

Thoti Tribe

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Thoti Tribe Latest News

Recently, it was observed that the Thoti tribe in Telangana is facing a rapid decline driven by a shrinking population.

About Thoti Tribe

- It is a small **tribal community** concentrated in **northern Telangana**.
- They are classified as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**.
- They have historically served as **village messengers, ballad singers**, and folk artists, maintaining a rich heritage of storytelling and indigenous cultural practices.
- Historically, they **were oral storytellers**, narrating episodes from the Mahabharata using traditional instruments such as the **burra, maddela, and harmonium**.
- **Language:** They **speak Gonti** as their mother tongue and have a more traditional appearance.
- **Society**

- The social structure of this community is **hierarchically organized**, wherein the **village head and elders of the community exercise authority** over most social, political, and legal matters related to the community and its members.
- **Belief System:** They are known to be strong believers in **the idea of rebirth**, this is also evidenced in their traditional songs.
- They worship and believe in their **community God called “Persapen”** and other village deities, and celebrate a **festival known as “Nagappa Jathara”** (Chariot festival).
- During ceremonial occasions, Thotis play the **kingri**, a three-stringed fiddle, and blow trumpets.
- **Many Thoti women are skilled tattoo artists**, and they are responsible for the complex tattoos covering the arms, shoulders, and chests of many Gond women.
- The Thotis have been known to **practice endogamy**.

Source: TT

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