

# **Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Serchhip, Mizoram**

1. Event name: Raai Dance

2. Venue: JNV Serchhip, Mizoram

3. Date:28/10/2017

4. State-Pair : Madhya Pradesh

5. Brief about event:

The Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh is rich in folklore and tradition. Inhabited by numerous tribes, each with their own varied culture and customs, the region has much to showcase in terms of dance and music. Among the many folk arts that thrive here is the Raai dance of the Bediya tribe.

This is a tribe that has faced much ignominy because of a tradition of prostitution that thrives within it. Although prostitution is not as commonly practiced now as it was in the past, the tribe still has to come out of the notoriety that surrounds it. The govt. too has made many efforts towards relieving women of this community from the shackles of the past. The folk dance of this Bediya tribe which is known as 'Raai' is an intrinsic part of its heritage and present day identity. Through the centuries Raai has been the folk dance which has touched its peak as a classical dance. Later Raai had degenerated its aesthetical values and lost its classical expressions. Today it remains simply as a folk dance. Raai means a mustard seed. When a mustard seed is thrown into a saucer, the seed starts to swing around. The way a mustard seed moves in the saucer, the dancers also swing and when the singers sing the lyrics of the song the dancers follow the beats with foot steps. It is a duet and the competition is between the beats of the drum and foot steps of the dancer. The drummer and the dancer try to win each other and this competition leads towards the bliss.

6. Report of the event: We have organized the activity I (Raai Dance) under Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat – Flagship Program in our Vidyalaya. Few students perform the Raai Dance of MP in our Vidyalaya.

7. A rar file containing photos, video can be downloaded from this below link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1780pKDUFJyR7yuTXCXVLVw2ARw9wI3uf/view?ts=5a7ad368>