of their fields. With their prayers, they implore God to bless their crops, ensuring a successful harvest for the season. The festival is held for a long period of time, spanning

more than fifteen days. The period of time spans over fifteen days. Monyu lasts for a month and is spent in good spirits. The extravagant garbs and social events worn by Phom people demonstrate the richness of their culture. Each person's social level can be deduced from the clothing they wear. Warrior armor is donned by warriors. The festival's atmosphere is filled with laughter, which certainly expresses people's joy. There are feasts large enough to feed the entire village. People enthusiastically participate in all activities. This celebration serves as a tourist attraction in Nagaland, which is known for its ecotourism. The best time to see this authentically diversified event is over the holidays.

History of the Festival

The Monyu celebration signals the end of the chilly winter nights and the start of the warmer spring and summer seasons, when the Phoms' crops flourish. People pray to God for opulence for themselves and their crops. The chieftain, or chief advocate, of the hamlet, interprets the path that the season will take. If people follow the procedures and ceremonies exactly, the event is considered to bring them many blessings. People, on the other hand, believe that if traditions are ignored and ceremonies are performed correctly, they will be successful. People, on the other hand, believe that if the ceremonies are ignored or disrespected, it will result in disasters and impede the growth of their crop. The women are treated with respect and given pure rice beer as a token of appreciation. A separate ceremony is held for the women by the men. The concept of expressing respect and gratitude to women is at the heart of this uplifting event. As a result, ladies are treated with utmost respect and hospitality on this day. The arrival of the festival is signaled by the banging of drums two days previous to the start of the festival. A specific drumming rhythm known as 'Lan Nyangshem' is performed

Duration of the Festival

The festival lasts a total of 12 days. People, on the other hand, only celebrate for roughly 6 days. Monyu begins on the 1st of April and ends on the 6th of April. Every year, the Phom Nagas commemorate it with increased vigor.

Conclusion-

As a result, one can simply infer that Nagaland's festivals are an expressive method to honor the state's wonderful past, culture, and traditions. They are a set of eight designed to celebrate key moments and feelings in our life with those we care about. They play a vital part in our social life by providing structure and connecting us to our families and backgrounds. They provide a welcome break from our mundane, monotonous daily routines and provide motivation to recall the essential things and events in our lives. Legends, knowledge, and traditions were passed down through the generations through festivals

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