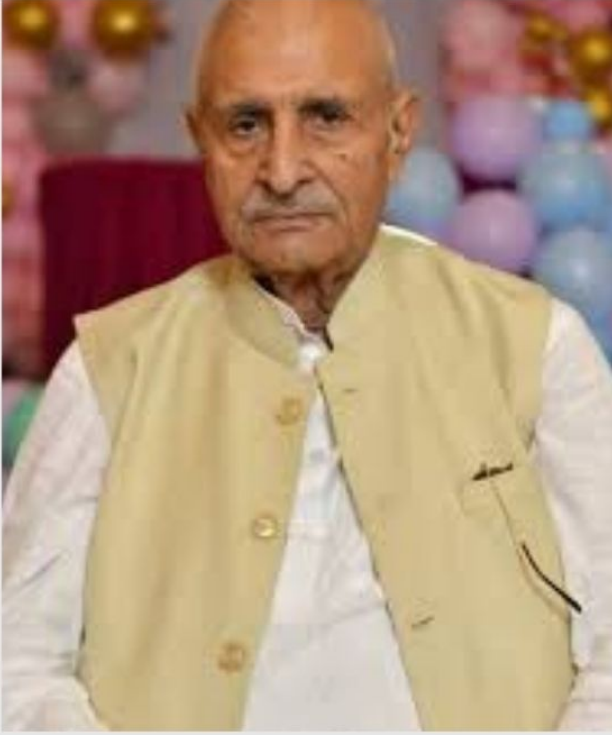




# GURJAR CULTURE

NEWS LETTER OF

**RASHTRIYA GURJAR ITIHAS SAHITYA EVAM BHASHAA SHODH SANSTHAN (R)**  
SIKAR RAJASTHAN



## GRATEFUL HOMAGE

With deep sorrow and heartfelt respect, we pay homage to Sri Isam Singh Chauhan, a visionary leader, passionate historian, and tireless champion of Gurjar heritage. As President of the Rashtriya Gurjar Itihas, Sahitya evam Bhasha Shodh Sanstha, his dedication to preserving and promoting the rich history, literature, and language of the Gurjar community was unwavering.

His scholarly contributions and selfless service have left an indelible mark on generations to come. In his passing, we have lost not only a scholar but a guiding light whose legacy will continue to inspire.

May his soul attain eternal peace, and may his life's work continue to guide and uplift.

## NEW INITIATIVES AT SHODH SANSTHAN

Glad to mention here that the Rashtriya Gurjar Saahitya evam bhaashaa sodh sansthan is coming out with many innovative initiatives.

A new website has been created as in this page below, which houses all that shodh sansthan stands for. It has a logo which is displayed above in this page.

Sansthan is planning for Research, Conference and Webinars and also certificate programs on Gurjar Culture, to be launched soon. This will aid Researchers, Teachers, students and youth. Sansthan is now affiliated with World Culture Arts and Sports Commission.







Rashtriya Gurjar Itihas, Sahitya evam Bhashaa Shodh Sansthan, Sikar, Rajasthan can be a great influence on the minds of young minds in preserving, documenting and promoting Gurjar Culture.



### *Revisit Gurjar Itihas*

is a vital step toward restoring pride, correcting historical neglect, and preserving the legacy of a community that has significantly shaped North India's political, cultural, and military landscape. This re-examination involves exploring their glorious past, untold contributions, and hidden narratives that have often been overshadowed or misrepresented in mainstream historiography.

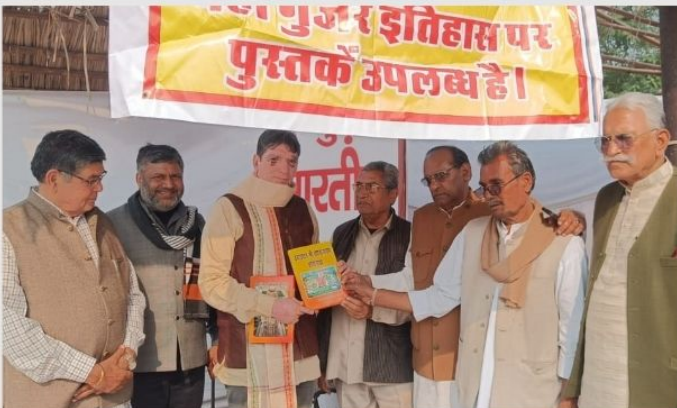
### *Preserve Cultural monuments*

is essential to understanding and honoring the legacy of one of the subcontinent's oldest and historically significant community. These remnants include archaeological sites, inscriptions, architecture, folklore, language, and traditional practices that can help reconstruct the historical journey of the Gurjars.



