



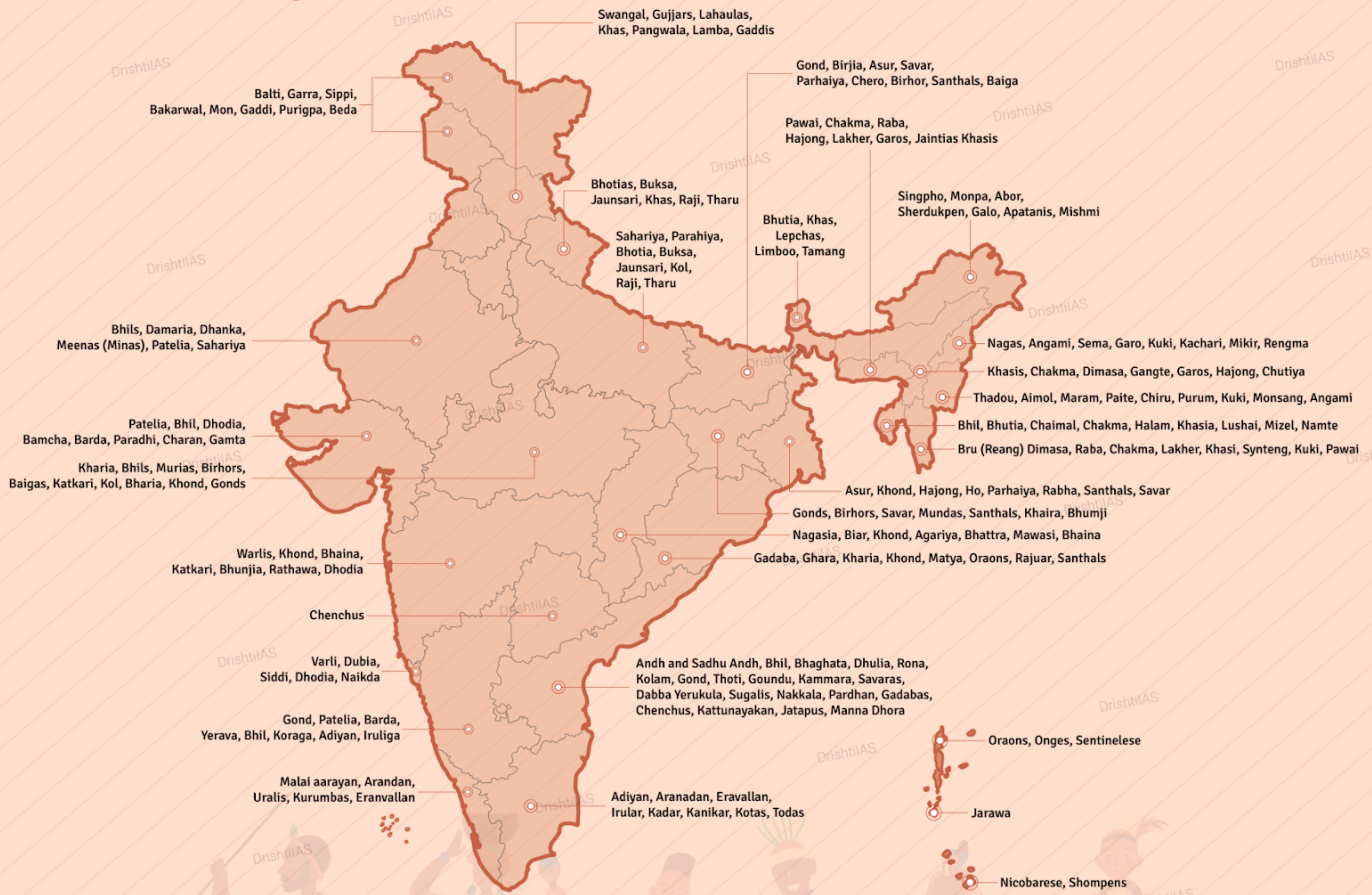
Kandha Tribe

[Source: TH](#)

Facial tattooing among **Kandha** tribal women in Odisha's Kandhamal district is a **fading tradition**, reflecting both **past trauma** and **present-day empowerment**.

- Facial tattoos among Kandha women, applied from **age 10** in **geometric patterns**, served as a **form of protection against [sexual exploitation](#) (not decorative)** by landlords, royals, and British colonizers.
- **About Kandha Tribe:** It is **numerically highest** among all the **62 tribes** of Odisha, making up **17.13%** of the state's tribal population according to the **2001 [Census](#)**.
 - They speak **Kui or Kuvi (Dravidian languages)** and call themselves '**Kui loku**', '**Kui enju**', or '**Kuinga**' from the Dravidian Kui and Kuvi languages.
 - **Nuclear families** are **common** and **joint families** are **rarely found**.
 - Their population is concentrated mainly in **south and central Odisha**, especially in **Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, and Kalahandi districts**.
 - Among Kandha communities, **Kutia Kandha** and **Dongria Kandha** are recognized as **[Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups \(PVTGs\)](#)**.
 - **PVTG** is a **more vulnerable** sub-group of Scheduled Tribes. India has **75 PVTGs**, with **Odisha** having the **most (13)**, followed by **Andhra Pradesh (12)**.
 - **Dongria Kandha** are recognized for **opposing mining in the Niyamgiri hills**, while **Kutia Kandha** reside in **distinct homes** with floors situated about **2 ft below the village road level**.

Major Tribes in India



- STs constitute **8.6% of the population of India** (Census 2011). Draft National Tribal Policy, 2006 records **698 STs** in India.
- **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Among the 75 listed PVTGs, the highest number is found in Odisha.
- **Bhil is the largest tribal group** (38% of the total scheduled tribal population of India) followed by the Gonds.
- **Madhya Pradesh has the highest tribal population** in India (Census 2011).
- The **Santhal** are the **oldest tribes** in India. The Santhal system of governance, known as **Manjhi-Paragana**, can be compared to local self-governance.
- According to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes list (modification orders), 1956, the inhabitants of **Lakshadweep** who and both of whose parents were born in these islands are treated as STs.
- **Article 342** of the Constitution prescribes procedure to be followed for specification of STs.
- **Article 275** provides for the **grant of special funds** by the Union Government to the State Government for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and providing them with a better administration.

Read More: [Dongria Kondh Tribe](https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/kandha-tribe)

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