

BATHUDI:

Location: Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balesore, Jajpur

Language: Odia (Indo-Aryan)

Population: 217395

Major Festivals & Rituals: Dussehra, Makarsankranti, Raja, Gamha , Kalipuja



The Bathudi are a highly Hinduised tribal community of Odisha, believed to have migrated either from Batuligarh in Dudh or Bakua in the Similipal Hills. They live in uniclan, homogeneous settlements or in separate hamlets within multi-ethnic villages to maintain their cultural identity. The Bathudis follow Hindu and tribal religious practices, with Dehury as their traditional priest, and their family system is nuclear, patrilocal, and patrilineal, organized into several exogamous gotras. Marriages are mostly monogamous, arranged through negotiation with bride price, while widow remarriage, levirate, and sororate are accepted but cross-cousin marriages are taboo. They observe cremation or burial with ten days of death pollution and are governed by a community council led by hereditary chiefs like the Desh Pradhan or Mahanaik, supported by village-level officials.