

Yangli festival

April 3, 2023

In news—The Yangli festival of the Tiwa community of Assam concluded recently.

- The Yangli festival, also **known as the Lakshmi Puja of the Tiwa people** was organised with the traditional rituals in the Guva region of the state.
- The Tiwa community mainly depends on agriculture as their main livelihood and this festival is also related to the same.
- During this festival, the **people pray for a good harvest and ask the Gods to protect their crops** from pests and natural calamities.
- This festival is **celebrated once every five years** by the members of the community.
- Rice is one of the main crops of the region and the sowing of seeds for paddy starts soon after the completion of this festival.
- According to the local traditions, the **Yangli festival is the opportunity to welcome the Goddess Lakshmi to the earth and to bless them** with a good harvest in the coming years.
- **Ceremonious sacrifices of animals including poultry and goats are done** on the eve of the puja to welcome the goddess to the “NoBaro” or the granary of the Tiwa people.
- As per the traditions of the community, the Rongkhi and Amchi people have to sacrifice one goat more than what is being offered by the other groups.

The Tiwa people-

- They are a Tibeto-Burmese ethnic group primarily inhabiting the Northeast Indian states of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland, and

some parts of neighbouring Bangladesh and Myanmar.

- **They were known as Lalungs/Lalong/Laleng in the Assamese Buranjis** and in Colonial literature and in the Constitution of India, though members of the group prefer to call themselves Tiwa (meaning “the people who were lifted from below”).
- Some of their neighbours still call them Lalung.
- A striking peculiarity of the Tiwa is their division into two sub-groups, Hill Tiwa and Plains Tiwas, displaying contrasting cultural features.
- The founder of Tiwa community is Pha Poroi “Indrosing Dewri” who has contributed a lot to the construction of Tiwa society.
- He also wrote the Tiwa national anthem called – O Angé Tiwa Tosima.