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Shigmotsav in Goa

Special Festival to Foster The Feelings of Love by Sunil Mahajan IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:

http://www.dsource.in/resource/shigmotsav-goa

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- 2. Detailing and Decoration of the Floats
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Introduction

Various festivals are celebrated in India throughout the year. Every season in India is welcomed by a special festival in order to express gratitude and to foster the feelings, of love for nature. 'Shigmotsav' is one of them is popularly known as Shigmo. In Goa, Shigmotsav is celebrated by common people. Bidding adieu to the winters, Shigmotsav is celebrated on a full moon day during the month of March (Falgun), which is also the last month of the Hindu calendar. It is usually celebrated fourteen days before the festival of colours, Holi.

The unique aspect of Goa is that all these festivals are celebrated with much pomp and zest. This festival has been celebrated in Goa since 9179. This celebration clearly indicates its association with the local deities and the wealth of nature. The Hindu Goan ethnicity begins the celebration with a collective prayer and naman, where they kneel together making a vow, shunning intoxicants and non-vegetarian food – from the ninth moon day up to the full moon day. On the eleventh Moon day until the fifteenth moon day villagers assemble in their multi-coloured attires setting the mood for festivity with column-like red spotted flags – 'Dhwaja', beating the drums and blowing flutes together at the village temples, and performing dances within the temple courtyards while singing various folk songs. The celebration starts in the afternoon and goes on until the moon shines high in the sky.

In Goa, Shigmotsav is celebrated across 5 days, with the gaiety of one-day carnivals that takes place on the main road of Goa, Panjim, Mapusa, Vasco & Margao on each day, they become an eye-pleasing treat for tourists travelling during these months.



Such arrangement of attractive puppets, cut-outs and mascot of traditional drum players can be found every entrance of the city in Goa during the peak of the festival.

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The arrangements of beautifully created puppets are the one of the attractions of the Shigmo festival. The festival marks the beginning of the domestic tourist season in the state.



The city streets and traffic islands are decorated with colourful flags and displays showcasing the festivity of the times, during Shigmo which creates the environment of the divine colourful festival.



These arrangements of attractive puppets create the environment of the divine colourful festival. Such arrangements are decorated at the entrance of every town of Goa during Shigmotsav.



Thousands of people gather to watch this festival on the main street of the big cities of Goa, which also give an opportunity to local venders such as sweets seller and candy seller.

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People get to enjoy the highlight of this festival which is celebrated all over the state is the procession of mythological floats taken around in the four main cities till late in the night on the festival day.

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Detailing and Decoration of the Floats

It is a festive and colourful occasion for which thousands of devotees take part. They create the puppets and effigies of the characters from the Hindu mythology to participate in the Shigmo parade. According to the Hindu mythology, Goa is also known as the land of the Gods and with the good reasons. There are hundreds of Gods and Goddesses with differing traditions, rituals and names, adored in Goa. Most of these have Remained unchanged over the centuries while others have modified collaterally with the circumstances and changing times.

The creation of the floats and the puppets to participate in the parade begin much earlier. Artists put all their skills and ideations in the detailing of the characters exactly as mentioned in the Hindu mythology. The artists work hard to make it look attractive even by maintaining the real look and feel of the character. Use of plaster of Paris and polystyrene makes it light in weight that eases the movement of mobile puppets.



An artist working on his final touch-ups on his puppet created for the procession. People from everywhere in Goa put all their efforts to accomplish their creativity and create the puppets and effigies for Shigmotsav celebration.

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The artists engaged in detailing the puppet of the Nandi for the parade of Shigmotsav. After creating the whole structure of the puppet artist use plaster of Paris puppets and effigies for the festival. Sometimes the to make it look solid and massive at respective parts of the character, to make it look exactly according to the descriptions in the Hindu mythology. And then the detailing with acrylic colours is done.



Often either the back yard or front yard of the house turns out a studio for an artist to create these huge tent been used to avoid exertion while working in such temporary studios.



