

## The Secrets of Nimadi of Madhya Pradesh: The Nimar Culture

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### ABSTRACT

The subject of this study is the role of Nimari culture. The Nimar area, which is situated in Madhya Pradesh, is known for its unique regional culture that incorporates elements of both tribal Madhya Pradesh and Indian cultural history. Despite diverse traditions and customs, they follow and maintain customs and traditions of Indian tribal cultures and grow their culture into one of great wealth and prosperity. Everything about their lifestyle, way of life, manner of work, creativity, and the like, is much like what exists in current civilization. The amalgamation of many faiths, such as Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Jains, and Sikhs, are all wrapped up in their culture. There are a lot of people who like music, dancing, and the many folk songs of many villages. "Hamu kaka baba naporiya" is one of the villages where people get along well and express their love and compassion through song. Additionally, these individuals are very hard-working and loyal. They believe in treating other people the way they want to be treated because they consider other people as their own people with full spirit of faith, love, and devotion. Their way of life is full of colour and good times. They follow a variety of Indian rituals and traditions.

**Keywords-** lifestyle, traditions, cultures, manner of work, civilization

### I. INTRODUCTION

The area in which the name Nimar appears is known as the Nimar region. Although there are people in this area who speak many languages, the inhabitants of this area speak Nimadi, which is the language of the local population. The Barwani, Khargone, and Burhanpur districts all fall inside this area. This area is situated in the south-western section of Madhya Pradesh. There are a multitude of allusions regarding these individuals throughout the important epics such as the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. Prakasha is a place in Maharashtra, located at a distance of 100 kilometres from this location, which is connected to the Mahabharata. It describes the fight that took place between Bhim and Bakasur. The people whose roots belong to the Gonds and Bhil tribes were born here. Different cultures, religions, castes, groups, and ways of life have contributed to India's extraordinary cultural variety. Most of these individuals are members of warrior tribes<sup>[1]</sup>. The Narmada River passes right through

the centre of this area. The people of this area share their peaceful and cooperative values with one another because of their fundamental oneness and integrity. These folks are excellent with the bow and arrow. The life they lived before to the coming of the British was quite basic, but things dramatically altered the moment they arrived. Around the turn of the 20th century, the country underwent a dramatic transformation in their way of life as a result of the fast rise of urbanisation. For the time being, people from the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan populate this area.

### II. GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT

Nimar is located in the southwestern portion of Madhya Pradesh, which is in the western-central section of the state. The stronghold is situated south of the Vindhya mountain. These two rivers, the Narmada and Tapi, are critical to the well-being of this area. This is within the jurisdiction of the Satpura province. During the reign of the Mughal King Aurangzeb, Burhanpur was

one of the most significant administrative hubs in India. These crops are of most importance to this region: wheat, maize, jowar, bajra, sugarcane, and cotton. Wheat is the main source of food for the population. Cotton is one of the most widely-marketed crops. Sendhwa, one of the most significant cities in the area for ginning and pressing cotton manufacturing businesses, is situated here. Sendhwa, a tiny hamlet located in this area is famed for cotton, and this is also known as white gold<sup>[2]</sup>. Because this region was full with woods, the government made sure to maintain it. Teak woods may be found inside the forest's boundaries. Maheshwar is the administrative headquarters of the Maratha kingdom of Holkar. This area, which was once called Nimar, came to be known as the Nimar area after Indian independence. The city of Barwani, Khargone, Burhanpur, and Khandwa became the district headquarters of contemporary Madhya Pradesh. Barwan District is among the most disadvantaged tribal-dominated areas in India. The area in India that we oversee gets a special economic development subsidy from the Indian government. Nine tehsils (of which four are urban, and five are rural) belong to the district of Barwani, which includes Barwani, Warla, Niwali, Sendhwa, Pati, Rajpur, Anjad, Pansemal, and Balwadi. Khargone Lok Sabha Constituencies include Pansemal, Barwani, Sendhwa, and Rajpur, four of the six legislative constituencies that are within the authority of the Khargone parliamentary constituencies.

