

ISSN 0976-2132

**UTKAL  
HISTORICAL  
RESEARCH JOURNAL**

2022

VOLUME: XXXV, No-4 (I) April



**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
UTKAL UNIVERSITY, VANI VIHAR  
BHUBANESWAR-751004, (ODISHA) INDIA**



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**Vol.-XXXV, No-4 (I), April 2022**

Platinum Jubilee Publication



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ISSN 0976-213

Vol.-XXXV, No-4 (I), April 2022

A UGC listed Peer-reviewed Journal of Department of History, Utkal University, Van  
Vihar, Bhubaneswar- 751004, (Odisha), India

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**WANSUWA MISEWA:  
A TRADITIONAL SOCIO-RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL OF TIWA COMMUNITY OF ASSAM**

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**1. ABSTRACT**

North East India is a diverse region. There are many festivals in North East India which highlight the region with rich indigenous culture and folk songs, folk dances, food and crafts. A folk festival celebrates traditional folk crafts and folk music. This list includes folk festival worldwide expect these with only partial focus on folk music or arts. Folk festivals may also feature folk folk dance or ethnic food. The Tiwa tribe is one of the indigenous tribe of the region which inhabiting in the state of Assam and Meghalaya. They observed various festivals and out of which Wansuwa festival is one of the major one. Basically this Festival is the process of recreation of cultivation, labor and as the part of recreational activities this Festival is celebrated. These indigenous people of Assam has distinct and multifarious characteristic of its own which had contributed to form greater Assamese society ;these indigenous people has their own culture , sociological background , own religion, own language and different colorful festival ; and out of such colorful festival Wassuwa Festival is major one and this festival has a very deep rooted religious and sociological importance in their society. The traditional forms of such festivals of Tiwa community are hardly seen in these days yet they try to preserve and transmitted their age old culture since ancient times by performing annual of various types of fairs and festivals. The Wansuwa festivals is unique in nature while at the time of performing . The traditions and custom followed in performing the festivals continued till today in accordance with their strict adherence of social traditions, culture and fixed yearly schedule. In short the whole calendar of such festivals shows their peculiar identity of tribal outlook, cultural background, unique folklore ,verbal oral traditions and religious activities which are transmitted from their ancestors and out of the various festivals of Tiwa Wansuwa is one of them, and the term 'Wansuwa' which comes from the word 'Wan' means rice powder and 'Suwa' means grinding therefore wansuwa means (Pithaguri Khunda) **rice grinding festival.**

**Key Words:** Tiwa, Samadi, Panthai, Khram, Ani Asi Sandewane Tin, Wan Tunga Chaya

**2. Introduction:**

The word 'Tiwa' which is arises from the word 'Ti' which means 'water' and 'wa' which means superior and the Tiwa had landed down to the plains areas following the course of the river Brahmaputra who identified themselves as "Tiwa". Tibet is considered to be their original home of the Tiwa., and their settling to the plain is still remain in mystery. Scholar Borpujari said that the Tiwa or Lalung are one of the offshoots of the Mongolian race of Tibeto-Burmese group of Sino-Tibetan speech family who had their migration to this land in the pre-historic period (Thakur : 1985) The Lalung prefer to call themselves Tiwa [1]This Tribe is a unique culturally rich indigenous people not only in Assam but also in the North-East India. The traditions and customs followed in process of performing festivals continued till today in accordance with their strict adherence of social and religious traditions. In short the whole calendar of such festivals shows their peculiar identity of tribal outlook, cultural background, unique folklore ,verbal oral traditions which are transmitted from their ancestors .Out of various traditional misewa [2] of this tribal community ,Wansuwa is