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## **ANTHROPOLOGY SNIPPET-292**



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## Arunachal's tribes revive indigenous lockdown rituals.



A tribal lockdown ritual has staged a comeback in Arunachal Pradesh, the State geographically closest to China's Hubei province where the **COVID-19 outbreak** began.

Arr-Rinam is the Galo equivalent of lockdown imposed by consensus for 48 hours whenever an epidemic strikes. The Galos, one of the 26 major tribes of Arunachal Pradesh,

“Arr-Rinam, which follows the Ali-Ternam ritual to ward off an epidemic, has been a part of culture,”

Ali-Ternam – Ali means epidemic and Ternam forestall – and Arr-Rinam were last performed almost four decades ago when a water-borne disease had affected many members of the community.

The Adi community inhabiting East Siang and Lower Dibang Valley districts too performed a similar ritual called Motor that they believe lets shamans with legendary powers to locate wild herbs to combat an epidemic.

In districts such as Papum Pare and East Kameng, the dominant Nyishi community observed Arrue involving self-quarantine.