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ESSAY WRITING

CULTURE OF SIKKIM

Sikkim is a unique blend of different religion, customs and tradition of different communities. In the ancient times Sikkim was occupied by three tribes Naong, Cheng and the Man. But with the course of time, the inhabitants of the nearby countries became a major inhabitant of the state. That includes the Lepchas, the clan of Nagas from Tibet, are one of the tribal groups. The Bhutias, the descendants of Buddhist from Tibet and the Nepalese, the descendants of the Hindus from Nepal which now dominates the considerable portion of Sikkim's population. Hence, Nepali is the most common among all the languages of Sikkim. The Tibetan Bhutias, received their deep rooted ties to the tradition and belief since the last three centuries they had been settled in Sikkim. Living together harmoniously, the Sikkimese Bhutias and Tibetans display the cultural, social and linguistic commonness in between.

Sikkim is like a beautiful banquet that is adorned with the amazing colours and essence of different flowers, in the form of attractive folk dances, customs and traditions of different tribes and castes. Their exuberant religious festivals living along with them the ceremonial mask dance performance performed by the monks with superfluous energy and zeal. The sounds and sparkling jewellery

Add to the authenticity of the performance while they dance to the resounding drums and triumphant trumpeting of horns. Tago Dawa is one of such auspicious festivals, celebrated by the people who follow Mahayana form of Buddhism.

On which, they go to monasteries and offer butter lamps along with the prayers. Later, the colourful procession adorned by the monk chanting holy scriptures, go around the town of Sikkim. The earliest inhabitant of the state; the Lepchas, were the believers of Bon faith and their faith based on apirthi, before they turned Buddhist or Christians.

The mountains, rivers, forests, etc., that are the spirit of Nature, generally considered as god by them. The Phang Latsol is one of the festivals celebrated by them, when they offer gratitude to the mount Kanchendzonga which is considered as a powerful guard of the state. Desian festival is celebrated in the month of sept-oct, which symbolized the victory of good over evil, just like Hindu festival 'Dussehra' and Diwali is celebrated on the 10th day after Dastan. Then there is very solemn Kagyet dance performed on every 28th or 29th day of the Tibetan calendar. Other than these there are several other festivals celebrated by the people living in Sikkim namely to Lassong, Namsoeng, Lohak-Duchen, Yum-Sam-Maughm, Tendong-Iho-Rum-Fat, etc.