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Performing Ethnicity to Resist Marginalisation

The Tangsa in Assam

Can small indigenous communities survive in northeast India, an area of mind-boggling ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity? What are the choices such communities have and what are some strategies such communities use to ensure their cultural survival? In recent years, many such small groups have attempted to remain visible by participating in mega multi-ethnic festivals, by organising their own community festivals and by inviting others to attend them. But is this a sign of their increasing agency, of their ability to instrumentalise their ethnicity or simply proof of their continued marginalisation? These are some of the questions that will be addressed in this work, on the basis of ethnographic fieldwork done amongst the small Tangsa community living in Assam.



Performing Ethnicity The Tangsa In Assam M. Barkataki-Ruscheweyh



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