



## Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) Meet in Jharkhand

### Why in News?

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren **chaired the Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) meeting.**

- The aim is to implement **Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA)** rules, ease land sale norms, improve tribal welfare, and preserve tribal culture and traditions in the state.

### Key Points

#### Tribes Advisory Councils (TACs)

- **Constitutional Provision:** As per **Article 244(1)** of the **Fifth Schedule** of the Constitution:
  - **TACs must be established** in each state with **Scheduled Areas**.
  - The **President** may direct the formation of TACs in states with **Scheduled Tribes** but no Scheduled Areas.
- **Objective:** TAC is responsible for advising on issues related to the welfare and advancement of Scheduled Tribes in the State whenever referred to it by the **Governor**.
- **Council Composition:**
  - TAC shall consist of not more than 20 members.
  - **Around three-fourths** must be **Scheduled Tribe (ST) representatives** from the State Legislative Assembly.
- **States with TACs in Scheduled Areas:** TACs have been formed in the following 10 states with Scheduled Areas — Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.
- **States with TACs but No Scheduled Areas:** West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.

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### Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (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.**

▪ **Significant Provisions:**

- The PESA Act **establishes the Gram Sabha as a forum for community participation** in the development process. It is responsible for identifying development projects, preparing development plans, and implementing these plans.
- The Act **mandates the establishment of village-level institutions**, including the Gram Panchayat, the Gram Sabha, and the Panchayat Samiti, to carry out development activities and provide basic services to the community.
- Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayat are **granted significant powers and functions related to managing natural resources** and regulating economic activities.
- The Act **provides for the protection of land rights of tribal communities** in the Scheduled Areas, requiring their consent before any land is acquired or transferred.
- The Act **safeguards the cultural and social practices of tribal communities** in the Scheduled Areas, prohibiting any interference in these practices.

## Note

- Jharkhand has the **12<sup>th</sup> largest tribal population** in India, comprising 8.3% of the country's Scheduled Tribes.
- **Major Tribes of Jharkhand:**
  - **Gondi** (one of the largest groups in India)
  - **Munda** (one of India's largest scheduled tribes)
  - **Santal** (largest tribe in the Jharkhand state of India in terms of population)

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