### III. LANGUAGES

People in this area use Hindi, Nimadi, Khandeshi, Gujarati, Marathi, Urdu, Punjabi, and Bareli in their daily lives. Only the tribal people of Bareli speak the Bareli language.

Bawangaja, about 6 kilometres (or 3.75 miles) away from the city of Barwani is an important Jain sacred site. The tallest statue of Bahubali or the first Jain Tirthankara Adinatha stands above all else. Many Jain religious speakers and followers make a pilgrimage to this pious city every year<sup>[3]</sup>. Goddess Beejasani (Durga) is worshipped at the Bejasa temple, which is situated 16 km south of Sendhawa.

### IV. FESTIVALS

#### 4.1 Kanbai Festival

Additionally, the Kanbai Festival is celebrated by Nimadis people. It is a celebration of Khandeshi Maharashtrians, since this area comprises of many people from Sendhwa, a town located in the district of Latur that is mostly populated by people from the Khandesh community. Some consider Kanbai to be an avatar (incarnation) of Durga, the Hindu goddess of power. The citizens of Maharashtra as well as those who are of Maharashtrian descent venerate the Goddess as well. According to reports, she is believed to be the wife

of Lord Shiva, as a "Avatar of Karma" or simply known as Kanbai. In the Khandesh area of Maharashtra, the Holkar queen constructed a shrine to honour this Hindu deity. It is now the responsibility of the local Khandesi population to take care of it. Maharashtrian Iranians and individuals who speak Irani or Iranian languages offer respect to the goddess Kanbai (and a fusion of Marathi, Hindi and local tribal Khandesi)<sup>[4]</sup>. Many villages around this area have God Kanbai as their patron deity. The festival of Kanbai is held on the first Sunday following Nag Panchami in the Hindu calendar, which is in the month of Shravan. On the next day, on Monday, people visit the riverbank and the ritual of visarjan is performed. The Kanbai celebration takes place between the start of Shravan (Shri Varuna) and the middle of Margashirsha (Marghashirsha) months of the Marathi calendar. Every week, people and clans throughout the area gather on Sunday night to partake in religious prayers, singing, dancing, and devotional songs, and they demonstrate their thanks to the goddess for the gift of her bounties.

#### 4.2 Ganesh Chaturthi Festival

The Ganesh Chaturthi celebration is celebrated in this area with a great deal of pomp and excitement. This event is held in honour of Lord Ganesha, who is believed to have appeared about the middle of the month of Bhadrapada. According to Hinduism, Vighnaharta (also known as Dukhaharta, Lord Ganesha's birth festival) is held to commemorate the birth of Lord Ganesha, also known as Vighnaharta. This is said to be the first holy celebration of Hindus, who are awaiting the coming of the monsoon. It is said that Lord Ganesha is revered as "Pujya of Agra" (first worshipper). On every street in town, it is tradition to decorate the street, and in the evening, everyone enjoys themselves with music that includes dhols, drums (taasen) and a tonne of other genres. This celebration continues for fourteen days, with the following day being celebrated as 'Anant Chaturdashi.' The foods and sweets that Lord Ganesha likes the most are offered until killadu, dried coconut, flowers, and tilikela laddu<sup>[5]</sup>. In addition to worship services conducted by the community each evening, arati and prayers are also given during this occasion. Even though special events and prayers are held for the Lord Ganesha temple's followers, there are also celebrations and rituals at the temple for other members of the community. An inordinate number of individuals' instal Ganesha idols in their house followed by the procedure of worship and the installation of Prana Pratishta. This festival concludes on the 14th day, during which the statue of Lord Ganesha is ceremonially immersed in various bodies of water, including rivers, lakes, seas, ponds, and other bodies of water. It makes us realise that everything in life is transient, and it is in our best interests to give up the things we love from time to time.

