



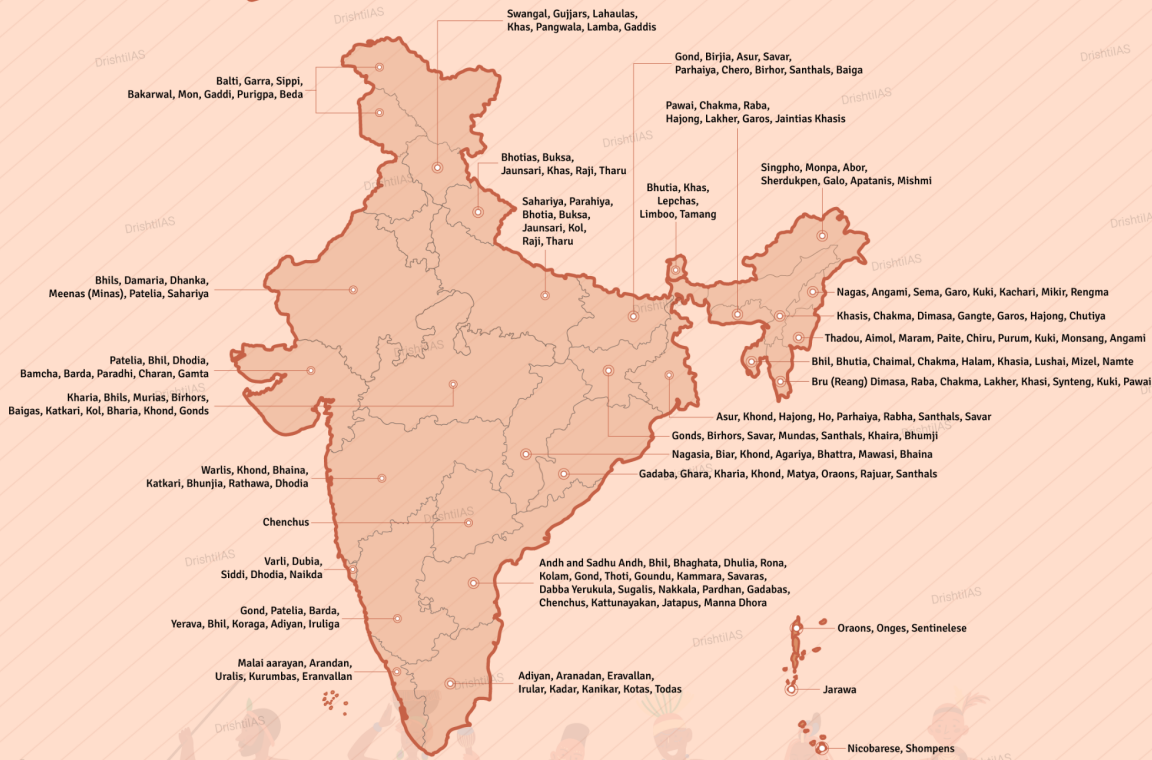
## Dongria Kondh Tribe

[Source: TH](#)

The [Dongria Kondh](#) are a [Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group \(PVTG\)](#) residing in Odisha's **Niyamgiri Hills** and are known for their **spiritual bond with nature, and distinct culture**.

- **Dongria Kondh Tribe:** They worship **Niyam Raja**, the deity of the hills, and follow **practices** like [Podu \(shifting\) cultivation](#)
  - They speak **Kui**, an ancient [Dravidian language](#), and pass down ancestral wisdom through **oral traditions (no script)** of songs and dance.
  - They have a number of **sub-tribes**, such as the **Kovi, Kuttia, Languli, Penga, and Jharnia (protector of streams)**.
- **Land Rights and Legal Victory:** In the 2000s, the tribe strongly opposed **Vedanta's mining operations** on their land.
  - This resistance culminated in a landmark **2013 Supreme Court judgment** that upheld the [Gram Sabha's](#) constitutional right to reject mining projects in their area.
- **PVTG:** is a **sub-classification** of a Scheduled Tribe that is considered **more vulnerable** than a regular Scheduled Tribe.
  - India has **75 PVTGs**, with the **highest number (13) in Odisha**, followed by 12 in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Niyamgiri Hill Range:** It is located in **Kalahandi and Rayagada** districts of Odisha, is bordered by **Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary** to the northwest and **Kotgarh Wildlife Sanctuary** to the northeast.

# 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/dongria-kondh-tribe)

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