

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 <u>sexual exploitation</u> (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.

Swangal, Gujjars, Lahaulas, Khas, Pangwala, Lamba, Gaddis Gond, Birjia, Asur, Savar, Parhaiya, Chero, Birhor, Santhals, Baiga Singpho, Monpa, Abor, Sherdukpen, Galo, Apatanis, Mishmi Bhutia, Khas Jaunsari, Kol, Raji, Tharu Bhils, Damaria, Dhanka Nagas, Angami, Sema, Garo, Kuki, Kachari, Mikir, Rengma Meenas (Minas), Patelia, Sahariya Khasis, Chakma, Dimasa, Gangte, Garos, Hajong, Chutiya Thadou, Aimol, Maram, Paite, Chiru, Purum, Kuki, Monsang, Angami Bhil, Bhutia, Chaimal, Chakma, Halam, Khasia, Lushai, Mizel, Namte Bru (Reang) Dimasa, Raba, Chakma, Lakher, Khasi, Synteng, Kuki, Pawai Kharia, Bhils, Murias, Birhors Katkari, Kol, Bharia, Khond, Gonds Gonds, Birhors, Savar, Mundas, Santhals, Khaira, Bhumji Nagasia, Biar, Khond, Agariya, Bhattra, Mawasi, Bhaina Gadaba, Ghara, Kharia, Khond, Matya, Oraons, Rajuar, Santhals Warlis, Khond, Bhaina Katkari, Bhunjia, Rathawa, Dhodia Chenchus Varli, Dubia, Siddi, Dhodia, Naikda Andh and Sadhu Andh, Bhil, Bhaghata, Dhulia, Rona, Kolam, Gond, Thoti, Goundu, Kammara, Savaras, Dabba Yerukula, Sugalis, Nakkala, Pardhan, Gadabas, Chenchus, Kattunayakan, Jatapus, Manna Dhora Gond, Patelia, Barda Yerava, Bhil, Koraga, Adiyan, Iruliga Oraons, Onges, Sentinelese Malai aarayan, Arandan, Uralis, Kurumbas, Eranvallan Nicobarese, Shompens

- 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

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