

Baiga Tribal Group Gets Habitat Rights In Chhattisgarh

Why In The News?

- Ahead Of Assembly Elections In Chhattisgarh, The **Baiga Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** Monday Became The Second To Get **Habitat Rights** In The State, After The **Kamar PVTG On August 9**.
- A **Total Of 19 Baiga Villages** With A **Population Of 6,483 People** (2,085 Families) Have Been Given The Habitat Rights. These Villages/Para/Tola Of Gaurela Block Received The Rights In A Special Event Organised By The District Administration.
- The Baiga Community Primarily Resides In Rajnandgaon, Kawardha, Mungeli, Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (GPM), Manendra-Bharatpur Chirmiri, And Bilaspur Districts Of The State. The Community Also Lives In The **Adjacent Districts Of Madhya Pradesh**.



What Are Habitat Rights?

- Habitat Rights Recognition Provides The **Community Concerned Rights Over Their Customary Territory Of Habitation**, Socio-cultural Practices, Economic And Livelihood Means, Intellectual Knowledge Of Biodiversity And Ecology, Traditional Knowledge Of Use Of Natural Resources, As Well As Protection And Conservation Of Their Natural And Cultural Heritage.

- Habitat Rights Safeguard And **Promote Traditional Livelihood And Ecological Knowledge** Passed Down Through Generations. They Also Help Converge Different Government Schemes And Initiatives From Various Departments To **Empower PVTG Communities** To Develop Their Habitats.

Which Tribes Are Termed PVTG?

- According To **The Ministry Of Tribal Affairs**, Tribal Communities Who Are Technologically Backward, Who Have Stagnant Or Declining Population Growth, Extremely Low Level Of Literacy, And A Subsistence Level Of Economy Are Declared As PVTG.
- PVTGs Have **Low Health Indices And Largely Reside In Isolated, Remote, And Difficult Areas** In Small And Scattered Hamlets/Habitats. The Ministry Has Identified **75 PVTGs In 18 States And One Union Territory**.
- In 2019, The **MoTA Started A Scheme** For Their Protection And Improvement In Terms Of Social Indicators Like Livelihood, Health, Nutrition And Education To Decrease Their Vulnerability.



How Many States Have Recognised Habitat Rights?

- **Out Of 75 PVTG In India, Only Three Have Habitat Rights.** The Bharia PVTG In Madhya Pradesh Was The First, Followed By The Kamar Tribe And Now The Baiga Tribe In Chhattisgarh.

How Many PVTGs Does Chhattisgarh Have?

- There Are **Seven PVTGs In Chhattisgarh**, Who Live In 17 Of The State's 33 Districts. These Are Kamar, Baiga, Pahadi Korba, Abujhmadiya, Birhor, Pando And Bhujia.
- The Total Population Of PVTG Tribes In Chhattisgarh As Per The 2015-2016 Survey Is **2.50 Lakh** While The Population Of Tribals In Chhattisgarh As Per The 2011 Census Is **78.22 Lakh**.

