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TRIBES & CULTURE



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SANTHAL TRIBE

1. Place/Location: Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Assam, Chhattisgarh

2. Languages: Santhali, Bengali, Oriya & Hindi.

Santhals have their script called Olchiki.

3. Festivals: Santhals mainly celebrate the **Karam festival** which falls in September or October.

Other festivals: Maghe, Baba Bonga, Sahrai, Ero, Asaria and Namah.

4. Religion: Santhals have no temples of their own and do not worship idols. They follow the **Sarna religion**. The God and Goddess of Santhal are Marangburu, Jaheraera, and Manjhi.

Santhals pay respect to the ghosts and spirits like Kal Sing, Lakchera, Beudarang etc.

5. Livelihood: Santhals fulfil their basic needs from the trees and plants of the forests. They are also engaged in the hunting, fishing and cultivation.

Santhals possess skills in making the musical equipment, mats and baskets out of the plants.

SANTHAL TRIBE

6. Culture:

Santhals love dancing and it is an important part of the Santhals fairs and festivals. Apart from dance, Santhals love great music.

Dance: Santhali/Santhal dance



Source: Pinterest

KHASI TRIBE

1. **Place/Location:** Meghalaya and Assam

2. **Languages:** Khasi

3. **Festivals:** Nongkrem & Shad Suk Mynsiem.

4. **Religion:** Around 85% of the Khasi populace have embraced Christianity. A minority still practice their age-old indigenous religion, which is known as **Ka Niam Khasi** and **Niam tre**.

5. **Livelihood:** Khasis occupation is called as **JHUM**, which means shifting cultivation for their survival. They have a peasant/farming based economy.

6. **Culture:** Khasi people have a matrilineal society, i.e. the descendants are recognised from mother and not father. Women can end a marriage without no objection from husband and the youngest daughter is the custodian of family property.

The staple food of Khasis is rice, fish and meat.



Source: The Wire

ANGAMI TRIBE



Source: Medium

1. Place/Location: Nagaland

2. Languages: Tenyidie

3. Festivals: Sekrenyi, which marks the beginning of the lunar year.

4. Religion: Around 98% of the Khasi populace have embraced Christianity. A minority practices Animism as the religion.

5. Livelihood: Agriculture is the main occupation of Angamis and they mainly cultivate rice on hilly terrains. They are also popular with woodcraft, pottery, artworks, and basket making all over India.

6. Culture: They are fond of music and play great music using drums and flute. This skill is passed from one generation to next.

Pork with bamboo shoot is the common dish among the Angamis.

BHILS TRIBE



Source: Naukri Nama

1. Place/Location: MP, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tripura

2. Languages: Bhili or Bhil.

3. Festivals: Baneshwar fair.

This fair is held during the period of Shivatri (in the month of January or February) and is dedicated to Baneshwar Mahadev also known as Lord Shiva. Other festivals: Holy & Dusshera

4. Religion: Most of the Bhils worship local deities like Khandoba, Kanhoba, Bahiroba, and Sitalmata. Some of them worship Tiger God called 'vaghdev'.

5. Livelihood: Their main occupation is Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. Poultry and Labour work is also a source of income.

6. Culture: Ghoomar is the most famous dance among the Bhils. Gair is the religious dance drama performed by the men. The Bhils are talented in the sculptured work. They make beautiful horses, elephants, tigers, deities out of clay. Main food is maize, onion, chilli and garlic which are cultivated by themselves. Wheat and rice are the food taken only during special occasions.

BHUTIA TRIBE



Source: Pinterest

1. Place/Location: Sikkim

2. Languages: Sikkimese, Nepali

3. Festivals: **Losar** and **Losoong** are the main festivals celebrated among the Bhutia tribes. Losar marks the beginning of the Tibetan New Year. Losoong marks the end of the harvest season and also the end of the Tibetan year.

4. Religion: Buddhism.

5. Livelihood: Farming, producing vegetables and fruits, breeding yaks and sheep. They also have expertise in weaving woolen clothes, shawls, etc.

6. Culture: Bhutias prefer living in the joint families. Marriages outside the community are looked down upon. Bhutias usually prefer rice with the animal fat.

GOND TRIBE



Source: TopYaps

1. Place/Location: MP, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha, UP, AP, Bihar

2. Languages: Gondi

3. Festivals: Kesalpur Jatara, Madai, Pola, a cattle festival, Phag, and Dassera are some of their major festivals.

4. Religion: Gonds worship of Janani or the mother of creator. They also worship the deity Pharsa Pen, Mariai – the goddess of plague & other diseases, & Bhimsen – the Hindu God.

5. Livelihood: Agriculture and cattle rearing is the main occupation of the Gonds.

6. Culture: Gonds have been largely influenced by the Hindus and for the long time have been practicing the Hindus culture and traditions. Tattoos is a major charm for Gonds.

Gusadi dance is the most famous dance performed by the Gonds.

The staple foods of Gonds are the millets known as Kodo and Kutki. Rice is the ceremonial feast of the Gonds.

BODO TRIBE



Source: TopYaps

1. Place/Location: Assam

2. Languages: Boro/Bodo

3. Festivals: **Baishagu** is the most important festival of Bodo tribe. Hapsa Hatarnai, Domashi are other festivals.

4. Religion: 95% are Hindus and remaining are Christians. They Hindu deities like Shiva, Durga, Kali, Ram and Krishna along with tribal deities like Bathou or Shijou, Mainao, Mairong and Agrang.

5. Livelihood: Rice farming, tea plantation, pig & poultry farming, silkworm rearing, bamboo products.

6. Culture: The **Bagurumba** and **Bardaichikhla** dance is accepted as main traditional dance of Bodo people. The Bodo people don't practice caste system or dowry in marriages. They also worship a plant called Siju.

Rice is the main staple food. They are fond of drink called Zu Mai, where 'Zu' means wine and 'Mai' means rice.

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