

**Name of the Element:** Rangpanchmi's Gerr, Madhya Pradesh

**Community/ies:** Residents of Indore and the Malwa region, particularly inclusive of all castes, religions, and socio-economic groups.

**Region:** Indore and the Malwa region.

**Brief Description:** The Gerr is a vibrant and colorful procession celebrated on Rangpanchmi, the fifth day of Holi, in Indore and the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh. It is a unique festival deeply rooted in mythology, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil and fostering communal harmony.

The origins of this festival trace back to 1930 when Maharajah Yashwant Rao Holkar introduced the tradition by using a fire brigade to shower colors on his subjects, uniting people across castes and creeds. Over the years, it evolved into a people's celebration, now organized by recognized Gerr groups with active support from local authorities.

The procession begins at Rajwada, the cultural and historical heart of Indore, attracting thousands of participants in a grand display of unity and festivity. Men, women, and children of all ages, castes, religions, and genders join in the celebration, drenching each other in colors while dancing and singing. The Gerr incorporates various cultural elements, including *Akhadas* (martial arts groups) showcasing their skills, along with folk and Bollywood-inspired music and dance performances.

The festival emphasizes reconciliation, forgiveness, and strengthening social bonds, embodying the spirit of Holi. It holds immense socio-cultural and religious significance, providing an escape from the stresses of daily life and spreading a message of solidarity and friendship. Publicized through oral traditions, print media, and digital platforms, the Gerr has gained national recognition and attracts participants from across India.

Deeply rooted in Indore's rich cultural heritage, the Gerr has become a symbol of unity, joy, and communal harmony. This colorful procession not only revitalizes relationships but also showcases the region's vibrant traditions. It is a celebration of humanity, encapsulating the spirit of togetherness and the joy of Holi.