

Behdienkhlam Festival

June 23, 2019

The famous 4-day Meghalaya Annual Cultural Festival, "Behdienkhlam", held every year at the small peripheral town of Jowai, Meghalaya.

Behdienkhlam Festival is the most celebrated religious festival among the **Pnars Tribals also known as Jaintia Tribes**. It is popular at Jowai the District headquarters of Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya.

"Khlam" means **plague or pestilence** and **"beh dien"** means to drive away with sticks.

The festival is also known as the festival for **chasing away the Demon of Cholera**.

It is celebrated **mid-July every year** after the sowing is over.

The festival reaches its conclusion with the Dad-lawakor ceremony in which groups of men jostle for the possession of a wooden ball, a game which is remotely similar to football.

The festival ends with a final salutation to the divine powers when the women of the tribe offer sacrificial food to their almighty.