

HOLVA

Holva tribes derive their name from the word 'holo' which means plough. Traditionally their dialect was 'halbi', but now most of them converse in Odia only. This tribal community has several exogamous divisions viz. Manjur, Naga, Bagh etc. and each of these divisions is termed as Bargas. Holvas have a two tier system of local governance. The secular head, Naik presides over the traditional village council meetings. Above him it is the Jati Naik who oversees a number of villages together and enjoys more power than the Naik. Holvas do not get married among the same Barga and have an established system of widow remarriage, wherein a widow is allowed to marry the younger brother of the deceased husband. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the Holvas.

