



Pahariya Tribe

Why in News?

Jharkhand's **Pahariya tribe** aims to **achieve seed independence** by depositing native varieties in **community-led banks**.

Key Points

- In 2019, four community-led seed banks were set up in the **hilly districts of Pakur and Godda**. The banks cater to more than **1,350 households in 90 villages**.
 - They are operated under four panchayats: **Bara Paktari, Bara Sindari, Kunjbona and Karma Tarn**, and are managed by women-led committees.
- To register with the seed banks, members must deposit 2.5 kg of indigenous seeds. Seeds are also provided through state government programmes.
 - During sowing season, the committees decide distribution on a case-by-case basis. So far, they have distributed 3,679 kg of seeds.
 - Members currently provide 0.5 kg of seeds after every harvest to replenish the stocks.
- With immediate demands fulfilled, the residents are now focusing on improving crop yield and becoming self-sufficient in food.

Pahariya Tribe

- They live mainly in the states of **Jharkhand and West Bengal**. They are the **original inhabitants of the Rajmahal Hills**, known today as the Santal Parganas division of Jharkhand.
- They are listed as a **Scheduled Tribe by the governments of West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand**.
- They **speak Malto**, a Dravidian language.
- They **practice jhum or shifting cultivation** which involves clearing land by burning vegetation for farming for a few years.