

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
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GOVERNOR EXTENDS PODI BARBI GREETINGS

Itanagar, Dec. 4: The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh General (Retd) J.J. Singh has extended warm greetings and good wishes to the people of Arunachal Pradesh on the auspicious occasion of Podi Barbi.

In his festival message, the Governor wished that Almighty Donyi Polo shower their choicest blessings for peace, prosperity and happiness in the society.

I join my Ramo, Bokar and Pailibo brethren in welcoming the new agriculture season and pray for a bumper harvest, General Singh added in his message, **reports PRO to Governor.**

Sd/- Ome Tayeng, Asst. PRO

‘Podi-Barbi’-a festival that reverberates from mountains

| Sanjay MOSING |



‘Podi-Barbi’ is a harvest festival celebrated by the Ramo, Pai-Libo and Bokar communities of Mechukha sub-division on December 5 every year. Basically, the festival is celebrated as a thanksgiving to the Mother Nature for the abundant harvest of crops in current year and also to pray for another bumper harvest and hunting season for the coming year.

During this day, men and womenfolk clad in traditional attire enjoy the festivities with fun and merry making. Like other festivals of Tani origin, the sacrifice of domestic animals during the festival is another feature of the celebration and the ritual is performed by local priest called Nyubu.

According to the legends, ‘Podi-Barbi’ refers to a small ‘Cicada’ like migratory insect that makes loud tweeters sound and migrates from far-flung places and arrives at the region at the time of harvesting season. Since, the primitive people were not aware of any calendar by which they could know the exact time of harvesting, used the arrival of these tiny insects as reminder of harvesting season. The festival is celebrated during the harvesting season, when the insects make their appearance in the region.

After completion of rituals, men and womenfolk distribute wine and other delicacies to guests and invitees. Local wine (Opong) made of millet and maize is vogue during this day. Traditional songs known as “Jaying and Bari” is common among the elder people and the youths perform traditional dance on entertainment mode. However, with the advent of modernization, modern songs and dances are also combined solely for entertainment these days.

People of the area are basically dependent on agricultural products like maize, millet and rice along with vegetables, which is still in practice. Maize has been the staple food for ages as growing rice in the mountainous terrains is almost impossible.

Culturally and traditionally the people are very rich, but due to lack of proper exposure to outside world most of the people even in the State hardly know about the Ramo, Pai-Libo and Bokar communities of Mechuka sub-division.