### *Publishing Gurjar Cultural Literature*

Publishing ancient Gurjar folk literature is a powerful cultural preservation effort that can revive disappearing traditions, empower community identity, and bring Gurjar voices into regional and national literary discourse. More importantly digital editions of these works in common global languages like English, French, German, Japanese etc are needed.





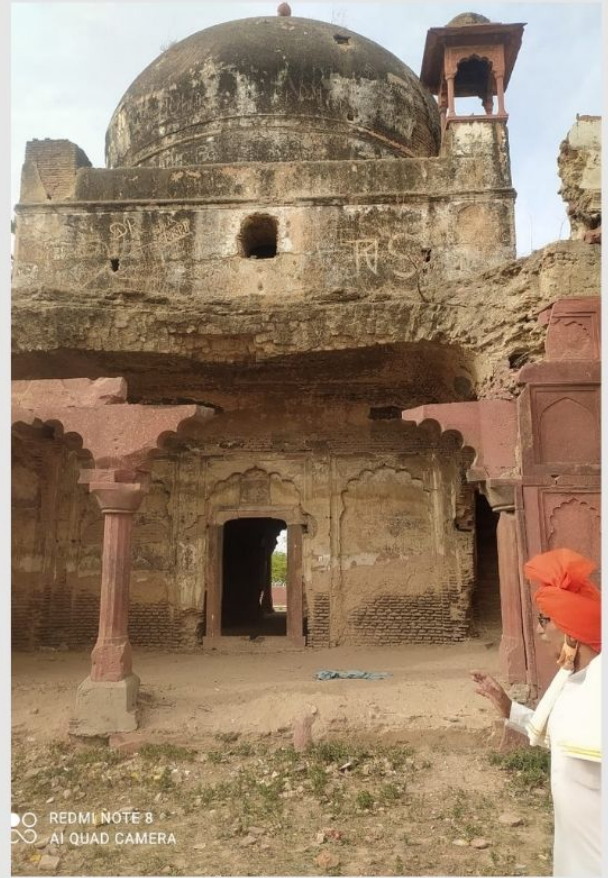
# Conserving Gurjar Culture

Conserving and preserving Gurjar culture requires a multifaceted approach that addresses both the tangible (language, customs, livelihood) and intangible (identity, traditions, oral history) aspects of the community. Given the community's geographic spread and diversity (Hindu, Muslim, Sikh Gurjars in India, any cultural preservation strategy must be locally grounded but regionally coordinated.



Some of the initiatives which Gurjar Sanskriti Shodh Sanstha may take up are as follows:

1. Language Preservation (Gojri and Dialects): Gojri (or Gujar) which is the



traditional language of many Gurjar communities, especially in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh. This can be attempted by introducing Gojri as an optional subject in schools in Gurjar-majority areas, Encourage folk literature, poetry, and songs in Gojri, Digitize oral histories, folk tales, and songs in Gojri, Support institute run radio and podcast channels in the native dialects.

2. Documenting Oral Traditions and History: Much of which is preserved through oral storytelling, songs, and ballads of bravery (especially relating to resistance movements like 1857). These can be preserved by launching oral history projects in collaboration with



# Conserving Gurjar Culture



Universities, voice/video recording of folk songs, war ballads, family histories, and seasonal migration stories of pastoral Gurjars, Encourage youth participation through storytelling competitions and digital archives.

3. Protection and Promotion of Traditional Livelihoods of Gurjars,



especially Van Gujjars and Bakerwals, rely on nomadic pastoralism using various state-sponsored preservation strategies.

