

Behdeinkhlam Festival

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Behdeinkhlam Festival Latest News

The sacred Behdeinkhlam Festival was celebrated with fervor in Jowai, Meghalaya, blending ancient Pnar rituals with modern social themes.

About Behdeinkhlam Festival

- **Meaning:** **Beh Dien** means to **drive away the plague** with sticks and prayers and **Khlam** means plague or pestilence.
- It is a significant cultural festival celebrated by the **Pnar community in Meghalaya**.
- It translates to “driving away the plague” or “chasing away the demon of cholera”;
- It is a festival that seeks to **ward off evil spirits, diseases, misfortune**, and invoke blessings for a good harvest and communal prosperity.
- **Timing:** It is celebrated **annually in July after the sowing period**.

Rituals of Behdeinkhlam Festival

- The main part of the festival was the **making of the Dein Khlam and Khnong** which are rounded, polished and straight **tree trunks from the forest**.
- During the cultural festival tour, young men make a symbolic gesture of driving away of the evil spirit, plague and disease by beating of the roof of every house with bamboo poles.
- It is carried out for three days and on the last day, in the afternoon people would gather in a **place called Aitnar** and both young and old would dance to the tunes of the pipes and drums.
- On the final day people would converge to a **place called Mynthong** to witness a game played similar to **football, called dad-lawakor**.

Source: NA

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