



Risa: Tripura's Signature Garment

Why in News

The **State government of Tripura** aims to promote **risa nationally** as Tripura's signature garment.

- For this, various initiatives have been taken like **providing risa uniforms to [anganwadi](#)** and **[ASHA workers](#)** and facilitating **training for making risa** at Tripura Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation.
- The risa is **being branded under the India Handloom Brand**. This supports the **'[Vocal for Local](#)' initiative** of the central government.

Key Points //



▪ About Risa:

- Risa is a **handwoven cloth** used as a female upper garment.
- Risa is **a part of traditional Tripuri attire** that comprises three parts - **risa, rignai and rikutu**.
 - **Rignai:** It is primarily worn as the **lower garment** and literally translates into 'to wear'. It can be understood as an indigenous variety of the **sari** of mainland India.
 - **Rituku:** It is mainly used as a wrap, or like a **'chunri' or a 'pallu'** of the Indian saree.
- Sometimes, Risa is also used as **headgear, a stole, or a present** to express respect.

▪ Cultural Importance:

- Adolescent Tripuri girls are first given a risa to wear in an event called **Risa Sormani**, at age 12 to 14.
- Risa is also used as a **turban by men** during weddings and festivals.
- Risa is **common in almost all 19 indigenous tribal communities** of Tripura. However, **each community has its own designs**.
- It is used in religious festivals such as **Garia Puja** by tribal communities.

• Garia Puja Festival:

- It is a major **festival in Tripura**, held on the **last day of the month of Chaitra**.
- Celebrated as a **harvest festival** by the ethnic tribes - **Tripuris and Reangs**.
- In this festival, the **Garia dance** is also performed.

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