



Odisha's Bonda Tribe

Why in News

Recently, four people from the **Bonda tribal community** have tested positive for the [Covid-19](#).



Key Points

- **PVTGs:** Bondas are one of the 13 [Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups \(PVTGs\)](#) found in Odisha.
 - There are a **total of 75 PVTGs in India**.
- **Austroasiatic Tribes:** Bondas are members of a group of **Austroasiatic tribes**, they are believed to be **part of the first wave of migration out of Africa** about 60,000 years ago. They are the **first forest settlers in India**.
- **Culture:** The Bondas have **retained their identity and culture** despite external interventions over the years.
 - **Primarily forest dwellers**, the Bondas used to hunt and forage for food in the wild.
 - **Matriarchal society**-The women prefer to marry men who are younger by at least 5-10 years, so that the men can earn for them when they grow old.
 - **Unique dressing style**- Women are semi clad and wear various types of rings and necklaces around their bodies, while the men carry lethal bows and arrows.
 - **Language**- They continue to speak in their **language, Remo**, which comes under the Austroasiatic language belonging to the Mundari group.
 - The Mundari group of languages are spoken by **Munda people**.
- **Division:** The Bonda tribe is divided into two groups based on their settlement:

- The **Upper Bondas** living in the inaccessible forests.
- The **Lower Bondas** in the plains.
- **Tribes in Odisha:**
 - Odisha is home to 62 tribal communities — the **largest diverse groups of tribal population in India.**
 - Thirteen of them are PVTGs— **Bonda, Birhor, Chuktia Bhunjia, Didayi, Dungaria Kandha, Hill Kharia, Juang, Kutia Kondh, Lanjia Saora, Lodha, Mankirdia, Paudi Bhuyan and Saora.**
 - Tribal populations are found in the **entire seven districts of Kandhamal, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Nabarangpur, Koraput, Malkangiri and Rayagada**, and in parts of six other districts.

[Source: TH](#)

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