

BHARAT TRIBES FEST 2026



CONTEXT

Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 was concluded recently.



ABOUT

It is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs organised in association with TRIFED.



OBJECTIVE

The 19-day festival brought together tribal artisans, entrepreneurs, and self-help groups from across the country, showcasing India's diverse tribal heritage and products.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – TRIBES OF KARNATAKA



Karnataka is home to approximately **50 notified Scheduled Tribes**, representing about **6.95%** of the state's total population.



These communities are primarily concentrated in the districts of **Bellary, Raichur, Mysore, Chitradurga, and Belgaum.**



MAJOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES



Naikda / Nayaka / Bedar: This is the largest tribal group in Karnataka. Historically a warrior and hunter community, they are also known by names like Valmiki and Beda.



Gond: The second-largest tribal group in the state, primarily settled in northern districts like Bidar and Uttara Kannada.



Jenu Kuruba: Their name literally translates to "honey people" (Jenu means honey), reflecting their traditional expertise in honey gathering in the Western Ghats.



Soliga (Sholaga): Primarily inhabiting the Biligiriranga Hills (BR Hills), they have a deep spiritual connection to the forest and are known for practicing shifting cultivation.



Hakkipikki: Historically semi-nomadic "bird catchers" (Hakki means bird, Pikki means catch), they claim ancestral links to the warrior clans of Rajasthan.



Siddi: A unique ethnic group of African descent, brought to India centuries ago. They are mostly found in the forests of Uttara Kannada and are known for their distinct culture and "Kawandi" quilting art.



Koraga: Identified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), they are native to coastal districts like Udupi and Dakshina Kannada and are traditional basket weavers and drum beaters.



Yerava: Mostly found in Kodagu and Mysore, they are traditionally forest-dwellers who now often work in coffee and tea plantations.