

Konda Reddi Tribe

December 15, 2024 • vajiramandravi.com



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Konda Reddi Tribe Latest News

At least 38 thatched houses belonging to members of the Konda Reddi tribe have been gutted in a fire mishap reportedly due to a short circuit at Sarlanka village in Prathipadu Mandal in Kakinada district, Andhra Pradesh, recently.

About Konda Reddi Tribe

- Konda Reddis is a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** inhabiting the **banks situated on either side of the Godavari River** in the hilly and forest tracts of the East and West Godavari and Khammam districts of **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Language:** Their mother tongue is **Telugu** in its purest and chaste form and a unique accent.
- **Religion:**
 - The primary religion practiced by the Konda Reddi is **Folk Hinduism**, characterized by local traditions and cults of local deities worshiped at the community level.
 - Their main **festivals are Ugadi, Akshade, and Dussehra**.

- **Family and Marriage:**

- The family is **patriarchal and patrilocal. Monogamy is a rule, but polygamous families are also found.**
- Marriage by negotiations, by love and elopement, by service, by capture, and by exchange are socially accepted ways of acquiring mates.

- **Political Organization:**

- They have their **own institution of social control called 'Kula Panchayat'.**
- **Each village** has a **traditional headman called 'Pedda Kapu'.**
- The **office of the headman is hereditary**, and the headman is **also the Pujari (priest) of the village deities.**

- **Livelihood:**

- They are **primarily shifting cultivators** and largely **depend on the flora and fauna of forest** for their livelihood.
 - They **eat a variety of tubers, roots, leaves, wild fruits**, etc.
 - They **collect and sell non-timber forest produce** like tamarind, adda leaves, myrobolan, broomsticks etc., to supplement their meagre income.
 - They largely **cultivate jowar**, which is **their staple food.**
 - The Konda Reddi tribe's way of **life largely revolves around the cow**, which is a source of sustenance for them.
 - These tribal people are aggressive in the **cultivation of commercial crops such as cashew, niger, chilli, and cotton under the Podu cultivation method.**
- The tribe has adopted a **unique circular-shaped architecture for housing.** The houses, built with circular mud walls and thatched roofs, **resemble the Bhunga architecture of Gujarat's Kachchh region.**

Source: TH

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