



# MP Leads the Nation in PESA Act Implementation

## Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh **has emerged as a national leader in implementing the [Panchayats \(Extension to Scheduled Areas\) Act, 1996 \(PESA\)](#)**, 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 [Ministry of Panchayati Raj](#) has highlighted the state's success stories in a special booklet, **including success stories from Madhya 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 [land-related issues](#), 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

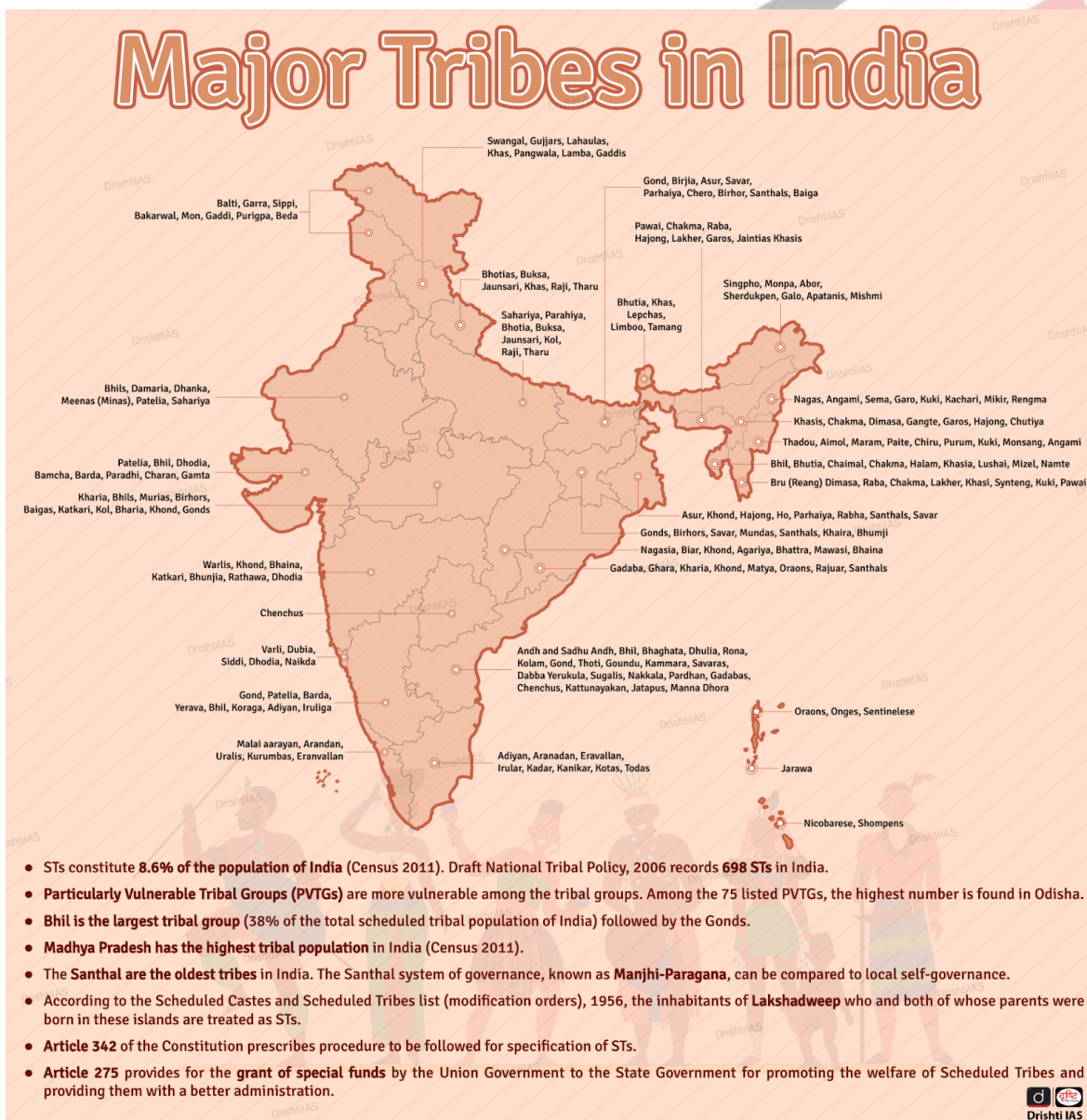
- **About:**
  - The PESA Act was **enacted on 24th December 1996** to ensure self-governance for people living in tribal areas, called [Scheduled Areas](#), through traditional village assemblies known as Gram Sabhas.
  - The Act extended the provisions of Panchayats by providing self-tribal rule to 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 President** 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
<a href="#">Gram Sabha</a>	Acts as a forum for community participation, overseeing development plans.
<b>Village-level Institutions</b>	Establishes Gram Panchayat, Gram Sabha, and Panchayat Samiti for local services.
<b>Powers &amp; Functions</b>	Grants significant powers to manage resources and regulate economic activities.
<b>Consultation</b>	Mandates consultation with the Gram Sabha before development projects in Scheduled Areas.
<b>Funds</b>	Ensures funds are transferred to the <a href="#">Gram Panchayat</a> for effective functioning.
<b>Land Rights</b>	Protects tribal land rights, requiring consent for land acquisition or transfer.
<b>Cultural &amp; Social Practices</b>	Safeguards tribal customs and prohibits interference with cultural practices.



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