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1. Biggest Manipur festival Sangai commences in the state (Nov. 21, 2022)

Union Minister for Tourism **G Kishan Reddy** inaugurated the biggest tourism festival of Manipur -**Sangai festival** on 21 November 2022 at **Moirang Khunou** in Bishnupur district of Manipur.

The 11th Sangai festival will be held from 21 -30 November 2022. The festival which started in 2010 is being held after a 2 year gap due to covid. It is being held in 13 venues across six districts.

The festival is called Sangai festival to highlight the uniqueness of the shy and gentle deer popularly known as the Sangai in the region. It is a rare species of deer which is also the **state animal of Manipur**.

The **theme** of the Sangai festival 2022 is : '**Festival of Oneness**'.

The indigenous **sagol kangjei**, a sport that has now evolved into the modern **game of polo**, will also be featured during the festival in its very own birthplace. The Men's International Polo Tournament will be held in Imphal and the CM's Sagol Kangjei Tournament in **Kangla** as part of the festival.

Other major festivals of Manipur

Gang-Ngai

Celebrated for five days in the month of December/January, Gang-Ngai is an important festival of the **Kabui Nagas**.

Lui-Ngai-Ni

It is a collective festival of the Nagas observed on the 15th day of February every year. This is a seed sowing festival after which tribes belonging to the Naga group begin their cultivation.

Yaoshang

Celebrated for five days commencing from the full moon day of Phalguna (February/March), Yaoshang is the premier festival of Manipur. The **Thabal Chongba** – a kind of Manipuri folk dance, where boys and girls hold hands together and sing and dance in a circle, is particularly associated with this festival. Yaoshang to Manipur is what Durga Puja is to Bengal, Diwali in north India and Bihu to Assam.

Cheiraoba: The Manipuri New Year

It is celebrated during the month of April. Villagers climb the nearest hilltops in belief that it will enable them to rise to greater heights in their worldly life.

Kang: The Ratha Yatra of Manipur

One of the greatest festivals of the Hindus of Manipur, this festival is celebrated for ten days in the month of July. **Lord Jagannath** leaves his temple in a car known as "Kang" in Manipur pulled by devotees who vie with one another for this honour.

Heikru Hitongba

Celebrated in the month of September, Heikru Hitongba **is a boat race**. Long narrow boats are used to accommodate a large number of rowers. An idol of **Lord Vishnu** is installed before the commencement of the race.

Ningol Chak-kouba: A social festival of the Manipuris

It is a remarkable social festival of the **Meiteis**. Married daughters of the family come to their parental house along with their children and enjoy a sumptuous feast. It is celebrated on the second day of the new moon in the month of Hiyangei (November) as per Manipur Calendar system.

Kut: Festival of Kuki- Chin- Mizo

It is an autumn festival of the different tribes of **Kuki-Chin-Mizo** groups of Manipur. It is a happy occasion for the villagers whose food stock is bountiful after a year of hard labour. It is observed on the 1st November every year.

Chumpha: Festival of Tangkhul Nagas

Celebrated for seven days in the month of December, the Chumpha Festival is a great festival of the **Rangkhul Nagas**. The festival is held after harvest.