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Ruler, Protector and Healer: The Clan Gods Sulia, Patkhanda and Sikerpat of the Kondh Tribe

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ABSTRACT One characteristic feature of the religious map of Orissa is the multitude of deities who are of tribal origin. In the rapidly changing conditions of the present day, they are now on the verge of becoming incorporated and assimilated into 'codified Hinduism' and thus identified with one of the great gods like Shiva or Durga. The legends of their history of origin reflect the movement of the tribal groups that are linked with the deities from the jungle to the plains. The Sulia, Sikerpat and Patkhanda clan deities of various Kondh groups are among those deities that are on the verge of this change.

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