

Thazing lap, the Pre harvest festival of the Vaiphei

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Abstract

The Thazing Lap is an important Kut (festival) celebrated by the Vaiphei tribe. 'Thazing' in Vaiphei means 'autumn' (August to September) while 'Lap' means 'Celebration'. So literally, Thazing lap roughly means the festival that is celebrated in the 'autumn season'. The Thazing Lap is essentially a recreational post-sowing or pre-harvest festival that takes place after the entire sowing process including weeding, clearing and burning of fields, transplanting and sowing of paddy etc is completed during the 'Muktha' or the summer monsoon season. After the tiring sowing season is over, Vaipheis engage in recreation and festivities that stretch into the autumn season which is called Thazing-Tha (months of Thazing i.e. August to September). As the Vaipheis did not have written sources the present study is mainly based on oral sources, interviews and field visit of Salam Patong where the first Thazing Lap was performed in about 1830 A.D. The major findings are the stone monolith erected to commemorate the festival, the uniqueness of the festivals as no other kindred tribes have a pre-harvest festival that lasted the autumn season.

Pattern of Malnutrition among Children in India: A State Level Analysis

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Abstract

Present study covers India at state level. The study has been carried out to find out the state-wise pattern of malnutrition among children in India in 2011 and to find out the state-wise changing pattern of the problem of malnutrition among children from 2005-06 to 2011. The study is based on secondary source collected from National Family Health Survey 3 (NFHS 2005-06), CAG report and Census of India 2011. Data has been analyzed with the help of simple statistical techniques and appropriate tables and maps. The pattern of malnutrition has been shown with the help of ARC GIS 9.3 software. It is found that the prevalence of malnutrition is decreased (1.34 percent) in India in 2011. However, it is increased in 12 states, which are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The highest increment on the problem of malnutrition has been registered in Bihar (26.22 percent). However, 16 states succeed to decrease the problem of malnutrition among children. These states are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand & West Bengal.

The Kashmir problem since 1989: Causes and Consequences

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Abstract

Kashmir issue has made the region of South Asia the most dangerous place in the world. Within few months of their independence in 1947, India and Pakistan went to war over Kashmir, which divided the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir into two parts: one under Pakistan and the other with India. This division, subsequently, became the bone of contention between them and led three wars and four crises between New Delhi and Islamabad. However, in the late 1980s, Kashmir is themselves started armed struggle against India to liberate Kashmir from its rule. Pakistan promptly backed this movement. The movement got internationalized when the Afghan mujahedeen, after fighting and defeating the Soviet troops in Afghanistan, entered Kashmir. Consequently, Kashmir was caught in the crossfire. Finally, the 25 years long mystery has given birth to a new phase called "Kashmiri intifada". What were the causes that led the uprising in Kashmir in 1989? Who started the movement? How did the foreign militant organizations use and influence it? How India dealt with the mysterious movement? And How far it impacted and disillusioned the people of Kashmir from both India and Pakistan? These are the questions the paper attempts to answer.

The journal of Bengal Geographer an overview of women education in India

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Abstract

Female literacy is considered a key factor for the rapid development of a country. An educated woman is important for decision making in relation health seeking, family planning, nutrition and economic issues etc. She not only helps in the development of human resources, but in improving the quality of life. There is a disparity in literacy between men and women in India. At present status and awareness of women that entrepreneurship opens up new fields for them and they can achieve their cherished profession which has independent and self support.

A field based review of agricultural programmes in Manipur under the eleventh five year plans

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Abstract

Agricultural development in manipur under the eleventh five year plans is noticeable with implementation of a good number of programmes. The paper highlights agricultural programmes in manipur during the eleventh five year plans. It further brings into account the responsiveness and participation of such programmes by the traditional farmers so called as marginalized farmers in manipur, who constitute more than two-third of farmers in the state. From the field study of such programmes, a gap between programmes and the needs of poor farmers is indicated. In order to better help the marginalised farmer which is also the basic aim of the programmes, it is suggested that community development models and techniques be adopted to ensure participation of farmers and other efficient members in agricultural developmental process. Proper formulation and implementation of agricultural programmes also call for strategies to facilitate capacity building of the policy makers and the concerned officials with innovative ideas by considering the socio-cultural and other ground realities.

Self-Willed death in the light of euthanasia in Jainism

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Abstract

Euthanasia is not a recent phenomenon, and it has a long history of philosophical discussion as well. In the Greek and Roman antiquity euthanasia was an accepted practice, though its nature and practice were different. Self-willed death in Indian culture is almost equivalent to euthanasia in western culture. In spiritual-religious practice, self-willed death held a position of high esteem. In Jainism there are various types of self-willed death; some of them are highly revered. Death by starvation was the ascetic act par excellence in the Jaina canon and it was a ritual voluntary death. The Tirthankaras practiced such a kind of death. The paper seeks to explore the relationship between euthanasia and self-willed death with special reference to Jainism.

Nature of soil properties and their function in different parts of Jalpaiguri district

Sankar Biswas

Abstract

Jalpaiguri is an agriculture based district with 43.71 % cultivated land. Major parts of the district are undulating foothill area called doors and southern part is plain area. Many rivers flowing through this district sources from Bhutan and Sikkim Himalaya. Those rivers create flood every year and directly effects soil condition of the district. Nature of soil properties in the study area frequently changed by different elements. Some mining activities in Bhutan effects on soil condition of the district. Attempts have been made in this paper to know the nature of soil properties of different parts of the district.

Dalit identity and socio-cultural role of the lower caste associations in united provinces (1900-1950)

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Abstract

This article documents the role of lower caste associations in evolving dalit identity and culture. Along with political activity, lower caste associations were also engaged in the process of claiming and making respectable social identity for dalit castes. The traditional notions on dalits caste were attacked and serious attempt has been made to carve our respectable identity for dalits. This article thus concentrates on evolutionary process of dalit identity and socio-cultural role of lower caste associations in united province. The main objective of this article is to highlights the discourse and practice of lower caste associations from the perspective of dalit identity.