Artists busy in creating a puppet of ten headed Ravana to display it on the float during the procession of Shigmotsav.



It is almost one and half month of hard work, an artist doesn't even think of the harsh weather once he is totally involved in creating such attractive puppets for the celebration of Shigmotsav.

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The artist not only creates the puppets but also the props and other related objects for the float. Chariot, weapons, armour, artillery and various other characters carve it to get the expected shape and form. After polare also been created for the scenario according to the stories in Hindu mythology.



Artist put glittering immediately after putting the base colour which is mixed with the glue. The glitter gets fixed and stuck on the surface which is sprayed by using look real by adding such small elements to it. This float the spray gun air pressure. This glitter shimmers on the surface and gives the effect of the golden chariot.



Artists use stretch polystyrene for the detailing of a chariot, sometimes they mould the polystyrene and ishing with sandpaper, they put the base colour mixed in glue on it by using a spray-gun and the compressor.



Artist creates all the possible props and decorative objects to enhance the beauty of the float and make it of Ravana has all relevant objects and characters which are also mentioned in the stories of Hindu mythology.

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One of the detailed surfaces from the float of Rayana has been created on a flat structure made out of fabric and plaster of Paris. This is painted in blacks and shades ruler of the departed and does their judgement by anof grey.



There are many stories about Lord Yama the deity of death in Hindu mythology. In one story he became the nouncing the verdict of their deeds and punishes them accordingly. This scenario is dedicated to this story where one of his disciples preparing the boiling oil in the saucepan for the punishment.



The Lord Yama, who does the judgement by announcing This float is being prepared for the procession of Shigthe verdict of the departed deeds and punishes them accordingly, this scenario is dedicated to this story where some of his disciples are preparing the boiling oil ten effigies carried on one trolley. in the saucepan for the punishment.



motsav festival, which carries the scenario of Ravana and his followers. Sometimes such float has more than

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Most of the characters are created individually by studying and understanding the details and the characteristics of the personalities mentioned in the Hindu mythology and later on added into the scenario prepared for the procession of Shigmotsav.



Artist busy in creating one of the puppets of supporting character in the scenario of Lord Yama and the last judgment, to display it on the float during the procession of Shigmotsav.



Most of the artists use papier-mâché to create the puppets, it is light in weight and easy to carry and can be used in the mobile scenario. The artificial fur is been used for beard and hair on the head.

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The team of many artists work on creating the float and the characters in it, some of them are specialized in spray painting, fabric-work, casting and moulding, detailing and presentation.



Artist busy in detailing with decorative fabric on one of the puppets of supporting character in the scenario of Lord Yama and the last judgment, to display it on the float during the procession of Shigmotsav.

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Characters in the Scenario

A float carrying a scenario from Indian Mythology, such as Saint Eknath flying with Garuda to the haven, the death god Yama with his followers, the stories of Ramayana and Mahabharata etc. The huge puppets are not only of god or goddess, in these floats have each and every supporting character from the mythical stories of India. These floats are mythological representations, Included are those of Lord Krishna, many more god-goddesses and immortals.

The float in the procession not only carries the steady effigies but also mobile puppets which make the scenario impressive and reverberant. Sometimes these mobile puppets are connected internally with rods and wires which are also connected to the electric motor to create the movement.

These floats have very impressive and creative characters, sometimes the artist takes the privilege of modification in the certain characters in the scenario. The artist accepts such challenge to create innovative and creative characters to make the float and scenario look impressive and effective during the procession on Shigmotsav.



Usually, the chariot has horses to carry it but to stand out in the procession and make the scenario impressive and effective, the artist takes the privilege of using insects like bees to bring in the innovation of creating such characters in the float.

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The innovation is not only limited to the form of birds and animals but also to make the gods and goddess look superior in their attire and the getups.



The float in Shigmotsav procession carries various relevant characters of the scenario including human and animal forms. Sometimes they appear in realistic forms and sometimes in surrealistic shapes and forms.

