

Name of the Element: Ningol Chakouba- Women's Festival of Manipuri Meiteis
Domain 3: Social practices, rituals and festive events
Name of Inventory: Pilot Inventory 1
Serial No: P1-D3-007

Brief Description

Ningol Chakouba is a unique festival originating from Manipur where women are honoured and celebrated throughout Meitei households. In the festival, a married woman is invited back to her parents' house and is treated to a large meal and several presents which honors her place in society. This festival allows for the strengthening of familial bonds as well as to create a space for women and girls to feel part of both their parents' family and their husbands' family. On the day of Ningol Chakkauba, it is a must for married women and their children to don new clothes. Brothers provide several gifts to their sisters and also seek their blessings by bowing in front of them. In this way, the day becomes an important cultural practice to emphasize the importance of Manipuri women in their societies. They also have the custom of bringing fruits and sweets to their parental homes while coming for the meal. History records that this practice began in 33 AD when Nongda Lairen Pakhangba was the king of Manipur. His sister Laishna, had once gone to the house of her brother, Poireiton. Apart from a multi-course delicious meal, she was given various home-grown fruits and handloom spun clothes as gifts. Since then, this practice has been an inextricable part of the Manipuri society. Over time the practice has taken the form of feasts for womenfolk of all religions and sects, thereby creating a strong base for a day of women empowerment.

Region: Meitei villages in Moulovibazar, Sunamgonj and Habigonj districts.

Photographs: Video: Consent:

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