

# Dongria Kondh tribe

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**In news:** The first cases of COVID have been reported among the Dongria Kondh tribe, settled in the **Niyamgiri hills of Odisha**. The tribes had remained untouched during the first wave.

## **About the tribe-**

- The **Dangaria Kandha** or **Dongria Kondh** people are members of the Kondhs.
- They sustain themselves from the resources of the Niyamgiri forests, practising **horticulture and shifting cultivation**.
- Niyamgiri is a hill range spread over 250 km<sup>2</sup> which falls under the Rayagada and Kalahandi District in south-west Odisha, India.
- The Dongria Kondh derive their name from **dongar**, meaning **'agricultural land on hill slopes'**, and the name for themselves is **Jharnia – "protector of streams"**.
- The people of Niyamgiri use **Kui language** which is **not written**.
- They worship **Niyam Raja**.
- The Kondh community is organized into many clans from which **thirty-six clans** are clearly identifiable where each clan possess their own customary territories which are locally also known as **padars (consisting several hills)**.

The socio-political governing and **decision-making body** of the community is also known as **Kutumba**.