



The State of Arunachal Pradesh is famous for celebrating large numbers of tribal festivals all over the year. The '*Solung*' is the main festival of '*Adis*' and is a manifestation of the '*Adis*' festival cult. The '*Adi*', or '*Bangni-Bokar Lhoba*' people are the major collective tribes living in the Himalayan hills of '*Nyingchi*' Prefecture, and they are found in the temperate and sub-tropical regions within the Districts of East *Siang*, Upper *Siang*, West *Siang* and *Dibang* Valley. Basically this festival is celebrated for 5 days from the first week of the month of September every year and carries some agricultural significance with it. But, usually the date is fixed by the '*Kebang*' or the Village Council depending upon the convenience of the village people. This year the *Solung* festival is going to be celebrated from 1st September, 2010 in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.



THE LEGEND



There are various stories about its origin, but the most commonly accepted one is that the '*Adis*' were asked by '*Kine-Nane*', the Goddesses of wealth and prosperity to perform the '*Solung Puja*'. It is celebrated to reap a rich harvest after sowing of seeds and transplantation of paddy plants, to raise more '*mithuns*' and pigs and also to be free from natural calamities, fire, accidents, diseases etc.

THE CELEBRATION

The first day is called, '*Solung-Gidi Dogin*' or the day of preparations, second and the main day of the celebration is called '*Doreph-Long*' (the day of animal sacrifice), third day is '*Binnayat Binam*' or worshipping

the goddess of plenty and prosperity. Fourth day is 'Yaktor' of 'Ekoph' when the villager remains busy preparing bows and arrows and other weapons of war. On the fifth day i.e. on 'Oinnyad', the 'Miri' (religious leader or priest) is given a ceremonial send off when the girls sing and dance. During 'Solung' festival, every evening the 'Miri' sings 'Solung Abung' and through the song he relates the stories about the origin of man, animals and plants, ancestry of the 'Adis', lives and deeds of the 'Adi' Heroes. However, 'Apong' is prepared on all the days of the 'Solung' festival.



'Ponung' is a kind of dance which is always associated and organised with the 'Solung' festival. In other words, it is also known as 'Solung-Ponung'. The 'Ponung' dance begins on the first day of the 'Solung' festival. Young girls in the age group of 14 to 18 years take part in the 'Ponung' dance. These girls are generally known as 'Ponung

Bona' i.e. 'Ponung' dancers. Besides, dance and music Food Stalls and Ornaments Stalls are opened in various places of the District which are enjoyed by the people a lot.

SOLUNG FESTIVAL, 2010

Like every year, this year also, lots of preparations have been started in Arunachal to celebrate the event in grand manner. The festival will be celebrated at Naharlagun on the first day of next month, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the community. Home Commissioner, Naharlagun and Managing Director, Arunachal Pradesh Industrial Development and Financial Corporation Ltd. (APIDFC) as the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively.

