



## Namath Basai: Kerala

The Kerala State government is carrying out a unique programme called “**Namath Basai**” of **teaching tribal children in their mother tongue.**

### Key Points

- The programme is being implemented by the [Samagra Shiksha Kerala \(SSK\)](#).
  - SSK is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12.
  - It aims at improving school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes.
- It has succeeded in retaining **hundreds of tribal children in their online classes** using their mother tongue as language of instruction.
  - Teaching in the tribal language has to a good extent stopped students from dropping out, which is quite usual in hamlets
- It offers pre-recorded classes through a YouTube channel in three tribal languages in **Attappady** valley in Palakkad District Kerala.
  - These languages belong to the **Irula, Muduka and Kurumba tribes.**
- It is being introduced in the tribal belts of Wayanad and Idukki as well. Classes are offered in the Oorali, Muthuvan and Paniya languages in Idukki.
  - Wayanad has the highest number of tribals in Kerala followed by Idukki.

### Kurumba Tribe

- Popularly known as Mala Pulayans, Hill Pulayans and Pamba Pulayans.
- Traditional occupation : Foraging and shifting cultivation
  - Collect forest products like honey, wax, soapnut, turmeric, ginger and wild cardamoms.
  - Art of **body tattooing.**
  - Skilled in manufacture of baskets and mats
- **Religion: Animism** (belief in spirituality of objects, places, and creatures) and **Totemism** (Worship of any species of plants or animals thought to possess supernatural powers)

### Irula or Irular Tribe

- **Occupation:** Agriculturists
  - Grow Paddy, Ragi, dhal, plantains, chillies and turmeric
- **Religion:** The majority worship **Vishnu** under the name of Rangaswami and Siva without differentiation.
  - Some practice **animism** and worship the tiger.

## Mudugars or Muduka

- Have social divisions at kal (clan) level.
- **Traditional Occupation:** Food gatherers and hunters.
- **Religion: Hinduism**
  - Worship Shiva

[Source: TH](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/namath-basai-kerala>

