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(CONSOLIDATION)

JHARKHAND

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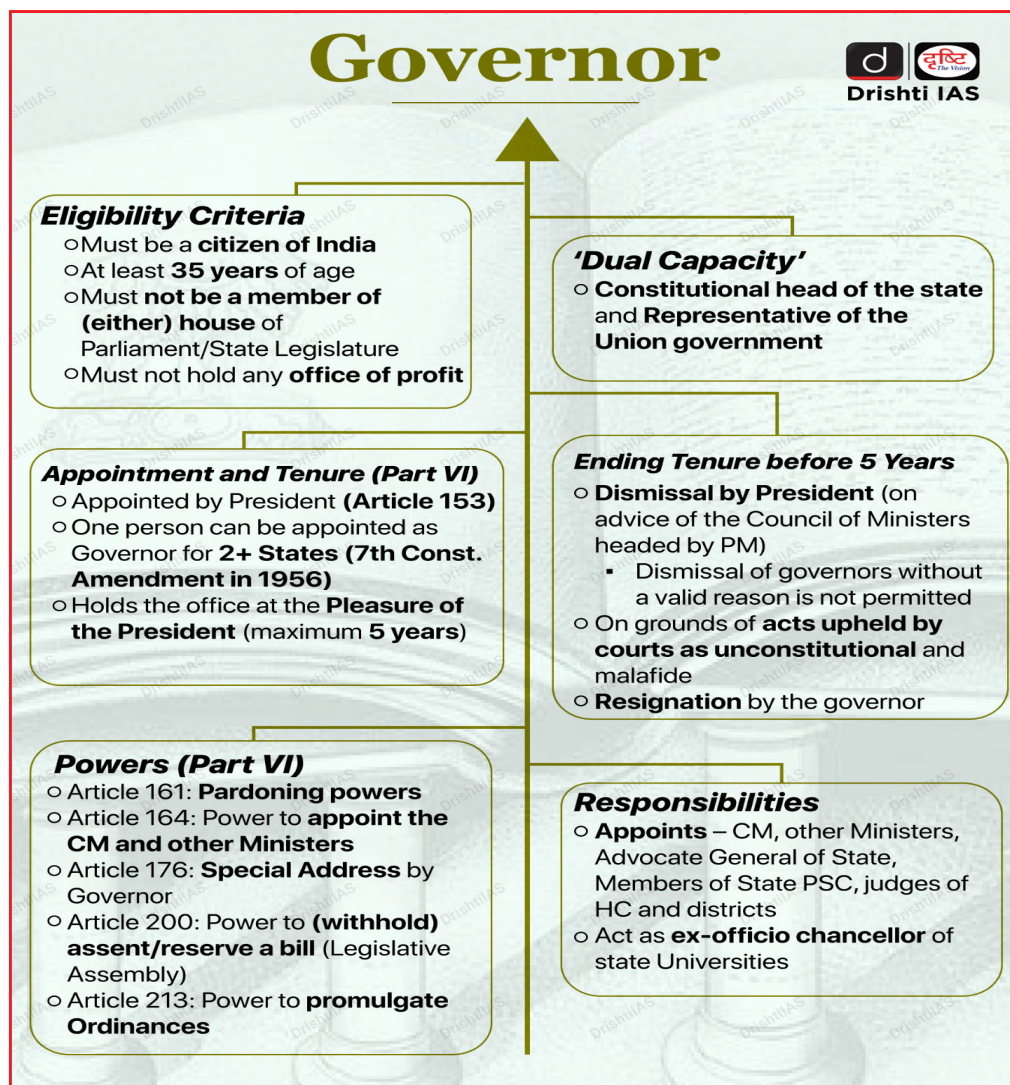
## Jharkhand Cabinet to Take Oath

### Why in News?

Ten ministers are going to take the **oath of office** as part of Jharkhand's 12-member Cabinet. The swearing-in ceremony is set to take place at the Raj Bhavan in Ranchi.

