



Initiatives for Tribal Communities

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Why in News

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has launched the “Programme for Capacity Building of Scheduled Tribe Representatives in Local Self Governments” along with “1000 Springs Initiatives”.

An online portal on GIS-based Spring Atlas has also been launched.

Capacity Building Initiative

- It is aimed at **empowering tribal Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) representatives** by enhancing their decision making capabilities at local government level.
- Apart from tribal development, it also focuses on **constitutional and legal provisions** that protect and promote the rights and welfare of the tribal population.

1000 Springs Initiative

- The initiative aims at improving **access to safe and adequate water for the tribal communities** living in difficult and inaccessible parts of rural areas in the country.
- The initiative will help in **harnessing the potential of perennial springs' water** to address natural scarcity of water in tribal areas.
 - Springs are **natural sources of groundwater discharge** and have been used extensively in the mountainous regions across the world, including India.
 - 60% of the Indian Himalayan region residents depend on springs, though, 50% of the springs in the Indian Himalayan region have already dried up.
 - However, in the central and eastern Indian belt with more than 75% tribal population, springs remain largely unrecognized and under-utilized.
- It includes provision of infrastructure for piped water supply for drinking; provision of water for irrigation; community-led total sanitation initiatives; and provision for water for backyard nutrition gardens, generating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the tribal people.

Online portal on GIS-based Spring Atlas

- It has been developed to make the **data about hydrological and chemical properties of the Springs** easily accessible from an online platform.
- As of now, data of more than 170 springs have been uploaded on the Spring Atlas.

Source: PIB