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Though the original forms or characters such as horses are the same but the individual approach of an artist makes it stand out among all other floats by creating it different than others by giving a different treatment and a different style of making it.

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One of the attractions of these floats during the procession is to see the creatively made supporting characters such as this Sheshnag the king of snakes. The artist spends a huge time to achieve such splendid work to create the floats for Shigmotsav. One can enjoy the superior work which not only enhances the beauty of the floats but also gives a meaning to it in the presented scenario.



The float carrying a scenario of a farmer with his divine cow who predicts his future, it is one the stories from Hindu mythology.

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Bibos, the carrier of Lord Yama in its normal look made in the structure of bamboo and wrapped with paper and coloured by spray work.



The huge puppets are not only of god or goddess; in these floats have each and every supporting character such as Garuda being a carrier for one of the saints from the mythical stories of India.



Though the original forms or characters such as Sheshnag are the same but the individual approach of an artist makes it stand out among all other floats. One can enjoy the superior work which not only enhances the beauty of the floats but also gives a meaning to it in the presented scenario.

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After one and half month of hard work, artist gets ready for the procession in Shigmotsav. One of the artists fixing the puppet of Nandi in the float and making it ready for the procession.



The chariot of Ravana which has a creative shape of the swan been installed on a trolley connected to the vehicle. The artist makes sure if everything is been done and ready for the procession in Shigmotsav.



This is one of the puppets of royal adviser, a supporting character in the scenario of Lord Yama and the last judgment ready for the procession of Shigmotsav. An autochthonal painted statue complements the performances and floats.

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Performance of the Local Dancers

Folk dances are performed to the heavy beat of the Dhol and Tasha (Huge Drums) Dressed up in the traditional costumes; various folk groups consisting of women and men dancers give vibrant performances of various dances. These are interspersed with the groups that move along the route with their traditional Goan drums. The traditional dancers wear the variety of costumes to perform folk dances like Ghode Modni in the contemporary Shigmotsav, which is celebrated with spectacular Shigmotsav parade where people participate from different sections of Goa.



The people participate from different sections of Goa, dress up according to their tradition and take part in the processions actively with great enthusiasm.

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Some of the groups carry their banner which addresses their village in the procession. It is basically a time to enjoy to the hilt and indulge in the true festive spirit of Goa.



pyjamas and robust orange turbans are tied onto heads, young and old while colourful flags flap breezily in the promising evening air.



It is fascinating to see their performances which are done by holding traditional props in hand. The traditional dancers wear the variety of costumes to perform folk dances like Ghode Modni in the contemporary Shigmotsav. This horse warrior dance signifying war victory.



The people dressed in traditional clothes dancing in the Shigmotsav parade.

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The vibrant colours, glittery and flashy clothes can be seen during the performance done by traditional folk dancers in the Shigmotsav parade. This mesmerizing celebration is the Goan farewell to the winters.



The villagers dress-up in colourful dresses and proceed with a festive mood along with multi-coloured flags and beating drums and blowing flutes. They dance and sing various folk songs.



Some of the groups carry the idol of god in Indian palanquin called Palakhi decorated with colourful flags during the procession.

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Goa government conduct the competitions and announces cash prizes for the best one which is judged on the basis of how they hold their sticks and march to the beats. Men of all ages take part. The traditional dancers wear the variety of costumes to perform folk dances like Ghode Modni in the contemporary Shigmotsav.

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Role Play in the Procession

Traditional folk dances, brightly dressed street-dancers, float depiction mythological events, music instruments, headgear, masks from part of the exciting parade. People from all age group participate and get immersed in this festival and celebrate the colourful Shigmotsav. Shigmotsav parades and its components, costumes, musical instruments and dances apart from the floats. It is fascinating to watch them braid and upbraid effortlessly.



Men turn up in all sorts of costumes for Shigmo. One participant inspired by the one of the forms of Lord Shiva 'Ardhanarishvara'.

