



Declaring Mangarh Hillock as a Monument of National Importance

Why in News?

A report by the **National Monuments Authority (NMA)** called for the Mangarh hilltop in Rajasthan to be **designated as a national monument in honor of 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters.**

What is National Monuments Authority (NMA)?

- It was established under the [Ministry of Culture](#) in accordance with the requirements of the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains AMASR (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010.**
- The NMA has been delegated specific tasks for the **conservation and preservation of monuments and sites, including control of the banned and restricted areas surrounding centrally designated monuments.**
- One of the NMA's roles is to **evaluate granting permits** to applicants for construction-related activities in restricted and regulated areas.

What are Monuments of National Importance?

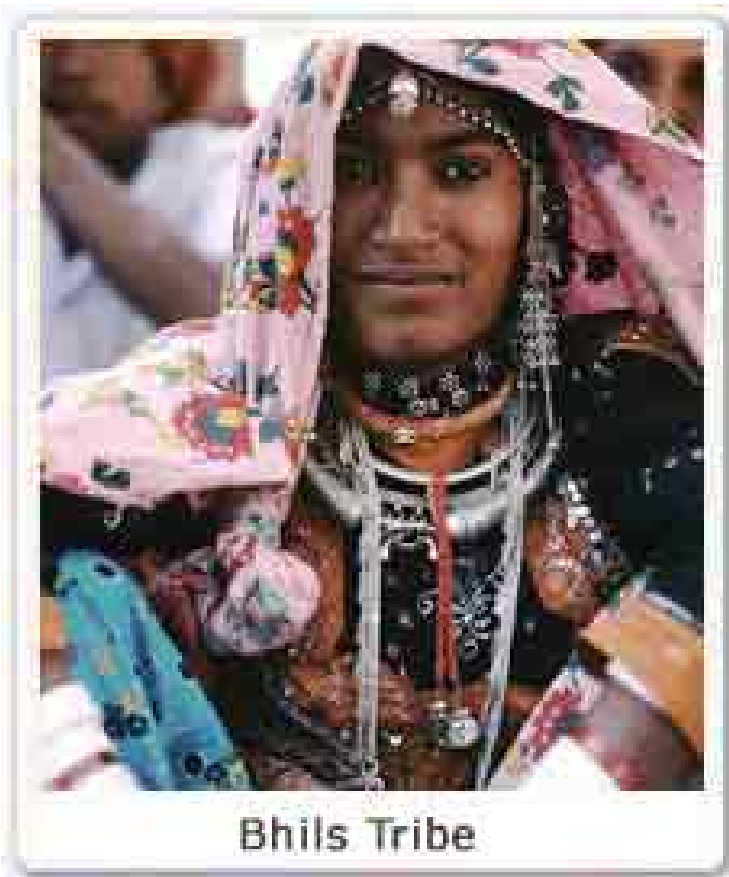
- National ancient Monuments are defined **under the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.**
- The Act defines Ancient **Monument as any structure or monument or any cave, rock sculpture, an inscription that is of historical, or archaeological interest.**
- The **Central Government is authorised to maintain, protect and promote the monuments.**

What is the Background of the Mangarh Hillock?

- The hillock, situated at the **Gujarat-Rajasthan border**, is a site of a tribal uprising where a massacre of over 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters took place in 1913.
- The place is also known as the **Adivasi Jallianwala**, and there has been a demand to build a memorial.
- On 17th November, 1913, **British forces opened fire on tribals gathered at the site** who were holding a meeting in protest, led by a leader from the community **Govind Guru**, killing over 1,500.

What is Bhil Tribe?

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Bhils Tribe

▪ **About:**

- **Bhils** are commonly referred to as **Rajasthan's bowmen**. They are India's most widely dispersed tribal communities.
- As per Census 2011, Bhils are India's largest tribe.
- They are broadly classified into **two types**:
 - Central or pure bhills
 - Eastern or Rajput Bhils.
- The central Bhils can be found in the mountain regions of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan in India, and also can be found in Tripura's northwestern regions.
- They are considered as **Schedule Tribe** in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tripura.

▪ **Historical Perspective:**

- Bhils are members of the pre-Aryan race.
- The term '**Bhil**' is derived from the word **villu** or **billu**, which is known as **Bow in the Dravidian language**.
- The name Bhil is also **mentioned in the ancient epics of Mahabharata and Ramayana**.

Source: PIB