### Key Points

- The **Council of Ministers** in the states is constituted and functions in the same way as the Council of Ministers at the Centre (**Article 163 and Article 164**).
- **Article 163** states that there is a council of ministers headed by the **Chief Minister** to aid and advise the **Governor** in the exercise of his functions, except some conditions for discretion.
  - Discretionary Powers Include:
    - Appointment of a Chief Minister when no party has a clear majority in the state legislative assembly
    - In times of **no-confidence motions**
    - In case of failure of constitutional machinery in the State (**Article 356**)



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Note:

- **Under Article 164** of the Constitution, the **Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor** without any advice from anyone. But he appoints the individual Ministers only **on the advice of the Chief Minister**.
  - The Article implies that the Governor **cannot appoint an individual Minister according to his discretion**. Therefore, the Governor can dismiss a Minister only **on the advice of the Chief Minister**.

## Preserving India's Sacred Groves

### Why in News?

**Sacred groves** actively support biodiversity and function as **carbon sinks**, but growing threats jeopardize their existence.

- **Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh** are among the states that are **rich in sacred groves**.



### Key Points

- **About Sacred Groves:**
  - Sacred Groves are **patches of natural or near-natural vegetation**, dedicated by local communities to their ancestral spirits or deities.
  - They are known as **sarnas in Jharkhand, devgudis in Chhattisgarh, and orans in Rajasthan**.

- These groves vary in size, **ranging from small clusters of trees to large areas spanning several acres**. Some consist of a single sacred tree, like the **sal tree in Jharkhand**.
- Sacred groves have been legally protected under **'community reserves'** in the **Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002**.
  - Community Reserves are **areas designated for conservation that involve direct participation from local communities** in preserving natural resources and wildlife.

### Extent and Distribution:

- Sacred groves occupy an estimated 33,000 hectares, accounting for just **0.01% of India's total land area**.
- India has well over 13,000 documented sacred groves. The states particularly rich in abundance of groves are **Kerala, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu**.
  - **Maharashtra leads with nearly 3,000 documented sacred groves**.

### Biodiversity and Cultural Significance:

- Sacred groves are biodiverse areas that hold immense ecological value.
- **Tribal communities** have worshipped and maintained a deep connection with these groves.
- They historically symbolized **environmental conservation, guided by spiritual codes** codified in customary rules and governance systems.

### Role in Climate Goals:

- Sacred groves contribute to **climate change mitigation** by acting as **natural carbon sinks**.
- Their preservation is vital for achieving **India's net-zero target by 2070**, alongside government-owned forests.
- Effective management of groves can **maintain the human-nature bond and prevent community alienation** caused by relocation.

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Note:

### ➤ Role of Sacred Groves in Biodiversity Conservation:

- A sacred grove in **Raigad district, Maharashtra**, conserved by the **Waghoba Habitat Foundation**, recently saw the return of a **leopard**, indicating ecological recovery.

### ➤ Conservation Approach:

- OECM:
  - Sacred groves align with the **“Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures” (OECM) approach** under the **Convention on Biological Diversity**.
  - Groves are managed by communities, integrating cultural values into biodiversity conservation.
  - OECM ensures **long-term conservation outcomes**, preserving biodiversity and ecosystem functions.
- Government Initiatives:
  - **Gherabandi in Jharkhand** was introduced in 2019 to protect sacred groves by building boundary walls.
  - **Renovation Projects in Chhattisgarh** were introduced to restore groves were undertaken during the previous government.

- Due to **lack of community involvement** in conservation schemes and prioritization of reserved forests **often neglect sacred groves**.

### Carbon Sinks

- These are the **long-term storage of carbon in plants, soils, geologic formations, and the ocean**.
- It **occurs both naturally and as a result of anthropogenic activities** and typically refers to the storage of carbon.
- **Natural Carbon Sink:**
  - Under this, nature has achieved a **balance of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere suitable for sustaining life**. Animals expel carbon dioxide, as do plants during the night.
  - All organic life on this planet is carbon based and when plants and animals die, much of the carbon goes back into the ground where it has little impact on contributing to **global warming**.

## Jharkhand to Help Workers Stranded in Cameroon

### Why in News?

After an intervention by Jharkhand Chief Minister, a **group of 47 migrant workers from Jharkhand** who are **trapped in Cameroon** have received **partial payment of their wages**.

### Key Points

#### ➤ Pending Salaries and Legal Non-compliance:

- Workers employed by M/s Transrail Lighting Limited in Cameroon alleged non-payment of salaries for three months.
- The **Chief Minister of Jharkhand directed the Labour Commissioner to register an **First Information Report (FIR)**** against the employers and middlemen.
- The FIR noted violations of **the Interstate Migrant Workers Act, 1979**, including sending workers abroad without registration or requisite licenses.
- FIRs were filed in the Hazaribagh, Bokaro, and Giridih districts of Jharkhand.

