

Ramnami Tribe

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Ramnami Tribe Latest News

Two members of the Ramnami tribe became emotional when the Prime Minister broke the protocol allowing them to adorn him with their traditional headgear- peacock feather crown- recently.

About Ramnami Tribe

- The Ramnamis are a **unique sect from Chhattisgarh, India, who tattoo the name “Ram” on their bodies and faces.**
- The **Ramnami Samaj** is a **movement** that came up in what is now **central and northern Chhattisgarh in the 19th century** as an act of **peaceful resistance against the caste system** in India that denied many of them entry to temples.
- According to a popular legend, it was **started by Parsuram Bhardwaj**, the son of a low-caste sharecropper.
- More than 100 years ago, the sect **decided to tattoo their bodies and faces with** the name of nirgun (unmanifest) **Ram to show that Ram, or God, was omnipresent and everywhere.**

- In 1910, the **Ramnami Samaj** was taken to court by upper-caste Hindu groups over this unique practice, **but they won the case and the right to inscribe Ram's name on their bodies, clothing, and living spaces.**
- Ramnamis emphasize worshipping Ram in any form, whether in saffron robes or with a shaved head.
- They **prioritize gender equality** and **adorn** themselves **with 'ghungroos' and a crown crafted from peacock feathers.**
- In Chhattisgarh, 'ghungroos' play a vital role in their dances and Bhajan performances.
- Their **white attires** were **also decorated with the name of Ram**, while the peacock feathers on their headgear held a rich mythological significance.
- At one time, their population stood anywhere near 6 lakh, but it has come down to 100,000, with some estimates suggesting only 20,000 Ramnami remain.

Source: DC

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/ramnami-tribe/>

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