

# Toda Tribe

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**In news :** On International Women's Prime Minister of India mention women of Toda tribes and their artistic works

## A brief note on Toda Tribes

- **Location:** They are pastoral tribe of the Nilgiri Hills of southern India, mainly concentrated in Tamil Nadu
- **Language:** They speak **Toda language** which is Dravidian but is the most aberrant of that linguistic stock. They also speak in **other languages like Kannada, Telugu, and Malayalam etc.**
- **House/Settlements:** They live in settlements of from three to seven small thatched houses scattered over the pasture slopes; built on a wooden framework, the typical house has an arched roof in the shape of a half barrel.
- They call their villages as munds, which consist of five buildings or huts, out of which they use three as dwellings, one as a dairy and the other as shelter for the calves at night
- **Trading:** These tribes traditionally trade dairy products, as well as cane and bamboo articles, with the other Nilgiri peoples, receiving Badaga grain and cloth and Kota tools and pottery in exchange
- **Religion:** Their religion centres on the all-important Buffalo. They also worship nature like hill gods, Lord Amodr (the realm of the dead) & Goddess Teikirzi
- **Unique practices:**
  - As per the tradition, ritual must be performed for almost every dairy activity, from milking and giving the herds salt to churning butter and shifting pastures seasonally
  - There are ceremonies for the ordination of dairymen-priests, for rebuilding dairies, and for

rethatching funerary temples.

- These rites and the complex funeral rituals are the major occasions of social intercourse, when intricate poetic songs alluding to the buffalo cult are composed and chanted.
- **Polyandry:** It is fairly common; several men, usually brothers, may share one wife. When a Toda woman becomes pregnant one of her husbands ceremonially presents her with a toy bow and arrow, thus proclaiming himself the social father of her children.
- PVTG: Toda tribe is Listed as Particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG)