

Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat



Culture

'South of North and North of South,' Telangana State has long been a meeting place for diverse languages and cultures. It is easily the best example of India's composite culture, pluralism and inclusiveness. Located on the uplands of the Deccan plateau, Telangana is the link between the North and South of India. It is thus no surprise that the region, on the whole, came to be known for its Ganga-Jamuna Tehzeeb and the capital Hyderabad as a 'miniature India!'.



Source: <https://telangana.gov.in/About/Language-Culture>

The geography, Polity and Economy of the region determined the culture of Telangana. Satavahanas, the earliest known rulers of the region sowed the seeds of an independent and self-sufficient village economy, the relics of which can be felt even today. In medieval times, the Kakatiya dynasty's rule, between the 11th and 14th centuries with Warangal as their capital, and subsequently the Qutub Shahis and Asafjahis, who ruled the Hyderabad state defined the culture of the region.

Art forms

Some classical art forms received royal patronage and attained finesse. However, the art forms of the innumerable communities spread across the length and breadth of the State give Telangana its distinct identity.

While the Kakatiya rule led to the evolution of dance forms such as Perini Sivatanavam, also known as 'dance of warriors', the commoners, faced with the challenges of daily life developed traditions of story-telling coupled with solutions to tide over them through Golla Suddulu, Oggu Kathalu and Gotralu etc.

Several art forms like above mingled and new forms emerged. The ubiquitous 'Dhoom Dham' is one such evolved and composite art form. They generally were about the struggle and exploitation. People adopted the old sensibilities of theatre and art changing the content as per the case and place.

A variant of Yakshagana, Chindu Bhagavatham is performed widely across Telangana. It is a theatre art form that combines dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques with a unique style and form. The word 'Chindu' in Telugu means 'jump'. As their presentation is interspersed with leaps and jumps, it gained the name of Chindu Bhagavatam. Most of the stories narrated are from 'Bhagavatam'.

Qawali, Ghazals and Mushairas evolved under the patronage of Qutub Shahi and the Asafjahi rulers in and around the capital city of Hyderabad.



Source: <https://telangana.gov.in/About/Language-Culture>

Festivals



The Hindu festivals like Ugadi, Srirama Navami, Bonalu, Vinayaka Chaturthi, Dasara, Deepavali, Sankranti, Holi, Mahashivaratri are celebrated with pomp, gaiety and devotion. Dasara is the main festival with the epithet 'pedda panduga.'

Bathukamma, a part of Dasara festivities, is unique to Telangana. This colourful festival has historic, ecological, societal and religious significance. Women clad in glittering costumes and jewellery carry beautifully stacked Bathukammas with flowers like Tangedu, Gunugu, Chamanti and others to the village or street's meeting point.

Making circles around the assembled Bathukammas, womenfolk recite songs in a group. The songs have their roots in Puranas, History and even in the recent political and social developments of the particular region. The fete culminates in Saddula Bathukamma where the villagers immerse the flower stacks in the nearby tanks and lakes.

Bonalu is a Hindu Festival, celebrated during the Telugu month of Ashadam (translates to June/ July of Gregorian calendar) wherein Goddess Mahakali is worshipped. The festival is also considered a



Source: <https://telangana.gov.in/About/Language-Culture>

thanksgiving to the Goddess for fulfilling the desires of devotees.

As part of the festival, Bojanam or Meal is offered to the presiding Mother Goddess. Women prepare rice cooked with Milk, Jaggery in a Brass or Earthen Pot adorned with Neem Leaves, Turmeric, Vermilion putting a Lighted Diya on top of the Ghatam.

An important part of the festival is Rangam (prophecy). Women standing atop of an earthen pot 'invokes' goddess Mahankali onto her and turns an Oracle.

Next is Ghattam. A copper pot is decorated in the form of Mother Goddess. The Ghattam is carried by a priest and is taken in procession accompanied by 'Pothurajus' and musical instruments like trumpets and drums for the immersion. Pothurajus is considered the brother of Mother Goddess and are represented by well-built, bare-bodied men, wearing a small tightly draped red dhoti and bells on ankles with turmeric on bodies and vermilion on the foreheads.

While Ramzan is the main festival of Muslims, Moharram too is celebrated on a large scale in Telangana. It is known famously as 'peerla panduga.' Pir means Master. Many Hindus take part in the festival.

Christians, mainly in and around Hyderabad celebrate Christmas and Good Friday with great fervour and religiosity.

Arts and Crafts

Telangana is a great place for arts and crafts with many astounding handicrafts.

Bidri Craft

The unique art of silver is engraved on metal. Black, gold and silver coatings are applied on this. It involves various several stages like casting, engraving, inlaying and oxidizing. The name of this art form is derived from a town called Bidar (currently part of Karnataka) of the erstwhile Hyderabad state.

Banjara Needle Crafts

Banjara Needle Crafts are the traditional handmade fabrics made by Banjaras (the tribal Gypsies) in Telangana. It is a form of embroidery and mirror work on fabrics employing needlecraft.

Dokra Metal Crafts

Dhokra or Dokra is also known as bell metal craft and is widely seen in Jainoor Mandal, Ushgaon and Chittalburi in Adilabad district. The tribal craft produces objects like figurines, tribal gods, etc. The work consists of folk motifs, peacocks, elephants, horses, measuring bowl, bowl, caskets and other simple art forms and traditional designs.



Source: <https://telangana.gov.in/About/Language-Culture>