#### 4.3 Shravan Sombar

It is in one of the most crucial months in the Nimar region: the Shravan month. Hindu worshippers consider every Monday and Soman or Soma to be an

auspicious day. A throng of people congregates at the banks of the nearby waterway. Devotees use holy water from the river to wash themselves before carrying holy water back to the river, then pour the holy water on the head or mastak of Lord Shiva. The adherents who follow "Bol Bom" are called "Bol Bomites". They offer prayers that are sacred. Recently, some individuals have been discovering how to steal holy water from the Ganga River and delivering it to their communities nearby. There is a constant flow of visitors to the Shiva temple who came to give flower, belpatra, etc. This month is crucial for the Hindu followers, who rely on astrology for a significant portion of their decisions. To gain the relatively simple blessings of Lord Shiva, the majority of these individuals observe fast throughout the day of Shravan Somavara. Women also participate in Solah somvar vrat katha, as well as offering 16 somvar on fast days. After performing abhishek, worshippers go to the temple early in the morning to bathe Lord Shiva with milk mixed with clean water in a pan that is covered and a towel is draped over it. Aarati of Lord Shiva is offered by devotees with complete devotion. OM NAMA SHIVAYA recitation surrounds the adjacent area, which contains other slogans such as "OM NAMA SHIVAYA."

#### **4.4 Navratri Festival**

The Nimadi people also have several celebrations during the Navaratri holiday. Nine nights before and after this event, Hindus rejoice and commemorate the holiday. On the following day, Dussehara (Durga Puja) or SHARADA NAVARATRI (Navaratri) is celebrated. On this holiday, they worship Durga, the goddess of might. In Hinduism, the month of Ashvin (Ashvini) is recognised as the month during which the goddess Durga slew demon king Mahishasura and restored dharma. The epic Ramayana relates how Lord Rama conquered and killed Ravana, the king of Lanka, and how he and his wife Sitamata were saved from the prison of Ravana<sup>[6]</sup>. A key takeaway from this presentation is that Good always triumphs against Evil. For this joyful time of year, people dress up, adorn their homes, stores, go on a hunger strike for nine days, tell the mythical narrative, and read from the Holy Scriptures.

#### **4.5 Dipawali**

The Nimadi people celebrate Diwali with a tremendous deal of excitement. Diwali is a festival of lights celebrated in India and other countries. One of the positive aspects of Diwali observed by the Nimadi people is their celebration of the festival. The buildings, residences, and stores in the community are decked up with different multicoloured lights and flowers. The celebration is marked for five days, with a great deal of excitement. New garments, gold jewellery, metal utensils, and diyas are generally purchased on Dhanteras, a day which honours the goddess Dhanteras. Wives at night are known to light diyas in their residences. Gayatri Peeth, a sacred place of worship

situated in the Sendhwa town, consecrates a ceremony on this day to praise the Supreme God of Ayurveda, Dhanwantari, while also offering puja to the god and sending blessings to everyone within the city of Sendhwa to try to free themselves from all kinds of illness and sorrow<sup>[7]</sup>. On Diwali, people perform a pooja to Lakshmi and celebrate by lighting firecrackers. On this special day, the temple authorities of Raj Rajeshwar Mahadev Temple will beautify the temple in all its traditional forms, and this is a grand feast for the eyes for everyone. In the following day, they continue to celebrate Bhai Dooj.

#### **4.6 Bhagoria Haat Festival**

Bhagoria is one of the most remarkable events in the lives of the Nimadi people. Prior to the Holi holiday, this celebration is celebrated prior to it on Sundays, particularly in the Nimadi area, where the Holi celebration is designated as a Bhagoriya celebration. It is a festival in a tribal community. It is in the entire community's interest to acquire new clothing, jewellery, and home decorations during this joyful season. The Bhil festival, also known as Bhagoria, is celebrated by the Bhil tribal members from Jhabua and Alirajpur districts. Every group has its own traditions, and they are observed during the celebration of the Bhagoria festival, although no one tribe is restricted to this celebration. It is said that it is the celebration of choosing females for young lads for marriage in the country of Nimadi. At the beginning of this time period, a male picks any female of his choosing and the two of them decide to be married and flee away to an unknown location, which may be a safe haven for them<sup>[8]</sup>. After giving a message to their respect family members, they then have an affectionate moment with their newly acquainted family members, and sat together to welcome this new pair. This marriage will be acknowledged by the community with a big ceremony with singing, dancing, and drinking of Madira (a spirit that is native to South America), all performed to the beat of a dhol and drum (which is common to their culture). Everyone in the neighbourhood comes to the Bhagoria fair, gets dressed up in new outfits, and keeps it all together with jewellery. While during the zamindari system, the market in Bhagoriya Haat served as a gathering point for moneylenders and farmers to demand loans from the farmers, this one has seen this market as a place to seek for credit. People in the current day celebrate Hanukkah as a celebration of joy, pleasure, and entertainment.