#### ➤ Salary Payment Update:

- Transrail Lighting stated the **workers were paid US Dollar 100 per month**, promising to transfer the balance to their Indian accounts.
- The Labour Department has requested the company to **provide contracts, salary records, and other relevant documents**.
- A letter has been sent to **the Protector of Emigrants (POE)** and other authorities for necessary action.

#### ➤ Diplomatic Efforts:

- The Indian High Commission and the **Union Ministry of External Affairs** are actively facilitating discussions between the company and the stranded workers.
- Control room teams are maintaining contact with workers and officials to ensure their safety.
- Officials warned that failure to pay full salaries could result in the **cancellation of agreements with contractors**.

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### ➤ Previous Cases of Intervention:

- In **July 2024**, the Chief Minister intervened to **bring back 27 stranded workers** from Cameroon.
- Efforts are ongoing to **repatriate 50 workers stranded in Malaysia**, who have reached Visakhapatnam and are expected to return home soon.

### Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979

- The Act seeks to regulate the employment of inter-State migrants and their conditions of service.
- It is applicable to every establishment that employs **five or more migrant workmen from other States**; or if it had **employed five or more such workmen** on any day in the **preceding 12 months**.
- It is also **applicable to contractors** who employed a similar number of inter-State workmen.
- It envisages a system of **registration of such establishments**. The principal employer is prohibited from employing inter-State workmen **without a certificate of registration** from the relevant authority.
- The law also lays down that **every contractor who recruits workmen** from one State for deployment in another State **should obtain a licence to do so**.

## Birhor Tribe Joins Movement Against Child Marriage

### Why in News?

Recently, people belonging to **the Birhor tribe**, a **particularly vulnerable tribal group** in Jharkhand, have **joined a movement against child marriage** for the first time.

### Key Points

#### ➤ Birhor Community:

- The **Birhor people** are a **semi-nomadic tribal community**, heavily forest-dependent, and economically and socially marginalized.
- For the first time, hundreds of Birhor community members in Jharkhand's Giridih district joined a movement against child marriage, a rampant practice within their community.

### ➤ Awareness on Child Marriage Consequences:

- The **Just Rights for Children Alliance (JRC)** highlighted that the event marked the first awareness drive where the community was informed about the legalities and consequences of child marriage.
- Youth, children, women, and elders gathered under the glow of candles, taking a collective pledge to end child marriage and to report any such cases.

### ➤ Support for Government Campaign:

- The marches were organized by Banvasi Vikas Ashram as part of the **'Bal Vivah Mukh Bharat' campaign**, launched by the **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
  - Banvasi Vikas Ashram is one of 250 partner **Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)** under the JRC alliance.
- The **ill effects of child marriage on children's health, education, and overall well-being** were discussed to make the Birhor tribe aware of the social evil.
  - JRC claimed to have **stopped over 7,000 child marriages in Jharkhand between April and December 2024** through events in blocks, villages, and schools across all 24 districts.

### ➤ High-Prevalence Districts:

- **Jamtara, Deoghar, Godda, Giridih, Koderma, and Dumka** were identified as districts with a higher prevalence of child marriage cases.

### Birhor Tribe

- **Physical appearance:** They are **short, with long heads, wavy hair, and broad noses**.
- **Language:** Their language is similar to **Santali, Mundari, and Ho**.
- **Religion:** They practice a **combination of animism and Hinduism**. The Sun God is their supreme deity, along with Lugu Buru and Budhimai.
- **Economy:** The Birhor have a "primitive subsistence economy" based on **hunting and gathering**, but some have settled into agriculture. They **make ropes from vine fibers to sell to nearby agricultural people**.
- **Socioeconomic status:** The Birhor are **divided into two groups** based on their socioeconomic status: the **wandering Uthlus and the settled Janghis**.

