

Name ⇒ Chahat Agarwal Class and Section ⇒ XI-'B'
School ⇒ St. Montfort School, Bhopal

WHAT IF I BLEND THE ART AND CULTURE OF MY STATE M.P.
WITH NAGALAND AND MANIPUR (POEM)

What if we introduce

A new taste with just a tinge
Of a ginger different from the common ginger
Different in its aroma and spices
From the Nagaland lands

To the heart of India, Madhya Pradesh

And to the hearts of the Indians here

From the hearts of the Indians there

In the name of the common love for spices and flavour
That we all Indians share!

What if we get to witness

The Raas Leela, an epitome of Manipuri classical dance
Which actually does take place

At the week-long Khajuraho Festival,

Opposite the Chitragupta and Vishwanath temples

Oh! What if we get to be a part of

The Raas Leela, a depiction of the eternal love of Radha
and Krishna,

Either as the performer or as the audience

But, ultimately, as one of the many devotees of theirs.

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Or what if we celebrate
The festivals from Nagaland
At the land of festivals
With Bishu, Yemshu and Moatsu Mong
As some of the important ones
Along with the Hornbill International Rock Contest,
The longest music festival in the country.
So why not ~~we~~ locals be the part of it too
At the state capital Kohima.

What if we get to wear
A traditional Manipuri saree
Such as the Moirang phee
With the temple borders on it.
For sarees on their own
Are a very integral cultural icon
And not just an item of clothing for Indian women.

What if we become consumers
Of the exquisite bamboo and cane products
From Nagaland for which it is known for
Since their trade is widespread here in M.P.
Or just blend in the unique bamboo, cane and bead works
From both Madhya Pradesh and Nagaland
To create even better works!

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What if we bring in cultural elements like these
To our already very culturally diverse state;
From the state of Nagaland,
with its extreme organic lifestyle,
Or from the state of Manipur,
with its deep-rooted culture;
All a part of an equally culturally diverse country!