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It is one of the breath-taking experiences during the Shigmotsav parade for those who enjoy being photographed with such characters who are dressed up like Indian Historical characters. Once can enjoy watching the people dressed up not only in the getups of mythological characters but also Indian historical heroes.



People chose the suitable character to their own natural looks from the stories of Hindu mythology and dress up accordingly.



There are thousands of characters mentioned in the Hindu mythology and that becomes easy to choose for people to dress up for the parade during Shigmotsav procession. This participant has appeared in the procession in the costume of goddess Durga with her multiple arms on a lion with the various weapons in her hands.



Some of the people get into the character from Hindu mythology which seems real and their consistency is admirable during the procession. This is one the gestures of Bhishma resting on arrows who was also well known for his gruelling celibate pledge in the mythology of Mahabharata.

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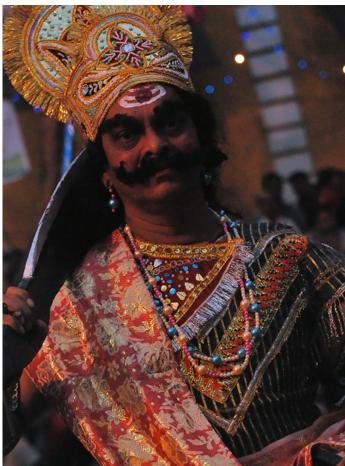
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People chose the suitable character from the stories of Hindu mythology to their own natural looks and dress up accordingly. And that turns out to be easy and feasible in dressing up exactly like the original character described in the mythology.



A person dressed up in a demon's attire. People not only dress up but also have expressions on their face suitable to the character they are playing during the procession of Shigmotsav.

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This is one of the participants dressed up like a Lord Hanuman from the Indian mythology in Shigmotsav procession.

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This is an individual performance displayed by a person playing a role of Kamsa the brother of Devaki, inspired by the stories of Kamsa and Lord Krishna. A dramatic display of Goan Hindu ethnicity and mythology is on show as the annual Shigmotsav parade held in Panjim at 18th June Road.

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Decorative Traditional Props

Shigmotsav is not only about the attractive floats it also has the charm of different characters, role-players, folk dances and the creative props been used during the procession. Men adorned in elaborate attires and holding heavy props depict the life of a resident of Goa through folk performances in the procession of Shigmotsav.

The Goan art forms have a lot of variety, a rhythmic charm, and are full of vibrancy. These art forms show the diversity of influences which makes Goan culture so distinctive and unique. In Shigmotsav procession, one can get to see the creative props such as the divine umbrella, Dhwaja, colourful flag, Toran which is also been used to please and attract the goddess of wealth, and also traditional huge drums etc.



Generally, an umbrella is been used to protect the person from the harsh sunlight or rain. Such umbrella is a kind of a folding canopy supported by metal or wooden ribs and mounted on a pole made of metal, plastic or wood. In Indian mythology, such umbrella has been mentioned in various stories with the different usage of it, holding it above the god and also to protect the farmer from the sunlight. It's an honour to perform by holding the ritualistic umbrella during the celebration of Shigmotsav.

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The tall flags and the light weight idols of Lord Hanuman the monkey god has also been used as the props during the performance in the procession of Shigmotsav.



Folk dances are performed to the heavy beat of the Dhol and Tasha (Huge Drums) The ritualistic umbrella has different forms some of them are covered with the fabric some are open and decorated with the creative paper lanterns. The creative shape of the divine banner has also been used during the performance in the procession.



During the festival of Shigmo, folk dancers in colourful traditional costumes, carrying multi-coloured flags perform vibrant dances to the beat of huge drums.

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Shigmotsav in Goa

Special Festival to Foster The Feelings of Love by Sunil Mahajan IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:

http://www.dsource.in/resource/shigmotsav-goa/decorative-traditional-props

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A number of colourful flags have been used to decorate the palanquin which carries the idol of a god and it is also been used as one of the props during the performance in the procession.



The most common things in all traditional performance are colourful various flags, decorative banners and the divine umbrella. This festival of colour and mythology gives way for people to come together and celebrate spring in harmony.

