

Halma Tradition

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Halma Tradition Latest News

In Borpada village in Madhya Pradesh's Jhabua district, residents revived the Bhil tradition of Halma to clean and restore a public well.

About Halma Tradition

- Halma is an **old collective tradition** practiced by the **Bhil tribal community** of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Its direct meaning is: to **work together without wages or contract, sustained by mutual obligation and belonging**.
- At its heart, Halma represents a profound **tradition of voluntary collective labour**.
- The **roots** of this tradition reach back to an **era when these communities had neither large resources, nor government support**, nor a marketplace. What they had was one another.
- **When an individual or family faces a significant task**, be it constructing a home, repairing agricultural embankments, restoring a water body, or organizing a major communal event, **they invoke Halma**.

- **In response**, scores, sometimes hundreds, of **community members assemble**, bringing their own tools, food, and labour, and **work collectively until the task is accomplished**.
- There is **no formal leader** and **no grand announcement**. There is **only work, done side by side**.
- **No monetary compensation** is expected. **Participation arises** not from obligation enforced by external authority but **from ethical commitment, ancestral values**, and the **assurance that when needed, the favor will be returned**.
- **In recent years**, Halma has been **revitalized to address common challenges** such as:
 - **Restoration of traditional water bodies**
 - **Afforestation** of barren hills
 - Construction of contour trenches for **rainwater conservation**
 - **Revitalization of biodiversity** and soil health

Source: DTE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/halma-tradition/>

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