4. Cultural Festivals and Events like annual Gurjar Cultural Festival can preserve and showcase gurjar rich heritage. This may include Traditional music, dance, wrestling competitions. Display of handicrafts, attire, and food. Panel discussions on Gurjar history, rights, and contemporary issues can be planned.

5. Inclusion in Gurjar Culture in School Curricula and Textbooks. Short duration certificate programs can be promoted under shodh sanstha.

6. Gurjar Cultural Museum. Shodh sanstha can plan to collect and displaying traditional replicas to promote awareness among youth and students.

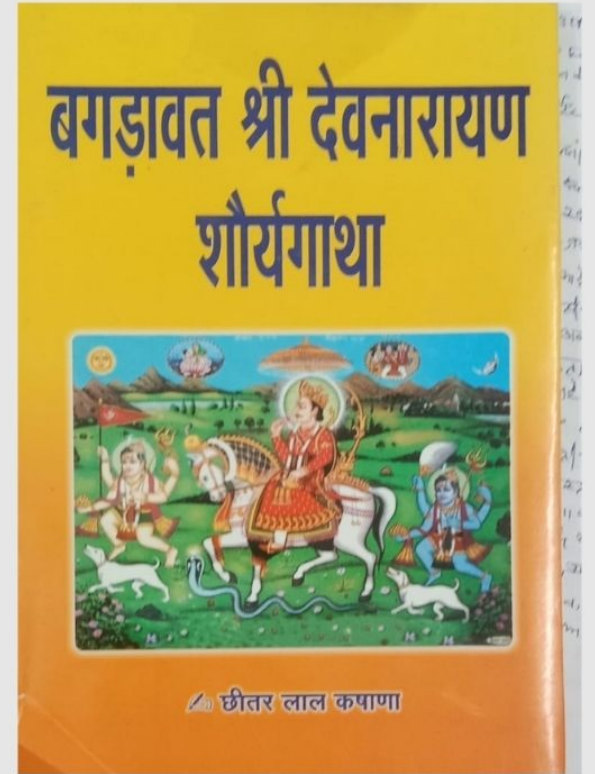
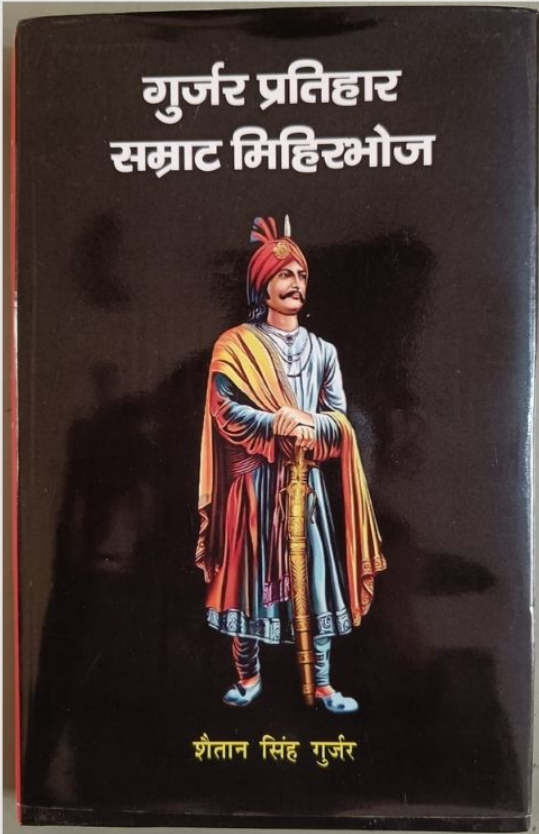
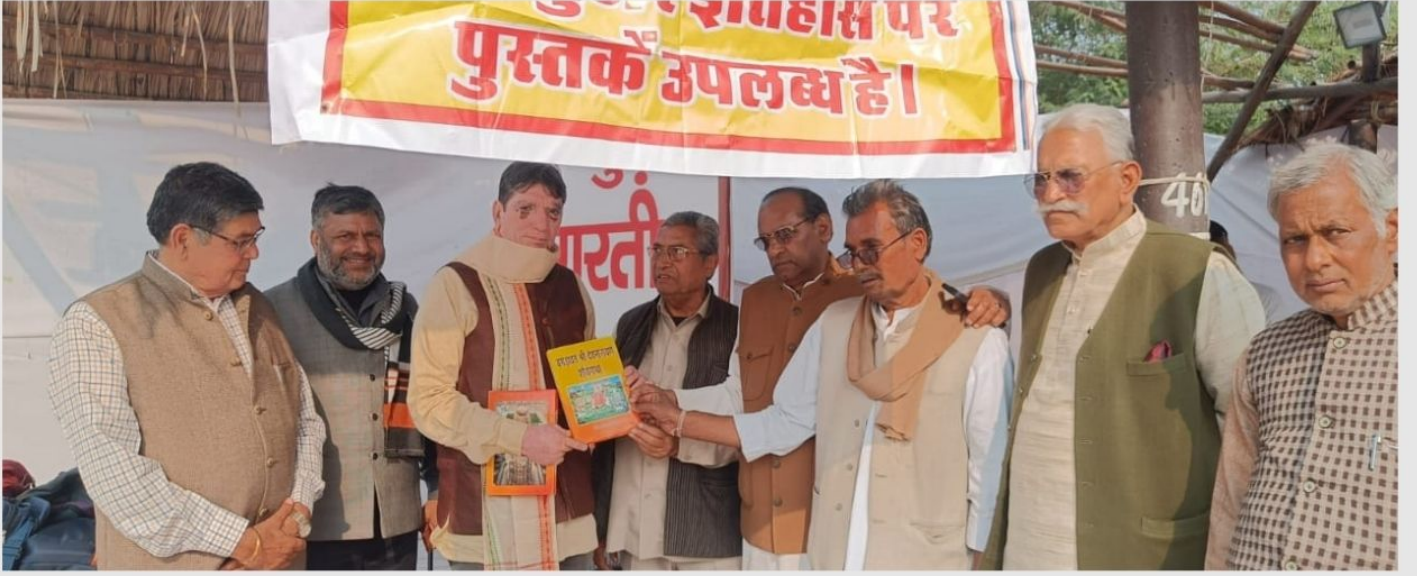
7. Extensive use of Digital Platforms promoted and maintained by Young Gurjars.