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Procession of the Floats

The biggest attraction of Shigmotsav is to enjoy the procession of highly creative floats, decorated with different characters from Hindu Mythology. These mobile puppets are carried in trucks around the town till mid of the night and one float carries minimum twenty-five people. People from all over the world come to Goa to see this festival. The streets of Goa during Shigmotsav are lit up with attractive decor.

The procession also has artistically designed tableaux, which depict various scenarios picked from Hindu mythology. Shigmotsav has largely remained aboriginal, without commercial sponsors unlike rest of other social festivals in Goa.



The floats in the procession carry not only the scenes from mythology also the contemporary stories of the local spiritual leaders and diviners. This float is carrying a scenario from one of the stories of Sai Baba.

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The float depicts the story of Ramayana, Hanuman the monkey god takes the lead while making a bridge to Lanka to rescue Sita and fight with Ravana. The detailing has been done in a very creative manner which justifies the real characters from the story of Ramayana.



The float is carrying the scenario of Lord Yama and his last judgment. Sometimes such float has more than ten effigies carried on one trolley.



A float carrying Ravana the king of Lanka, this particular Artists work hard to achieve the superior finishing in scenario is from Ramayana while Ravana gets ready to fight with Rama. The ideas are generated by studying and understanding the Hindu mythology. Also, the characters mentioned in each of the stories of it.



the effigies of the different characters from the Hindu mythology. Also, take the privilege to enhance the beauty of these effigies by adding extra values of their innovative ideas and the concepts of developing the characters.

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One of the supporting characters from the mythology a moving puppet installed on one of the floats in the procession.



Many floats from the all over Goa take part in the procession of Shigmotsav festival. Each of them has an individual approach to express their creativity through these attractive effigies and floats. Therefore, the same character of Ravana repeatedly appeared in many floats but the approach in terms of scenario, style of making, draperies, gesture and the look and feel are different in each of them.



One can enjoy watching the same character of Ravana repeated in many floats but the approach in terms of scenario, style of making, draperies, gesture and the look and feel are different in each of them.

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The float is carrying the death god Yama with his followers.



A float carrying the scenario installed on a trolley from the stories of Lord Shiva and Lord Brahma is his Charioteer. The detailing has been done in a very creative manner and proper fabrics are used to justify the characteristics of the personalities mentioned in the stories of mythology.



Float carrying the huge mobile puppets of unusual gesture of demon in the battlefield with gods. One gets to enjoy watching the float carrying the number of characters in the procession of Shigmotsav. Such float carries its own identity and uniqueness.



The scenario installed on a trolley from the stories of Lord Yama and his royal adviser. Such floats also carry the huge stereo music systems to play the spiritual songs and also the recorded dialogues from the relevant stories to make the presentation effective during the celebration.

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One can enjoy watching the same character of Ravana repeatedly appeared in many floats but the approach in terms of scenario, style of making, draperies, gesture and the look and feel are different in each of them.



Float carrying a scenario from Indian Mythology, Saint Eknath flying with Garuda to the haven. The huge puppets are not only of god or goddess; in these floats have each and every supporting character from the mythical stories of India.



This scenario from the stories of Hanuman in Ramayana, he goes to visit Lanka the Kingdome of Ravana and demonstrate his great power to the demon king Ravana. The detailing has been done in a very creative manner which justifies the real characters from the story of Ramayana. People from Goa lined up on both sides of the road as the dancers and float pass by.

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Contact Details

This documentation was done by Sunil Mahajan at IDC, IIT Bombay.

You can get in touch with Sunil Mahajan at Email: sumsmahajan[at]gmail.com

You could write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

Helpdesk Details:

Co-ordinator Project e-kalpa Industrial Design Centre IIT Bombay Powai Mumbai 4000 076 India

Phone: 091-22-2576 7820/ 7801/ 7802

Fax: 091-22-25767803

Email: dsource.in[at]gmail.com