

The Times of India, Mumbai, 10 Oct 2008

# Tribal takes 'pariksha' to prove

## Rajasthan Panchayat Forces Woman To Put Her Hands In

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



**Jaipur:** A tribal woman in Rajasthan's Sirohi district was forced by a village panchayat to face a 'pariksha' to prove that she was not a witch. The 32-year-old not only burnt her fingers when she was asked to pick up silver coins from a vessel filled with boiling oil but was also beaten black and blue for failing the 'traditional test'. Her ordeal didn't end here. Her family members didn't let her in the house and instead dumped her in a hospital. The police have arrested five of the 23 accused for the incident that took place on Sunday.

It all started when two members of the Gharasiya tribe in Khara vil-

lage died in a month. The family held 32-year-old Gujriya, resident of the same village, responsible for the

A village panchayat in Rajasthan's Sirohi district forced a 32-year-old woman to pick up silver coins from a vessel containing boiling oil to prove that she was not a witch. Not only did she sustain severe burns, but the woman was beaten black and blue for failing the test

deaths. The matter was taken to the village panchayat, which after hearing the complaint of Gharasiyas, told

