Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

Why in news?

\n\n

A recent Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) publication has brought to the fore startling revelations about the **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** in the country.

\n\n

What the finding has revealed?

\n\n

- The publication provides one of the most **detailed descriptions of PVTGs** with each of the tribes being discussed in separate chapters.
- The findings revealed that, for the 75 PVTGs, base line surveys exists only for about 40 groups.
- **Base line surveys** are done to precisely identify the PVTG families, their habitat and socio-economic status, so that development initiatives are implemented for these communities, based on the facts and figures.
- It emphasizes State govts must urgently conduct such surveys to arrive at accurate demographic and socio-economic figures of the PVTGs.
- Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha (13), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).
- All the **4 tribal groups in Andamans, and 1 in Nicobar Islands,** are recognised as PVTGs.
- The publication also points out that the PVTG list requires revising and refinement to avoid overlapping and repetition.
- Regional and State-specific variations in welfare schemes for PVTGs has also been highlighted.

- There is a **huge variation in the number of PVTGs** ranging from a few individuals as in case of Great Andamanese to about a little more than a thousand people as in the case of Toda of Nilgiris.
  \n
- Although PVTGs are **slowly witnessing decadal increase in their population,** quite a few still face stagnation such as the **Birhor** in central India. Some are **declining like the Onge and Andamanese.**
  \n
- Smallest population size among the PVTGs are the **Senteneles** (as per the last contact effort on 2005, groups of **32 and 13 persons** were sighted at different places).
  \n
- The Great Andamanese (57 persons) and the Onge (107 persons in 2012 as per Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti) are also dwindling.
  \n
- The **Saharia people of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan** are the largest among the PVTGs with population more than 4 lakhs.
  \n
- Literacy rate among the PVTGs has gone up significantly over the past from single digit to 30 to 40 % in many of the PVTGs.
  \n
- However, as is the case with entire India, female literacy rate is still considerably lower compared to male counterpart.
  \n
- There is a considerable **increase in the age of marriage** among PVTGs.
  \n
- The incidence of girl child being married while still being a minor, among these tribes has been decreasing.
  \n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu

\n

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering