Cultural Mapping of Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities

Collection Contents

Cultural Mapping of Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (50 records)

Denotified and Nomadic Tribes/Communities (DNTs) are the most marginalized social groups in Indian society. A total of 126, presently estimated to be 150, tribes/communities, were labelled and listed as 'Criminal Tribes' by the colonial British government through various legislations, beginning with the 'Criminal Tribes Act' of 1871. On the recommendations of various statutory bodies appointed by the Government of India after independence, the 'Criminal Tribes Act' was repealed in 1952. However, the apprehension that their free movement may cause 'nuisance' led to the enactment of the 'Habitual Offender Act' under which these communities continued to be under a highly 'biased' surveillance until very recently. The stereotypes and stigma engrained in the general view, for nearly five decades after independence, denied these communities access to any meaningful citizenship rights and they had practically no access to land, education, livelihood, healthcare, and human rights.

On the appeal of DNT Rights Action Group, the Government of India appointed the National Commission for the Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities in 2005. In order to advice this commission, a study has been brought out, under the guidance of Dr. Ganesh Devy, to provide information related to the cultural expressions such as language, performance traditions, art forms, music, dance, and festivals of these communities. To study and analyse the intangible heritage components of these communities, and their co-relation to their livelihoods, this project was undertaken by Prof. Devy and the Dharwad Chapter of INTACH. The communities studied include the Lambada, Seharia, Banjara, Gondhali, Doombari, Potraj, Nathpanthi, Nandi, Pardhi, Ghisadi-Lohar, Bahuroopi, and Vasudev.

- Seharia community
- Lambada community
- Banjara community
- Gondhali community
- Doombari community
- Potraj community
- Nathpanthi community
- A decorated bull of the Nandi community
- Pardhi community
- Ghisadi-Lohar community
- Bahuroopi community
- Traditional headgear of the Vasudev community
- The Vasudev community
- A performance by Kolhati people
- Kolhati community
- Sangar Community
- Celebration of Holi by Dhangar community
- Dhangar community
- Rama Pir Aakhyan
- Dandiwala Community
- Khatwala Community
- Bharathari Community
- Sadhu Bhagatram Dasnami Community
- Padhar Community
- Turi Community
- Madari Community
- Traditional jacket of Nayak community
- Nayak community
- Story telling by Thakar Community
- Thakar community
- Davri-Gandhali community
- Goddess worshipped by the Gondhali community
- Gondhali community
- Act presented by Waghya Murali community
- Waghya Murali community
- Sh. Prem Bhat with Kathputli
- Kathputli tradition
- Garasia men worshiping Gor-Gori
Garasia girls garlanded with peanuts on the occasion of Gor celebrations
Mandana art decorations on the walls
Meena girls decorating their houses with Mandana art
Meena community
Kanjar women dancing during Teja Dashmi festival
Bhupathnath community
Kanjar women preparing feast for their local deities
Kuchbadhiya women at a marriage ceremony
Gadia Lohar women stitching quilt
Bagaria community making brooms
Kavadia Bhat with his wooden cabinet
Traditional jacket wore by Rama Pir Aakhyan community