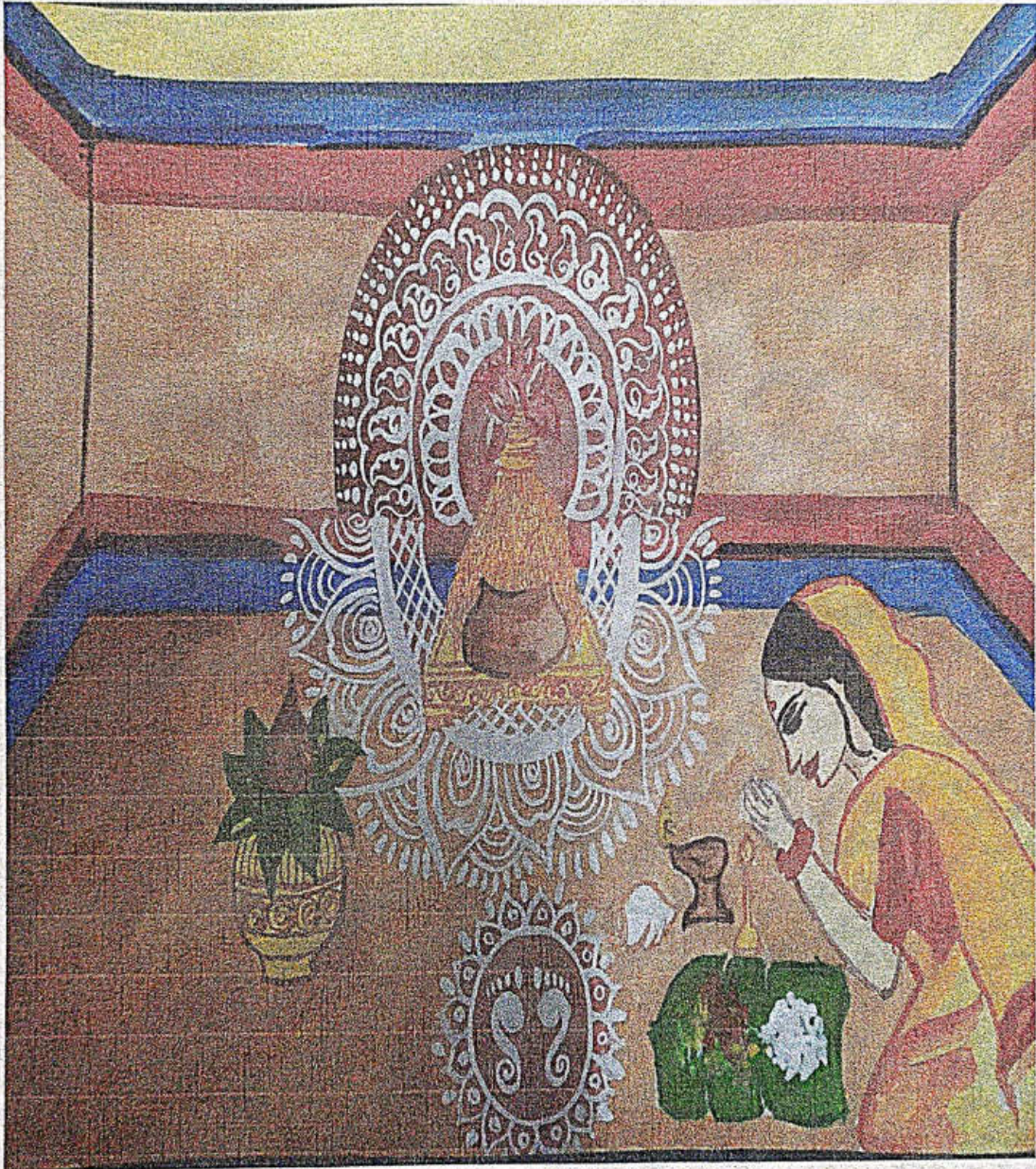


# Lokaratna

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*Folklore Foundation, India*



## **LOKARATNA, Vol.XV(1), December 2022**

*Lokaratna, is the e-journal of the Folklore Foundation, Bhubaneswar. Lokaratna is a peer-reviewed International journal with ISSN:2347-6427. The purpose of the journal is to explore the rich cultural tradition of India for a wider readership. Any scholar across the globe interested to contribute on any aspect of folklore is welcome. This volume represents the articles on culture, folklore, education, and language pedagogy.*

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*The objectives of the journal are:*

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- To publish book reviews, field work reports, descriptions of research projects and announcements for seminars and workshops.
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## **Lokaratna Vol. XV (June, 2023)**

### **Call for Papers**

We invite original and un-published research articles, in the fields of Folklore, Literature, Culture, Pedagogy including English Language Teaching for the 15th volume of *Lokaratna*; a peer-reviewed International online journal with ISSN: 2347-6427. Papers that are under consideration by any other journal should not be submitted. Contributors are requested to adopt the following guidelines of (APA manual -7<sup>th</sup> edition) to write their papers:

- Font - Times New Roman with 12 font size
- Line spacing - double
- The paper should have an abstract of 150 -200 words.
- The abstract should be followed by about 5 key words.
- For in-text citation and references, please follow the APA style (7th Edition).

Contributors are requested to read the latest volumes of *Lokarana* and follow the same academic conventions.

Deadline for the submission of the manuscript is 31.03.2023 and could be mailed to:

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# *Wu Tso (Charmstone): Credence of Khezha Naga*

**Tsutshowe-ü Sekhamo**

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Nagaland University, Kohima Campus

## Abstract

Mankind has always been fascinated by stones since time immemorial. It is observed that some indigenous communities have a supernatural belief that stones contain charm that can ward off evil spirits and bring prosperity. The Naga tribes also had a strong connection towards charmstones. They believe that spirits reside in some selected stones that makes it to perform supernatural activities. The Khezhas of Phek district, Nagaland, mentions about the different types of charmstones found in their region. These charmstones were used in religious ceremonies. Sacrifices were offered or rituals performed on the stones to attain blessings. Charmstones were also used to predict the future. Some are said to even have the ability to control nature. It is also interesting to note that before the arrival of Christianity, charmstones were revered as sacred. It also signified the social status of an individual. Unfortunately, with the coming of modern thoughts and western religion, the usage of charmstones has disappeared. However, it still cannot be ignored that the belief on charmstones was a part of Khezha Naga culture. Furthermore, since cultures reflect values, beliefs and aspirations of these tribal and helps in defining their identity, the study on Naga charmstones becomes an important issue. It will also help understand the possible cultural affinities the Khezha Naga might have with other communities.

*Keynote:* Charmstone, KhezhasNagas , Migration, Naga Culture, Village Formation

## **Introduction**

Stone culture in human history started during the Stone Age period. During pre-historic times, stones remained the main object of usage for various tool making (Kumar, 2018). Subsequently religion took its form and one of the first objects of worship was stones and rocks. In the later years apart from the usage of unwrought stones, stone images were carved out and used in religious ceremonies. Example, a brown coloured with conical shaped stone called *Needle of*