

Koya Tribe

September 1, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



Koya Tribe Latest News

The Supreme Court recently issued notice on a plea by Koya tribe members challenging Telangana HC's order on the ST status of Lambadi, Sugali & Banjara communities, citing the impact on reservation benefits.

About Koya Tribe

- The Koya are one of the few **multi-racial and multi-lingual tribal communities** in India.
- They live in the forests, plains, and valleys on **both sides of the Godavari River**, in the states of **Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha**.
- According to the 2011 census, the **total population** of these tribes in India is **7,38,629**.
- The Koyas call themselves as "**Koithur**"
- They are said to have **migrated to central India from** their original home in **Bastar, northern India**.

Koya Tribe Language

- Koyas speak the **Koya language**, also known as koya basha, and is a member of the **Dravidian language family**. It is closely **related to Gondi** and has been **strongly influenced by Telugu**.
- Most Koyas **speak either Gondi or Telugu, in addition to Koyi**.

Koya Tribe Occupation

- **Traditionally**, they were **pastoralists and shifting cultivators**, but nowadays, they have **taken to settled cultivation** supplemented by **animal husbandry** and **seasonal forest collections**.
- They grow Jowar, Ragi, Bajra, and other millets.

Koya Tribe Society and Culture

- All Koya belong to one of **five sub-divisions called gotrams**. Every Koya is born into a clan, and he cannot leave it.
- The Koyas have a **patrilineal and patrilocal family**. The **family** is **called “Kutum”**. The **nuclear family** is the predominant type.
- **Monogamy** is prevalent among the Koyas.
- The Koya usually **live in villages located near dependable water sources**.
- Villages **vary in size** from three to more than sixty houses.
- The **chief of every Koya village** is called **“Peda”**.
- The Koya practice their own **ethnic religion**, but **also worship a number of Hindu gods** and goddesses.
- **Many Koya deities are female**, the most important being the “mother earth.”
- They **maintain community funds and grain banks** at the village level to **help the needy families** and provide food security.
- Koyas **either bury or cremate the dead**. They **erect menhirs in memory of the dead**.
- Their **main festivals** are **Vijji Pandum** (seeds charming festival) and **KondalaKolupu** (festival to appease Hill deities).
- Koyas perform a robust, **colourful dance** called **Permakok** (Bison horn dance) during festivals and marriage ceremonies.

Source: **LB**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/koya-tribe/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.