

ISSN 2395-7379

Journal of People's HISTORY AND CULTURE

Editor
Anil Kumar Sarkar



Garia Society for Studies of Marginal People
455, Sreerampur Road, Garia
Kolkata - 700 084

ISSN 2395-7379

Journal of People's History and Culture

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Introducing the Journal

It is with great pleasure that we present the latest issue of **Volume 10 Number 1 (June 2024)** of the **Journal of People's History and Culture**. This publication marks another milestone in our academic journey, and we are excited to share a collection of insightful papers that delve into various subjects within the expansive realm of social sciences. We have aimed to break traditional boundaries and foster dynamic transactions among disciplines in the spirit of the ever-evolving landscape of interdisciplinary scholarship. Through this journal, we aspire to create a space for critical dialogue, exchange, and synergy that opens up new perspectives in the vast domain of Humanities and social sciences. We leave it to our readers to assess the extent of our success in this endeavour.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our dedicated editorial team whose unwavering efforts, despite numerous challenges and constraints, have made the timely publication of this journal possible. We are also indebted to all the contributors whose enthusiastic responses have brought this issue to fruition.

Consider this issue as a black-and-white sketch of the road; a journey through a colourful gallery awaits our readers. Our earnest endeavour has been to produce a journal that satisfies and stimulates discerning readers' minds.

We firmly believe that this volume will be a valuable resource for our readers. With our best wishes, love, and regards to all.

Anil Kumar Sarkar
Editor
Journal of People's History and Culture

Journal of People's HISTORY AND CULTURE

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Exploring the Role of Banjaras in the Economy of Amber State

Dr. Mohammad Shahnawaz

Assistant Professor of History, Karim City College, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand

Abstract: *A wide range of mercantile communities was operative in various spheres related to trade and commerce; dealing in grain, cloth, leather, salt, and groceries. Among these mercantile communities, the relevance of banjaras in the salt trade and transportation system demonstrates their significance in the economy of eighteenth-century Amber State. Banjaras, a class of bulk traders, transported commodities from the market or one place to another and acted as merchants; particularly accompanying the body of troops to supply them with grains. The present paper attempts to explore the trading activities of the banjaras and their role in the state economy. Banjaras, known as a nomadic community who had their bullocks for trading activities, started a business and moved from one place to another in a kâfilâ (caravan).*

Keywords: Banjara, Amber State, Salt trade, Caravan, Transport

The operation of local commerce necessitated effective market organisation whose existence is inconceivable without the presence of mercantile communities. A diverse range of merchant communities operated in various facets of business, dealing in commodities like grain, textiles, leather, salt, and foodstuffs. These merchant communities included *bajâj* (textile merchants), *bichhâyut* (pedlars), banjara, *kâcchî* (vegetable merchants), etc. Among these communities, the banjaras assumed an essential part in both rural and urban areas, particularly in the salt trade and transportation system. Banjaras, a class of bulk traders, travelled in large groups i.e. *kâfilâ* (caravan) for safety reasons. They transported a variety of commodities from one place to another while also acting as merchants. The term "banjara" specifically denotes grain and cattle traders who travel to different markets and often accompany troops to supply them with grain.¹

What was the impact of banjaras on the economy of eighteenth-century Amber State later known as Jaipur State? Primarily based on the archival sources preserved in the Jaipur Records Section such as *arzdâshis* (petition), *khatût ahalkaran* (official correspondence), *Dastûr Komwâr* (caste and community wise records of honours and gifts), and *kharîtâ* (royal letter), the