

Irula Tribe

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Irula Tribe Latest News

In Tamil Nadu's Kunnappattu, Irula families who have lived on the land for generations face eviction and denial of rights, as nearly half remain without legal ownership or recognition.

About Irula Tribe

- The Irula, a **Dravidian ethnic group**, reside in the **Nilgiri Mountains of the Western Ghats**, spread **across Tamil Nadu and Kerala**.
- They are one of India's **oldest indigenous communities**.
- They are Tamil Nadu's second largest Adivasi community.
- They are classified under the **"Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups" category in Tamil Nadu**.
- They also call themselves Erlar or Poosari, while their neighbours refer to them as Eralollu, Irulas, Shikari and Pujari.
- **Language:** They speak **Irula**, which is **related to Dravidian languages like Tamil and Kannada**.
- **Religious Beliefs:**

- The Irula people **don't have a definite god** for them. They are **pantheists** who **make provision for the presence of spirits in humans and objects**.
- Their **main deity** is a virgin goddess called **Kanniamma**, who is deeply **associated with the cobra**.
- **Irula houses** are **built together in small settlements** or villages **called mottas**. The mottas are usually situated on the edges of steep hills and are surrounded by a few dry fields, gardens, and forests or plantations.
- The Irula community is **traditionally associated with healing, traditional medicine, and catching poisonous snakes**.
- Cattle production is another source of income. In the forests they collect wild resources like honey, frankincense, firewood and the like.
- Irulas' **knowledge of snakes and snake venom is legendary**. They can even locate snakes based on their tracks, smell, and droppings.
 - They use traditional knowledge and skills to catch snakes, extract venom, and release the snakes back into the wild without harming them.
 - The **Irula Snake Catchers' Industrial Cooperative Society** is a **major producer of anti-snake venom (ASV) in the country**. It **supplies** almost **80 percent** of the venom that goes into making anti-venom in India.

Irula Tribe FAQs

Q1: What is the Irula tribe famous for?

Ans: They are known for their ancient and intimate knowledge of snakes

Q2: What is the religion of the Irular tribe?

Ans: They practice both traditional Hinduism and pantheism.

Q3: Where do the Irula tribe primarily reside?

Ans: Nilgiri Mountains of the Western Ghats

Source: **NEWM**

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