



# Uttarakhand Approved Forest Panchayat Amendment Rules

## Why in News?

Recently, in an effort to make **Van (Forest) Panchayats** strong and self-reliant, the Uttarakhand government during a cabinet meeting approved **the Forest Panchayat Amendment Rules**, under which the **British-era 'Acts of Forest Panchayat'** have been amended.

## Key Points

- According to the new rules, a **nine-member forest panchayat** will be formed, which will have the rights to participate in **herbal production, tree planting, water harvesting, forest fire prevention, eco-tourism.**
- For the first time three-tier local bodies have also been linked to the forest management of **Van Panchayat.**
  - The concept of van panchayat- legally demarcated village forests which are managed and its natural resources shared by village communities **introduced in 1921.**
- Uttarakhand is the **only state in India where the van panchayat system is implemented.**
  - It is a historical community forest management organisation which has been operating **since the year 1930.**
  - At present, **11,217 forest panchayats are in the state** of which have 4.52 lakh hectares of forest area.
- The cabinet gave approval to the '**Uttarakhand Clean Mobility Transformation Policy**' with an aim to **improve public transport in urban areas and reduce pollution** caused by old diesel fueled buses and three wheeler tempos.
  - The policy would be **first implemented in Dehradun** and thereafter extended to other districts.

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