



## Katkari Tribe

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### Why in News

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**Katkari tribal youth** from Shahpur in **Maharashtra** are making a name by **selling Giloy and other products online** during lockdown.

- They received help under the **Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY)** run by the **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)**.  
TRIFED is a national level apex organisation functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- **Giloy** (*Tinospora Cordifolia*) is an Ayurvedic herb that has been used and advocated in Indian medicine for ages..

### Key Points

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- Katkari is one of **the 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.
- Katkaris are **located** primarily in Raigad and in parts of Palghar, Ratnagiri and Thane districts of Maharashtra as well as in some places of Gujarat.
- Katkaris were historically forest dwellers.
  - The name **Katkari is derived from a forest-based activity** – the making and bartering or sale of Catechu from the Khair tree (*Acacia Katechu*).
  - **Catechu** is an extract of acacia trees used variously as a food additive, dye, etc. It is extracted by boiling the wood in water and evaporating the resulting brew.
- The British administration had classified them under **the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871**.  
The Act described certain groups of people as ‘habitually criminal’. The stigma associated with the Act continues.

### Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana

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- Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY) is a **retail marketing led value addition plan for Minor Forest Produce (MFP)**, meant for forest-based tribes to optimize the tribal income, locally.
  - MFP means **all non-timber forest produce of plant origin** and includes **bamboo, canes, fodder, leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins and many forms of food including nuts, wild fruits, honey, lac, tusser etc.**
  - It provides both **subsistence and cash income** for people who live in or near forests. They form a major portion of their food, fruits, medicines and other consumption items and also provide cash income through sales.
- Under the program, MFP-based tribal groups / enterprises of around 300 members are formed for collection, value addition, packaging & marketing of Minor Forest Produces (MFPs).

These tribal enterprises are in the form of **Van Dhan Self Help Groups (SHGs)** which is a group of 15-20 members and such 15 SHG groups will further be federated into a larger group of **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs)** of around 300 members.
- TRIFED supports the VDVKs through providing them with model business plans, processing plans & tentative list of equipment for carrying out the value addition work of MFPs.

**Source:PIB**