Shigmotsav: Goa

Why in News

The **Goa government** has limited the **Shigmotsav (Shigmo festivities)** parades to three locations only (Panaji, Ponda and Mapusa), owing to rising cases of **Covid-19** in the state.

Key Points

- **About:**

  - Shigmo is the celebration of a 'rich, **golden harvest of paddy'** by the **tribal communities** of Goa.
  - Agricultural communities including the **Kunbis, Gawdas and Velips** celebrate the festival that **also marks the onset of spring.**
- **Two Variants of the Festival:**

  - **Dhakto Shigmo:** It is celebrated by the rural population, farmers and the labour class.
  - **Vhadlo Shigmo:** It is of greater importance and is celebrated by everyone.
- **Celebrations:**

  - **Time:**

    - Shigmo celebrations **last over a fortnight** in the months of **Phalgun-Chaitra** months of the Hindu calendar that **correspond with March-April** every year.
  - **Invocation of Deities:**

    - The festival begins with **'Naman'** that is the **invocation of the local folk deities** on the village **'maand' or the village stage** to the beats of **percussion instruments** like the Ghumat, Dhol, Mhadle and Tashe by the male folk.

      - It is called the **'romta mell'** that moves from one village to another.
  - **Dances:**

    - Folk dances like **Ghode Modni** (a dance of equestrian warriors), **Gopha** and **Phugadi.**
  - **Shigmo Street Parade:**

    - Shigmo street parade floats as the highlight. It is held as **an annual affair** in the state capital, Panjim and other major cities like Margao, Mapusa, Vasco, and Ponda.
    - These **colour-parties** usually see **people dressed in vibrant clothing performing traditional folk dances** to depict the **historical legacy of the Maratha War that backs this festival.**
    - The float parades have, over the years, been a draw for tourists both domestic and international.
- **Other Names:**

  - Shigmo is celebrated all over India but in different names:

- **North India -** Holi.
- **Assam and Bengal** - Dolyatra.
- **South India** - Kamadahan.
- **Maharashtra** - Shimga.

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