Bajau Tribes (Sea Nomads)

Prelims: Current events of National and International importance

Why in News?

- They live in ***coastal areas of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines.***
- **Diving** - Bajau's spleens are, on an average, 50% larger than those of general population, a natural adaptation that allows them to live longer and deep diver.
- Bajau people dive to 20-30 meters and hold breath for minutes.
- This adaptation has been linked to a variation in the ***PDE10A gene,*** showcasing the tribe's remarkable physiological adjustments to their aquatic lifestyle.
- **Diet** - They hunt fish and other sea creatures. They hunt using handmade spears and traditional wooden goggles.
- Children learn swimming early.
- **Habitat -** The tribe reside in crafted wooden boats called ***lepa-lepa,*** which acts as their home and a primary mode of transportation.
- **Heritage** - Fishing is crucial to the Bajau survival and also showcases their cultural heritage.
- Through communal fishing, the Bajau preserve their ancestral traditions while fostering strong social ties within their community.
- **Threats** - Their lifestyle faces threats from increasing tourism, which disrupts traditional fishing routes. Destructive practices like dynamite fishing harm the ecosystem.

Reference

Times of India | Bajau tribe