Megaliths in Changing Times: A study in Cherrapunjee, meghalaya

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The breathtaking scenic beauty and the popularity of Cherrapunjee, Meghalaya, India as the rainiest spot in the world have been attracting a sizeable flow of tourists from around the world over the years. With the abolition of Restricted Area Permits for foreign nationals recently it is picking up at a quick pace. Tourism is now beginning to attract the people of Cherrapunjee. The megaliths speak of enduring traditions and of timelessness that prevails in the land. If these megaliths are regularly visited by tourist refuse left by the visitors, signboards put up by tour operators can spoil the ambience of the landscape forever. Development of tourism is beneficial economically for the people of the area but it might cause immense harm to their cultural landscape. This study will examine if economic changes have resulted in the formation of new identities for which the importance of the megaliths is undermined.

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