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TNN / Updated: Oct 30, 2017, 09:34 IST

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Filmmaker couple Anjali Monteiro and K P Jayasankar were in Kochi as part of the screening of their latest film, 'A Delicate Weave', on the pastoral communities of Kachchh. (Photo: Jipson

KOCHI: Despite living in a society marred by violence and intolerance in the name of religion, traditions and ideologies, Kachchh district stands out as an exception as this region remained peaceful even during one of the worst communal riots in Gujarat.

This is what motivated filmmaker couple Anjali Monteiro and K P Jayasankar to do a documentary series on the pastoral communities of Kachchh region.

The award-winning documentary filmmakers were in Kochi as part of the second screening of their latest documentary film titled 'A Delicate Weave' at Children's Park Theatre on Saturday.

The third film in the Kachchh trilogy series narrates the musical journey of four passionate musicians who belong to the pastoral communities of Kachchh.

"Despite Kachchh being a melting pot of religions, it remained calm while violence was unleashed in rest of Gujarat. This inspired us to explore the sociocultural fabric of Kachchh that makes it an island of peace in a sea of intolerance, and that is when we decided to embark on the process of documenting the Sufi traditions of music, storytelling and poetry which are integral part of the pastoral community

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over there," said the couple, who are professors at the School of Media and Cultural Studies at Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Mumbai (TISS).

Through the documentary, they have tried to present the rustic livelihood of the pastoral

A delicately woven musical journey musical and

syncretic traditions of spiritual and belief systems.

The documentary literally transports the viewers to the present-day life in the rural Kachchh, considered to be the citadel of the Indus Valley civilization.

The documentary unfolds through songs and music of a carpet weaver called Naranbhai Siju and a group of young men in Bhujodi who come together to sing the bhajans of Kabir every evening.

"We are breaking down the walls that have been built up through the politics of hatred and intolerance through our music and traditions," says Naranbhai Siju, a local, in the documentary.

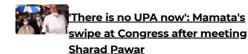
Zareena Hasan Zodha, the feisty women from Lakhpat, who dared to sing songs in her village is another interesting character in the film.

The 67-minute documentary in detail discusses folk music traditions, religious diversity and syncretistic beliefs, repertoire of poetry, folk lore, embroidery and architectural practices of people living there.

"It is interesting to note that the pastoral communities even today draw upon bhakti poems written by Kabir Das, who is known as the mystic-weaver poet. Similarly, the poems of <u>Sindhi-Sufi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai</u> are still sung by the communities. Majority of these poems are based on legendary stories," said Jayasankar.



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