

## Bathousim

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### Bathou Religion Latest News

The Bathou religion of Bodo community in Assam gets a separate code in the upcoming census.

### About Bathou Religion

- It is the **traditional faith of the Bodos**, the largest plains tribe of **Assam**.
- The word 'Bathou' is derived from the **Bodo language**, where 'Ba' means 'five' and 'thou' means '**deep philosophical thought**'.
- The faith system is based on **five elements**: Bar (Air), San (Sun), Ha (Earth), Or (Fire), and Okhrang (Sky).

### Beliefs of Bathousim

- The community worships **Bwrai Bathou** as the supreme god. In the Bodo language, the word 'Bwrai' refers to the '**eldest man concerning power or knowledge**'.
- The Bathou faith is **centred on the Sijou plant** (Euphorbia splendens).
- It is planted in the Bathou altar at the centre as the symbol of Bathou religion of the Bodos.

- It has an important place and has been widely accepted as the **symbol of life** or soul by the Bodo people since time immemorial.
  - This plant is the living symbol of **Bathoubwrai, the supreme God of the Bodos.**
  - Bodos plant the sijou tree on an elevated altar **encircled with a bamboo** fencing of eighteen pairs of posts weaved with five pieces of bamboo split.
  - The five bamboo strips signify the five bindings of Bathou, viz. (i) birth, (ii) marriage or procreation, (iii) sorrow, (iv) happiness and (v) death.

**Source:** ET

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