

MP Leads the Nation in PESA Act Implementation

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh has emerged as a national leader in implementing the <u>Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA)</u>, across 88 tribal blocks, empowering tribal communities to resolve disputes locally through **traditional Chaupals**.

 This empowerment initiative has successfully removed the dependency on police stations for minor conflicts, proving a boon for the tribal population in the state.

Key Points

- National Recognition For MP's Efforts:
 - The <u>Ministry of Panchayati Raj</u> has highlighted the state's success stories in a special booklet, including success stories from <u>Madhya</u> Pradesh, further acknowledging the state's role in setting a national benchmark.
- Dispute Resolution & Financial Empowerment under the Act:
 - Over 8,000 disputes, including family and <u>land-related issues</u>, have been resolved through community meetings called Chaupals.
 - The Act **encourages a collaborative approach to justice**, maintaining tribal traditions while ensuring the community's well-being.
 - The state's efforts also include financial empowerment, with the opening of over 11,000 bank accounts to ensure smooth financial transactions for the tribal communities.
- Committees Established under the Act:
 - Several committees work to oversee the implementation of the PESA Act, such as:
 - Peace and Dispute Redressal Committee
 - Forest Resource Planning and Control Committee
 - Sahayogi Matru Samiti (Mothers' Cooperation Committees)
 - These committees play a vital role in ensuring the smooth functioning of the Act and its goals in the state.

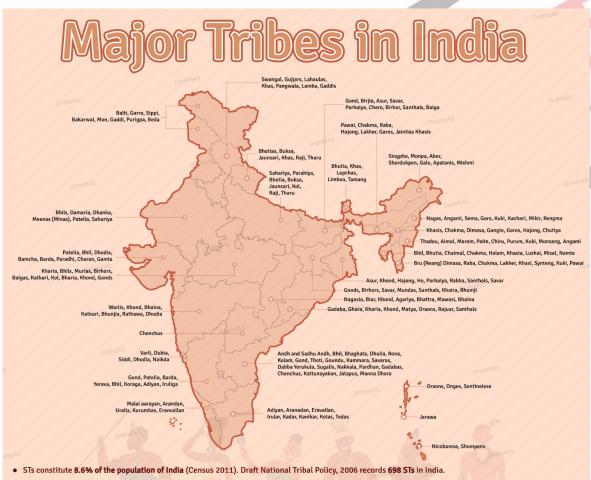
PESA Act, 1996

- About:
 - The PESA Act was enacted on 24th December 1996 to ensure self-governance for people living in tribal areas, called <u>Scheduled Areas</u>, through traditional village assemblies known as Gram Sabhas.
 - The Act extended the provisions of Panchayats by providing self-tribal rule to the tribal areas of **Fifth Schedule** states.
- Legislation:
 - The Act defines Scheduled Areas as those mentioned in Article 244(1), which states that
 the Fifth Schedule applies to Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in states other than
 Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
 - Scheduled Areas of India, which are areas **notified by the <u>President</u>** as predominantly inhabited by tribal communities.
 - 10 states have notified Fifth Schedule areas that cover (partially or fully) several

districts in each of these states.

- **These include** Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Telangana.
- Significant Provisions:

Provisions	Description
Gram Sabha	Acts as a forum for community participation,
	overseeing development plans.
Village-level Institutions	Establishes Gram Panchayat, Gram Sabha, and
	Panchayat Samiti for local services.
Powers & Functions	Grants significant powers to manage resources and
	regulate economic activities.
Consultation	Mandates consultation with the Gram Sabha before
	development projects in Scheduled Areas.
Funds	Ensures funds are transferred to the Gram
	Panchayat for effective functioning.
Land Rights	Protects tribal land rights, requiring consent for land
	acquisition or transfer.
Cultural & Social Practices	Safeguards tribal customs and prohibits
	interference with cultural practices.



- Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Among the 75 listed PVTGs, the highest number is found in Odisha.
- Bhil is the largest tribal group (38% of the total scheduled tribal population of India) followed by the Gonds.
- Madhya Pradesh has the highest tribal population in India (Census 2011).
- The Santhal are the oldest tribes in India. The Santhal system of governance, known as Manjhi-Paragana, can be compared to local self-governance.
- According to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes list (modification orders), 1956, the inhabitants of Lakshadweep who and both of whose parents were born in these islands are treated as STs.
- Article 342 of the Constitution prescribes procedure to be followed for specification of STs.
- Article 275 provides for the grant of special funds by the Union Government to the State Government for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and providing them with a better administration.

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