



Siddi Tribe

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Why in News

Recently, the Lok Sabha passed the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019**.

- It seeks to include the **Parivara** and the **Taliwara** communities in the **Scheduled Tribes (ST) category** to ensure they get a reservation and other benefits provided by the government.
- The **Siddi** tribes of Belagavi and Dharwad would also be included in the category apart from those living in the Uttar Kannada districts of **Karnataka**.
- The Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha in 2019 and it will amend **Part VI** of the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950**, that specifies the **tribal and tribal communities which are deemed to be Scheduled Tribes**.

Part VI of the order contains the list of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka.

Parivara and Taliwara

- It is estimated that the population of the Parivara community at roughly 2.58 lakh and that of the Taliwara community at 8.6 lakh.
- It added that most people from these communities live in **Mysore, Chamrajanagara, Mandya and Tumkur** districts and a “thin population” resides in **Udupi, South Canara and North Canara districts of Karnataka** with a majority of them employed as coolies, engaged in collecting firewood, husbandry and the cottage industry, thereby leading a life of lower status.
- The study states that the communities’ life cycle rituals, language, lifestyle, the standard of living, physical features, socio-economic and educational status and their geographical isolation are similar to that of Beda, Nayaka and Valmiki which are already included in the ST category in the state of Karnataka.
- As per the government, Parivara and Taliwara are **socially, politically, economically and educationally backwards**.

- The Siddi community is also known by different synonyms such as **Habshi and Badsha**.
- It is believed that they are of **African origin** because they clearly show the **Negroid racial strain** in their physical features.
 - **Descendants of Bantu people of East Africa**, Siddi ancestors were largely brought to India as slaves by Arabs as early as the 7th Century, followed by the Portuguese and the British later on.
 - When slavery was abolished in the 18th and 19th centuries, Siddis fled into the country's thick jungles, fearing recapture and torture.
- At present, the Siddis are living on the **western coast of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka states**. In Karnataka, they mainly live in Dharwad, Belagavi and Uttar Kannada districts.
- In India, the Union government in **2003, classified Siddis under the list of Scheduled Tribes**.
- They are included in the Centre's list of **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups**
- **Previously** they depended on **hunting and gathering** but **at present**, their main source of livelihood is **labour and agriculture**.

Source: TH