



# VIEWFINDER

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# VIEWFINDER

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Cover Picture :

FIP PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2022 (Contest 1) WINNER – 1st

“Ramnani 5” - ABHIJEET KUMAR BANERJEE

# TRIBALS IN ODISHA

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Retd. Chief Photographer, The Hindu

Dense forests, a hilly topography and remote tracts of land help Odisha state support a thriving tribal population. 645 tribes in India, Odisha Hosts the largest number of 62 indigenous tribal communities residing in the State.

Unchanged for centuries and mostly untouched by civilization, the ancient tribal settlements are found on hills or close to rivers flowing near forests. Yet the cultural ethos, identity and vitality of the state is deeply influenced by its rich ethnic tribal diversity. While some share common characteristics, each tribe varies greatly in terms of hair style, lifestyle, cultural traditions, religious beliefs, folklore, language and appearance. There is no script for tribal language.

Tribal economy is driven essentially by activities around the jungle. Most communities were hunter-gatherers, who also did some fishing as a source of livelihood. Agriculture and farming are also practiced with slash and burn technique or shifting cultivation (Local use this name Podu cultivation). However, larger tribes have adopted newer agriculture practices and cattle breeding. Some local tribes sustain themselves with crafts and artisan skills. The local Haat (Market) is the best time to see various tribes together. Haats are held on specific days at specific venues and offer tribal platforms to buy provisions or livestock or sell their wares. Despite poverty and a struggle for survival, they still retain their heritage and love music, dance and revelry. Some Tribal's don't allow others to enter their community. If we want to know

about them first we have to take permission from the head of the tribal community. ITDA helping welfare of tribal development providing health, education and all facilities.

I covered these tribes of Odisha state south part in 5 days. In this journey though I faced some problems I closely monitored these tribes at their villages. Totally I covered 4 districts i.e. Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Pulbhani. I stayed in Rayagada and travel 6 to 8 hours every day to cover these tribal cultures.

## 1. BONDA TRIBES

Bonda tribe or Remo are an ethnic group of the Munda. According to the 2011 census the population of the Bondo is Approximately 12,000 and they reside in hilly regions of the Malkangiri district which is located Western part of the Odisha. Bondas are the oldest and most

primitive tribe of India. The Language spoken by them is known as Remo. Recently Bondas have begun taking up jobs of migrant labourers as well as clerical jobs in Government offices.



POSE- Bonda women at their village in Onakadelli in Odissa State



TRADITIONAL- A Bonda woman separate rice in traditional way in her house in Malkangiri district of Odissa State



CHANGE- Bonda women changes their lyfesyle in Malkangiri district of Odissa State



WITH HER BROTHERS- Bonda children with her brothers their houses in Malkangiri district of Odissa State



DRINK- A Bonda woman having a drink in her house in Malkangiri district of Odissa State



HAND GRINDING- A Bonda woman hand grinding in her house in Malkangiri district of Odissa State



MAKERS- Bondas used these equipment for grading food items in Malkangiri district of Odissa State



HAND GRINDING- A Bonda woman hand grinding in her house in Malkangiri district of Odissa State



VILLAGE- A View of the Bondas village in Malkangiri district of Odissa State



RETURN HOME- A Gadaba woman return her home with her goats in Koraput District of Odissa State

## 2. GADABA TRIBES

The Gadaba tribe is one of the colourful tribes of Odisha, classified as speakers of Mundari of Kolarian Language. Koraput district has the highest Gadaba Population found in blocks of lamtaput. Gadabas are considered as one of the early settlers of our Country and trace their origin to the time of Ramayan. The name of Gadaba seems to have been derived



HELPING- Gadaba women helping each other in Koraput District of Odissa State

from the word Gada, name of a book in the region. Gadabas are the primitive tribe of agriculturists, coolies and hunters. Most Gadabas speak Desia, some speak local Oriya Language and some of Telugu. So, mostly Gadabas are Trilingual or Bilingual.



SEPARATION- A Gadaba woman grading in Koraput District of Odissa State



MAKING HOSUE- A Gadaba man build his house with sand in Korput Distirct of Odissa State



CULTIVATON- Gadaba people cultivating paddy in Koraput District of Odissa State



BEATIFUL SEEN- A view of the thick fog middle of the hills Korapur Distirct in Odissa Sate

### 3. DONGRIA TRIBES

DongriaKondh is located in the Niyamgiri hill range in Rayagada District of Odisha State. The DongriaKondh sustain themselves from the resources that they can gather from the forest and through livestock and farming. The name of Dongria is derived from them Dongar which means agricultural land on hill slopes and they have named themselves as Jharnia which means the protector of the streams. They conserve among themselves in the Kui language that does not have written script but it is spoken by the Kondh tribe. The members of DongriaKondh tribe worship the mountain God Niyam Raja and show respect to the hills and streams and every aspect of their lives revolve around the mountain so much that even art style is influenced by mountains, i.e, the triangular designs found on villages shrines. The Dongrias have distinctive hairstyles, jewellery and tattoos. The women members of the tribe wear a lot of rings on their ears and three rings on their noses. The girls of this tribe also wear clips and small knives in their hair and. They live in Villages spread throughout the hills. These people are against Bauxite mining in their areas.

