

Siang Uying Festival

February 28, 2023

In news— The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways attended the colourful Siang Uying Festival – which is an important festival of the Adi community at Boleng, Arunachal Pradesh.

About Siang Uying Festival-

- The festival of Uying is **celebrated to herald the season of cultivation, beginning of the Adi community's new year**, arrival of spring seasons as well as a great way to strengthen the bond among the community.
- **The Araan festival also marks the beginning of New Year** and the **arrival of spring season**, the **season of joyousness and youthfulness** where **male elders performs 'Bari' songs and 'Yakjong' dance in villages** by boys and girls through which stories of origin of the festival are narrated, besides praying for wellbeing of people both materially and spiritually.
- In this festival, it is **customary for all male members of a family to go on a hunting spree (open season) and stay in the jungles for one week**.
- When they return home they come back with various kills such as deers, birds, squirrels, fish etc.
- The children **perform "Yakjong" (house to house) wearing colorful** traditional attire and bless the house where they perform.
- **The hunted birds, rodents, squirrels are prepared as gift "Aaman" for children** and they carry and plays with it during the day.
- The festivity brings brotherhood among the villagers as hunted meats and rice beer **'Aapong' are shared among each other, especially 'Aapongs' are gifted to uncles** (maternal) and in return uncles gifts back hunted meat items like rodent, birds and other meats to children of

sisters and relatives during the festival.

The Adi people-

- The Adi people are one of the most populous groups of indigenous peoples in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- A few thousand are also found in the Tibet Autonomous Region, where they are called the Lhoba together with some of the Nishi people, Na people, Mishmi people and Tagin people.
- The present habitat of the Adi people is heavily influenced by the historic location of the ancient Lhoyu.
- They are found in the temperate and sub-tropical regions within the districts of Siang, East Siang, Upper Siang, West Siang, Lower Dibang Valley, Lohit, Shi Yomi and Namsai within Arunachal Pradesh.
- **The term “Adi” however, is not to be confused with the Lhoba people,** since the Lhoba also includes the Mishmi along with the Adi people.
- All the ethnic groups recognizing themselves as “Adi” are believed to be descendants of the Abutani/Abotani.
- **The various languages and dialects of the Adi people fall into two groups:** Abor (Abor-Minyong, Bor-abor (Padam), Abor-Miri, etc.) and Lhoba (Lho-Pa, Luoba).
- **They celebrate a number of festivals, in particular, their prime festivals are Aran, Donggin, Solung, Podi Barbii and Etor.**
- Solung is observed in the first week of September for five days or more. It is a harvest festival performed after the sowing of seeds and transplantation, to seek for future bumper crops.
- **The majority of Adi traditionally follow the tribal Donyi-Polo religion.**
- Worship of gods and goddesses like Kine Nane, Doying Bote, Gumin Soyin and Pedong Nane, etc., and religious

observances are led by a shaman, called Miri (can be a female).