8. Encourage youth-led digital storytelling projects.

9. Create a dedicated Gurjar Culture App or Archive featuring interviews, maps, history, and more.



# Publications on Gurjar Culture



## Digitalization of Gurjar Literature

.Much of early Gurjar literature was preserved through oral traditions—ballads, heroic epics (veer gatha), folk songs, and bardic poetry—often celebrating the valor, resistance, and leadership of Gurjar warriors and rulers. These narratives, passed down through generations, form the backbone of Gurjar cultural identity.

Gurjar literature appears in various regional languages, including Hindi, Rajasthani, Braj, Haryanvi, Gujarati, and even Urdu. In Jammu & Kashmir, the Gojri language—spoken by Gujjars—has a distinct literary tradition that includes poetry, devotional hymns, and modern prose. There is an urgent need to digitalize all that is available and make it available to all readers particularly international readers.

## Featured articles

### "Bringing Gurjar Folk Culture and History to the International Stage"

Dr. Daxa Joshi Nirzara'.  
Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

The Gurjar community, with its rich folk traditions, historical legacy, and cultural depth, holds immense potential to inspire the world. From vibrant dances like Ghoomar and Rasiyo to traditional attire, festivals, and oral storytelling, Gurjar culture reflects a diverse and living heritage across regions like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana.

Historically, Gurjars have played key roles in Indian society as rulers, like Nagabhata I (8th century) founded the Pratihara dynasty and under Mihira Bhoja and Mahendrapala the empire reached its zenith. Gurjar community have been contributors to national defense, participants in the freedom struggle. Yet globally, this legacy remains underrecognized.

Understanding Gurjar Folk Culture involves knowing more about Gurjar Folk music, dance (e.g., Ghoomar, Rasiyo); Traditional attire and festivals, Oral traditions, folk tales, and rituals.

An interesting fact to note is that one can see regional variations in Gurjar Culture in states like Rajasthan, Gujarat, UP, Haryana, etc.