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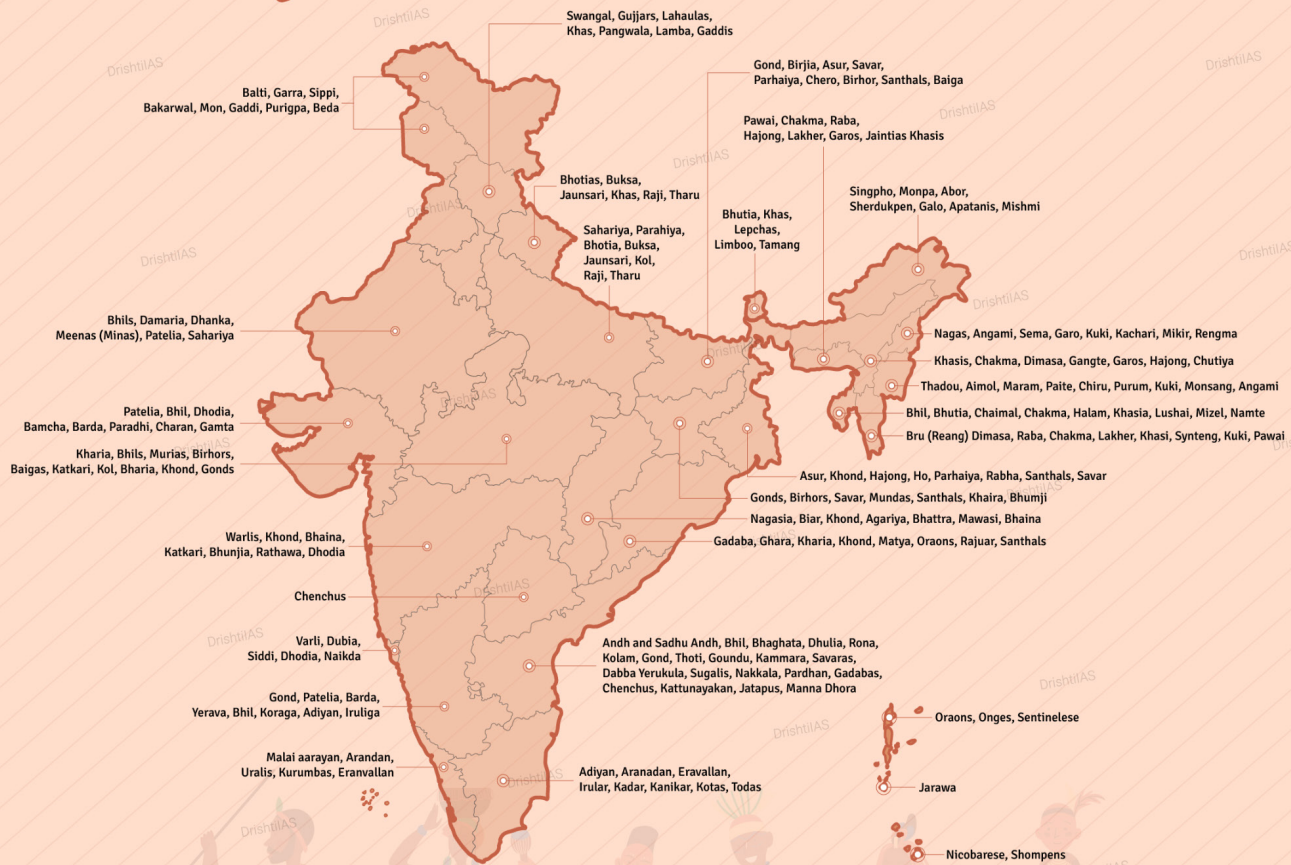


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Note:

# Major Tribes in India



- STs constitute **8.6%** of the population of India (Census 2011). Draft National Tribal Policy, 2006 records **698 STs** in India.
- **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Among the 75 listed PVTGs, the highest number is found in Odisha.
- **Bhil** is the largest tribal group (38% of the total scheduled tribal population of India) followed by the Gonds.
- **Madhya Pradesh** has the highest tribal population in India (Census 2011).
- The **Santhal** are the oldest tribes in India. The Santhal system of governance, known as **Manjhi-Paragana**, can be compared to local self-governance.
- According to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes list (modification orders), 1956, the inhabitants of **Lakshadweep** who and both of whose parents were born in these islands are treated as STs.
- **Article 342** of the Constitution prescribes procedure to be followed for specification of STs.
- **Article 275** provides for the **grant of special funds** by the Union Government to the State Government for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and providing them with a better administration.

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