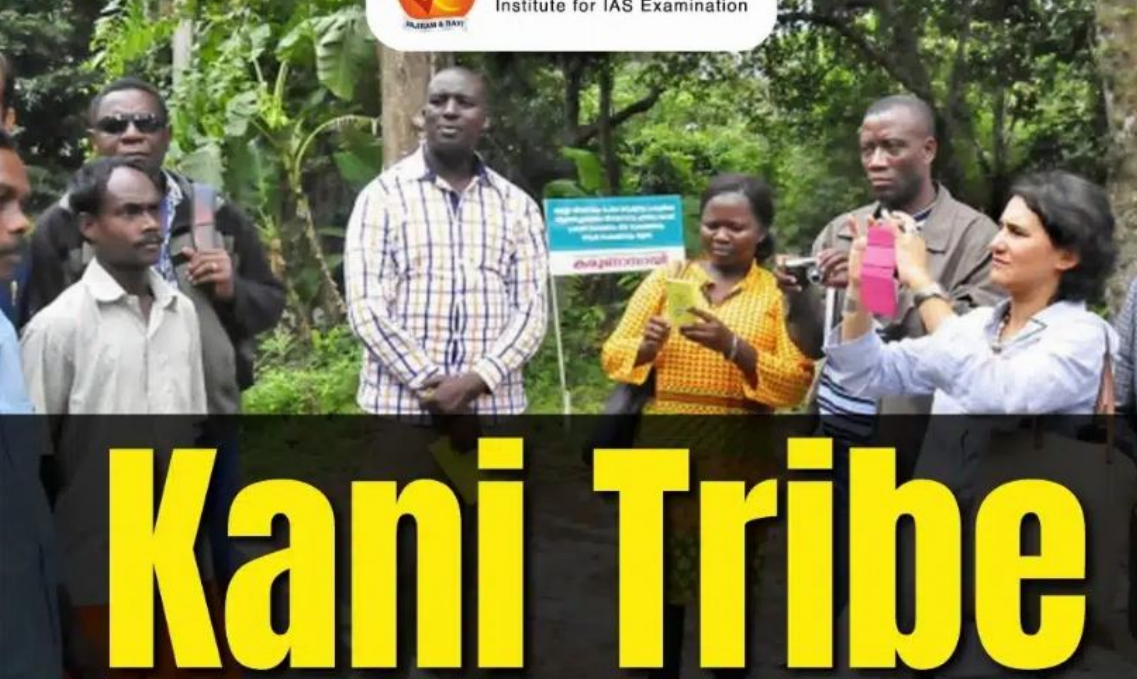




VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

Kani Tribe

Recently, Kuttimathan Kani belongs to the Kani tribal community who revealed Arogyapacha has died.

- The Kani tribals or **Kanikarars** are a **traditionally nomadic community**, who now lead a settled life in the forests of the **Agasthyamalai hills of the Western Ghats** in the Thiruvananthapuram **district of Kerala**.
- Every Kanikkarar settlement has a community council for **maintaining social control**.
- It consists of the **Mootukani** (chief), the **Vilikani** (convenor) and the **Pilathi** (physician and priest). All these offices are hereditary.
- The traditional structure of the community was that of a **highly coordinated unit** under the control of a **tribal chief, called the Moottukani**.
- Traditionally the Moottukani combined the **roles of the law giver, protector** and dispenser of justice, physician and priest.

- **Pilathi** are believed to have magical powers and perform various rituals and chant mantras with the help of an **instrument named 'Kokara.'**
- Today, the Kanis live in **several tribal hamlets**, each consisting of 10 to 20 families dispersed in and around the forest areas of Thiruvananthapuram district.
- **Occupation:** The Kani tribe's traditional occupations include the **production of handicrafts, seasonal collection of minor forest products** such as honey and beeswax, and cultivation of edible plants such as tapioca, banana, millets and cash crops.
- **Language:** They speak Tamil and Malayalam as their language.
- They have vast **knowledge about medicinal plants**.
- According to Kani tribal customs, only the Plathies have the right to transfer and disseminate their traditional medical knowledge.

Source: DTE

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

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