

APPENDIX

A Note on Bodo Dances

1. ***Kherai Dance:*** *Kherai* is a main religious festival of the Bodos. It is regarded as the prayer institution. And *Kherai* dance is related to the prayer dances of *Sibrai* (Supreme God of the Bodos). *Kherai's* incantations and holy hymns are entitled as prayer songs and its related dances are entitled as prayer dances. The *Kherai* dances are eighteen in number, associating to eighteen deities called Primary *Kherai* dance and additional dances called associated *Kherai* dances, known as Secondary *Kherai* dances.

Primary *Kherai* dances are-

Name of the <i>Kherai</i> Dances	Name of the deities associated to the dances
1. <i>Dhal chibnai</i>	1. <i>Ailong deity.</i>
2. <i>Cha gwlaow bwnai</i>	2. <i>Khaji deity.</i>
3. <i>Khwijima fonai</i>	3. <i>Abla Khungur deity.</i>
4. <i>Thungri gongnwi chibnai</i>	4. <i>Agrang deity.</i>
5. <i>Gandoula bwnnai</i>	5. <i>Khwila deity.</i>
6. <i>Dhal- Thungri chibnai</i>	6. <i>Rajphutra deity.</i>
7. <i>Khamao barkhwnai</i>	7. <i>Rajkhandra deity.</i>
8. <i>Badali Birnai</i>	8. <i>Swanjani Ali burah deity.</i>
9. <i>Mwichw gelenai</i>	9. <i>Ai Dibaoliya deity.</i>
10. <i>Bathou gidignai</i>	10. <i>Ai Bima deity.</i>
11. <i>Nao bhasainai</i>	11. <i>Manashu deity.</i>
12. <i>Mufur gelenai</i>	12. <i>Burlee Buri deity.</i>
13. <i>Mainao borainai</i>	13. <i>Jwmwn deity.</i>
14. <i>Mwcha gelenai</i>	14. <i>Bag Raja deity.</i>
15. <i>Gorai dabrainai</i>	15. <i>Basumati deity.</i>

16. <i>Nao jaonai</i>	16. <i>Soudri deity.</i>
17. Not none	17. Not none.
18. Not none	18. Not none.

Secondary *Kherai* dances are-

There are numbers of secondary *Kherai* dances such as *Doudini wngkharnai*, *Laijam bonai*, *Bathou tharnai*, *Jaraphagla*, *Thenthamali*, *Charanisla*, *Neolai mwchanai*, *langtha guruji* etc.

2. **Haba Janai Dance:** *Haba Janai* dances are associated to marriage, which include dances such as, *Habajanai*, *Bwirathi dorkhengnai*, *Bwirathi Daojrumchanai*, *Barlampha mwchanai* and *Sifung dariya mwchanai*.
3. **Bagarumba Dance:** *Bagarumba* dance, the attractive and beautiful dance of the Bodos is dance with holding the hand woven coloured scarf called ‘*Rege- Regang*’ which is spread around the neck, the dancers move and seems like butterflies, stepping forward with alternate foot and then moving backward with the rhythm of the song, sung by themselves. In the beginning the dance starts in horizontal lines, after that it takes a pattern, which is circular with the rising tempo and at the end it seems like a beautiful waves.
4. **Bwisagu Dance:** *Baisagu* dance is associated to the celebration of the Spring time festival, where everyone from young and old, male and female all comes together to enjoy. And *Baisagu* dances are *Bwisagu janai*, *Bardwisikhla* and *Huchari*.
5. **Raijw Janai Dance:** *Raijw Janai* dance is associated with daily social life of the Bodos. For example dances related to agricultural works such as, *Maigainai* (Planting Paddy), *Sidanai* (Weaving), *Ciscla chibnai* (Sweeping of courtyard), *Goi Khaonai* (Cutting betel nut) etc.¹

END NOTES

¹ Dr. Liladhar Brahma, *Religion And Dances of the Bodos*, Onsumoi Library, Kokrajhar, 2003 (2nd Edition)