#### **4.7 Holi**

Holi is a celebration held in the month of March in the Nimadi area, when people get together to celebrate their love of colour. Additionally, this celebration is also referred to as the Bhagoria Haat celebration in the West Nimar and Jhabua regions of Madhya Pradesh. This event is celebrated for five days, and during this time people wear their favourite colours and have a great time. Rang Panchami is observed in the Nimad area after the Holi celebration, which is held for five days. On this

day, individuals visit their friends, family, siblings, and members of their community to celebrate. They share colours, and have a great time. In the Nimadi tribal area, they refer to this holiday as Bhagoriya Holi.

## V. GANGAUR FESTIVAL OF NIMAR

The festival of Gangaur is of great importance to the people of Nimar. During the annual festival, which is held in honour of Gauri, the wife of Lord Shiva, pilgrims visit and pay their respects to the temple. The Rajasthani celebration of Gangaur is part of their tradition. Girls who are unmarried worship Gauri to ensure they get a spouse who is attractive and nice, while married women who worship Gauri want to be blessed with a spouse who has a long life. This festival is one of the main events in the Nimad area. It is customary during these days for people to pray to both Lord Shiva and Gauri. Whole cities are places of pilgrimage and celebration for followers of Lord Shiva and Parvati, particularly in the Nimar area<sup>[9]</sup>. People go to these towns every evening and do something new each time. The group dresses up two young children in female and male disguises and takes the role of the dulah and dulhan across the whole village or city while accompanied by drum beats and sings different religious songs with the whole community or clan. There are several Gangaur melas located around the neighbourhood, and they're set up by the community.

## VI. SPECIAL FOOD

### 6.1 Dal Pania, Dal Bati

There are specific cuisine delicacies from the Nimad area, like Dal Pania and Dal Bati. Traditional foods are prevalent across the state of Madhya Pradesh, which varies depending on where you go. Dishes, either vegetarian or non-vegetarian, are provided to suit the preferences of the location. Although there are other popular and traditional cuisines found within this area, it is not to be understated that the tradition meals of Dal Pania and Dal Bati, jalebi, methiki paratha, besanghataki-sabji, baflas, kebabs, and biryani are definitely worth special recognition. The different meals available in each season are what set them apart. There is one meal, called Bafla, which is prepared using wheat, ghee, and milk<sup>[10]</sup>. The pure vegetarians might get a taste of Bhutte-ki-kees, which is cooked with milk and maize, for them to enjoy. The cuisine dishes showed here show that tribes and civilizations have different meanings and significance.

## VII. CONCLUSIONS

It is safe to say that this area is one of the main tribal sections of Madhya Pradesh as well as the pulse of India. This is the location of very fertile soil, which is why the city of Sendhwa thrives as a hub of cotton commerce. It has contributed to the formation of a

number of spinning and ginning enterprises. Regardless of whether you are an aficionado of fine dining, love to dance, or wear lots of jewellery, this location is the ultimate sacred pilgrimage site for you. The evidence thus far seem to indicate that this area is a melting pot of ethnicities and hues in the state. Originally, the territory was called Malwa<sup>[11]</sup>, which in turn was the birthplace of numerous emperors and warriors, including Emperor Ashoka, Chandragupta, Vikramaditya, Harsha Vardhan, Raja Bhoj, and King Akbar, who all reigned over this area. Among the contributing elements to the richness of this region's history are the historic lives of these individuals, who are recorded for posterity in written form as well as in the heart-worlds of many people living in this area<sup>[12]</sup>. While inhabitants are often giving and caring, they are especially nice and kind here. The location has a subtropical climate, with hot and dry weather. Travelers would not have any difficulties getting about because to the extensive interconnectivity that the state has with trains and airlines. Here, there is a quick overview of the country of India and the significance of the country's culture to the country as a whole.

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