



TRIBES : GEOGRAPHY

NEWS: *In dark shadow of a powerhouse: tribes who built A.P power project live in darkness*

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS ?

In the 1970s, members of four tribes—Porja (a PVTG), Bagata, Goud and Konda Dora—of Odisha migrated to Andhra Pradesh to work for Lower Sileru Hydro-Electric Project construction. Half a century later, these tribal people, who poured in their blood and sweat for the power project that lights up the State, continue to reel under darkness even as they fight on the back foot, for electricity

PORJA TRIBE:	BAGATA TRIBE:	KONDA DORA TRIBE:
<p>Population: Approximately 16,479 (Census, 1991).</p> <p>Migration: From Odisha around 300 years ago.</p> <p>Historical Role: Employed as palanquin bearers and for other menial tasks.</p> <p>Name Origin: "Porja" means "son of a king" in Oriya.</p> <p>Occupation: Practice shifting cultivation (Podu).</p> <p>Social Structure: Patriarchal and patrilineal descent.</p> <p>Marriage: Cross-cousin marriages, formal bride price system.</p> <p>Cultural Practices: Tattooing and unique customs within endogamous sub-</p>	<p>Location: Primarily in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.</p> <p>Other Names: Bagatha, Bagat, Bagodi, Bogad, Bhakta.</p> <p>Marriage: Lineage exogamy, negotiation and elopement, divorce and remarriage permitted.</p> <p>Diet: Originally millets, now predominantly rice.</p> <p>Beliefs: Supernaturalism, magic, witchcraft, evil eye, sorcery, luck, ghosts, and totemic nature worship.</p> <p>Governance: Traditional tribal headman for disputes; village headman for inter-tribal issues.</p>	<p>Location: Konda Kamberu ranges of the Eastern Ghats in south Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.</p> <p>Name Origin: 'Kondadora' translates to 'Lords of the Hill.'</p> <p>Other Names: Konda Kapu, Oja, Pandava Raju, Pandava Dora.</p> <p>Language: Originally Kubi/Konda, now predominantly Telugu mixed with Odia.</p> <p>Settlement: Homogeneous settlements, separate wards in multi-ethnic villages.</p> <p>Social Practices: Polygyny and child marriages not prohibited; preference for adult marriage and monogamy.</p>



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<p>groups (e.g., Parangi Porja).</p>		<p>Marriage: Cross cousin marriages preferred, parallel cousin marriages prohibited.</p> <p>Governance: Traditional village council (Kulam Panchayat) and inter-village community council.</p> <p>Division: Endogamous, two main groups: Pedda Kondulu and China Kondulu.</p> <p>Modernization: Traditional lifestyle undergoing transformation due to cultural contact.</p>
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Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/in-dark-shadow-of-a-powerhouse-tribes-who-built-andhra-pradesh-power-project-live-in-darkness-50-years/article68468772.ece>