

Wancho tribe

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In news- Folktales of the Wancho tribe in Arunachal Pradesh's remote Longding district would be documented and preserved in digital archives.

Wancho community-

- The Wancho are a tribal people inhabiting the Patkai hills of Longding District in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, India. They have a population of 35,000.
- Culturally Naga, they are ethnically related to the Nocte and Konyak Naga of the Mon and Tirap districts.
- The Wancho language belongs to the Tibeto-Burman family.
- When it comes to their religion, the Wancho, together with the Nocte and a small minority of the Konyak, **still retain the belief of Animism.**
- These Animist Wancho believe in the existence of two powerful deities, **Rang and Baurang.**
- Christianity has gained some followers among the Wancho, many of whom belong to the Baptist or Roman Catholic denominations.
- **Tattooing plays a major role among the Wancho tribe.** According to tradition, a man is tattooed on his four limbs and his entire face, with the exception of certain regions around the eyes and the lips.
- The women adorn themselves with necklaces and bangles, along with some light tattooing as well.
- **The prime festival of the Wancho is Oriah,** a festival between March to April, for a period of six to twelve days interspersed with prayer, songs and dances.
- **Villagers exchange bamboo tubes filled with rice beer as a mark of greeting and goodwill.** Pork skin is then offered to the village chief as a mark of respect.
- This festival continues for several days just sowing of Jhum paddy and Pigs, buffaloes and mithuns are

sacrificed and feasts are arranged in each and every morungs (dormitories).

- People dances around a “Jangban”, a long ceremonial pole planted during Oriah.
- The Wancho are **traditionally governed by a council of elderly chieftains, known as Wangham or Wangsa.**
- Like most neighbouring tribes, the Wancho construct houses made out of wood and bamboo, and roofs were thatched with dry leaves.
- **Dormitories, known as Murung, where the boys are trained to be men by their fathers.** Although the girls do not have dormitories like the boys, they sleep in one big, single house, with the care of an old lady.