Historical Legacy of the Gurjars: The Gurjars (also spelled Gujjars) have a rich and complex historical legacy that spans across centuries and regions in the Indian subcontinent. Their history is interwoven with various political, cultural, and socio-economic developments, particularly in North India, Pakistan, and parts of Afghanistan. The Pratiharas were known for successfully resisting Arab invasions from the west (notably from the Umayyads), Promoting Hinduism and temple architecture, particularly in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and Being patrons of learning and culture during a time sometimes called a "Golden Age" of northern India. Their capital was at Kannauj, a key center of power in early medieval India.

Gurjars have made immense contributions to Indian defense, society, and politics. Gurjar's role in India's independence struggle and in post-colonial era is well known.

The Gurjar (or Gujjar) community faces a range of contemporary challenges that impact their cultural identity, socio-economic development, and political representation. Urbanization and mainstream assimilation have led to the decline of traditional Gurjar customs, including Folk music, dances, and oral

## "Bringing Gurjar Folk Culture and History to the International Stage"

### ...Contd

storytelling traditions. Traditional dress and pastoral practices.

Younger generations are increasingly disconnected from their Gurjar heritage, particularly those migrating to cities for education or employment. Gojri language, once widely spoken among Gurjars (especially in Kashmir and Pakistan), is losing speakers due to the dominance of Urdu, Hindi, and regional languages. Gurjars have traditionally been pastoralists, herders, and farmers (e.g., Van Gujjars in Uttarakhand and Himachal). Due to deforestation, climate change, and government restrictions on forest access, many Gurjars are being forcibly settled, disrupting centuries-old migratory patterns. Limited access to alternative livelihoods has led to poverty, debt, and migration to cities for work. In many regions, Gurjars remain educationally and economically disadvantaged with Low literacy rates, especially among women, Limited access to healthcare, sanitation, and higher education, High unemployment or underemployment in rural areas. In India, this has prompted frequent agitations for reservation status often leading to violent clashes with the state.

To bridge this gap and to strategise for Global Reach, a multi-pronged approach is needed. Digital tools like YouTube, social media, and multilingual blogs can amplify Gurjar voices worldwide. Cultural

exchange programs, international festivals, and support from Indian embassies can further showcase this vibrant heritage. Academic collaborations, diaspora engagement, and creative media—such as films, music, and fashion inspired by Gurjar themes—can connect new audiences to this powerful identity. Digital Promotion covering YouTube documentaries, social media campaigns, Multilingual blogs, podcasts, and eBooks, Use of trending hashtags (#GurjarCulture, #PrideOfGujjars) on social media platforms would help. Cultural Exchange & Events:- Participate in international folk festivals.- Organize "Gurjar Heritage Weeks" abroad.- Involve Indian embassies & cultural centers. Academic Collaboration, Research publications, conferences. Introducing Gurjar studies in universities. Student-exchange programs and fellowships can be explored. Finally NRI and Diaspora Engagement, Creating Global Gurjar Network encourages NRGs (Non-Resident Gurjars) to promote culture locally, Celebrating Gurjar pride events in foreign countries are welcome. By combining tradition with modern outreach, Gurjar culture can be preserved, celebrated, and promoted on the global stage.

The time is now to share our stories with the world—with pride, purpose, and unity.

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## Public Appeal

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Dear Gurjar Patron,

This newsletter is brought out by the Rashtriya Gurjar Itihas, Sahitya evam Bhasha Shodh Sansthan, Sikar, Rajasthan

The Shodh Sansthan is involved in promoting Gurjar Culture around the world; hence, please share this responsibility to the greatest extent possible through your cooperation.

Research activities, Conferences, Workshops, and academic programs are planned. Please donate generously to the Shodh Sansthan. You can also be a patron and sponsor events, programs etc.

There is an urgent need to preserve and protect our Gurjar Culture. If you find any new information, relic, tradition, cuisine, literature, please share the same with us on the email given below: [gurjaritihassansthan@gmail.com](mailto:gurjaritihassansthan@gmail.com)

If you find a new temple, painting, or memorial stone, you can share the picture on the Sansthan's instagram id: [gurjarsanskritishodh](https://www.instagram.com/gurjarsanskritishodh)

Please note that only academic, research posts will be accepted.

Thanks for your Cooperation.

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