The Dongrias have distinctive hairstyles, jewellery and tattoos. The women members of the tribe wear a lot of rings on their ears and three rings on their noses, while the boys wear two nose rings. The girls of this tribe also wear clips in their hair and rings and beads around their necks. They live in villages spread throughout the hills. These people are against bauxite mining in their areas.



GROUP- A group of Dongria women at Nimgiri of Rayagada Distirct in Odissa State.



WAY TO- Dongria women go to work at Nimgiri of Rayagada Distirct in Odissa State.



GROUP- A group of Dongria women at Nimgiri of Rayagada Distirct in Odissa State.



ON THIER WAY- A Dongria woman go to work with her child at Nimgiri near Bessamcuttak in Odissa State.



SEPARATION- A Dongria woman grading fruits at Nimgiri of Rayagada Distirct in Odissa State.



AXE- A Lanjia Man with axei n Rayagada Distirct of Odissa State



ADJUST- Lanjia people in Rayagada Distirct of Odissa State



BATH- A Lanjia woman bathing with a stone with water ata waterfall at a village in Odissa State



PUFF- A Lanjia woman enjoy with igar in Rayagada Distirct of Odissa State



GREENARY- A beatiful landscape near Rayagda of Odissa State

#### 4. LANJIA SAURA TRIBES

Lanjia Saurais an autonomous tribal group that shares common values, style of life and exclusive symbols of identity among its members. They are part of the larger proto-australoid racial group having dark skins, wavy hairs and short heights. They speak the Sora language. They reside in hilly regions of the Rayagada district of Odisha state. This tribe has a habit of carrying an axe always shouldered with the traditional occupation of hunting and subsistence farming. Sora is derived from So meaning hidden and Ara meaning tree. The hill sauras are called LanjiaSauras because of their male dress style in which the ends of the Loincloth hang like a tail at the back. The term Lanjia means having a tail. They wear round ear plugs. They wearwhite clothes with grey or red borders.



DANCE- Lanjia people dance in Rayagada Distirct of Odissa State



SPLASH- A Lanjia woman enjoy with water ata waterfall in Rayagada Distirct of Odissa State



SPLASH- A Lanjia woman enjoy with water ata waterfall in Rayagada Distirct of Odissa State



GO TO SCHOOL A Kutia Kondhs woman dropping to school her grand children at Pulbhni area in Odissa district



WATER- A Kutia Kondhs woman carrying drinking water from a borewell at Pulbhni area in Odissa district



MUSEUM- A view of the triabla museum at Pulbhni area in Odissa district

## 5. KUTIA HONDHS TRIBE

The Kutia-Kondh is one of the primitive sections of the Kondh tribe. They live in hill tops and valleys. The language spoken by them is known as Kui, Kuvi. They are mostly dependent on shifting cultivation. They reside in hilly regions of Phulbani area which is located in the south-western part of the Odisha state. These tribes put their faces on Tattoos for preconisation. The KutiaKondh houses cross rectangular spaces facing each other. All the houses of the village maintain a single roof, although each house has a partition wall and the varandha run from one end to other. They have painted the outer surface of the walls. Women of Kuthia tribe of Odisha, called the people of the spirit World. Women put on their faces beautiful facial tattoos it is said that these identifying marks ensure they recognise each other once they enter the spirit World.



WAITING- A Kutia Konds ages woman wating her family mmbers at Pulbhni area in Odissa district



TIE- A Kutia Khonds woman tie her hair at Pulbhni area in Odissa district





"1 Show Off"

SHIBASISH SAHA



"2 Sharing is Caring"

SHIBASISH SAHA



"3 Being Aggressive"

SHIBASISH SAHA



A story of Blue Tail Bee eaters from Khisma Forest in West Bengal. Blue tail bee eaters are bigger in size as compared to other bee eaters and very aggressive too. This series is about how they catches flies to impress the females for reproduction and extending their family life.



"4 Making Love"

SHIBASISH SAHA



"5 Final Meal"

SHIBASISH SAHA

