



## Support to TRI Scheme

### Why in News?

Recently, the Minister for Tribal Affairs has directed the [Tribal Research Institute \(TRI\)](#) to **accelerate development activities** under the ambitious “[Support to TRI](#)” scheme.

### Key Points

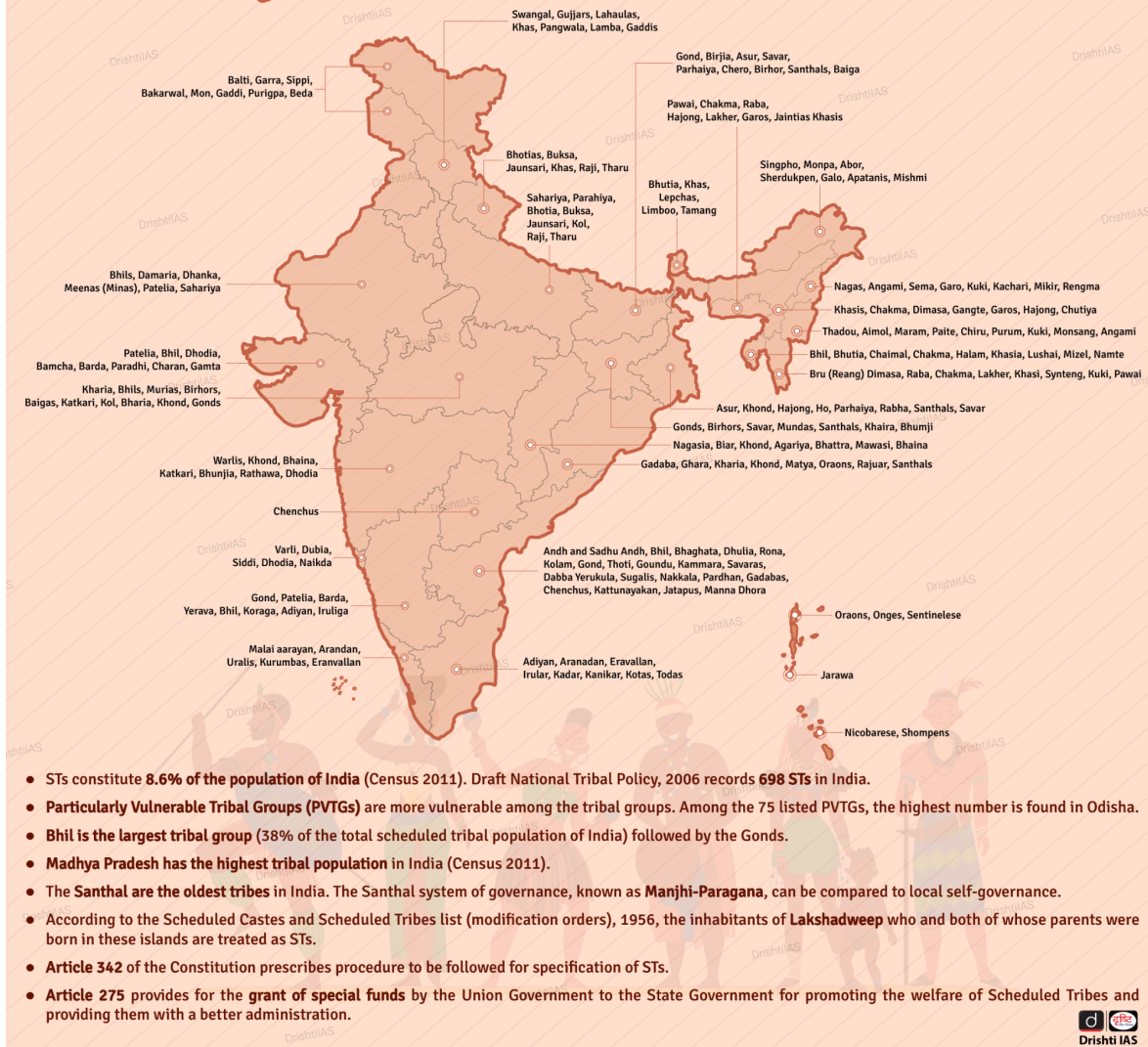
- **About Support to TRI scheme:**
  - The **Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) scheme** is a **Ministry of Tribal Affairs program** that provides financial assistance to TRIs in states and union territories.
  - Its goal is to strengthen TRIs as knowledge hubs for tribal development by supporting research, documentation, training, and capacity building.
  - The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides **100% grant-in-aid to TRIs on a need basis**.
  - The scheme supports various activities, including:
    - Preserving and promoting tribal languages and dialects
    - Documenting folklore and folktales
    - Collecting oral literature
    - Conducting conferences, seminars, workshops, and poetic symposiums
    - Organizing cultural festivals and exchange programs
    - Maintaining and preserving art and artifacts
    - Setting up tribal museums
- **Heritage Preservation:**
  - Proposed activities include robust research and documentation to record and [preserve the heritage and traditions of tribal communities in Jammu and Kashmir](#).
  - TRI was asked to **initiate programs safeguarding tribal art, traditions, and languages** to ensure their continuity for future generations.
- **Capacity Building:**
  - TRI was instructed to conduct capacity-building programs to equip tribal communities with skills and resources to adapt to evolving socio-economic challenges.
- **Youth Empowerment:**
  - Measures aim to **close educational gaps and promote career readiness among tribal youth** through targeted interventions.
  - Directed activities focus on **skill development, livelihood enhancement, and educational support for tribal youth**.
  - Special emphasis is on **coaching for tribal students**, preparing for competitive exams and creating fellowship opportunities for action research proposals.
- **Commitment to Holistic Development:**
  - The government reaffirmed its commitment to the [holistic development of the tribal population](#), emphasizing TRI’s crucial role in driving this mission.

### Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)

- **About:**
  - TRIs serve as **research arms of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs at the state level**, with **27 institutes across India**.
- **Core Responsibilities:**

- Serve as **think tanks for tribal development and preservation of tribal cultural heritage.**
- Provide **evidence-based inputs** for state planning and formulation of appropriate legislations.
- Focus on **capacity building of tribal communities** and stakeholders involved in tribal affairs.
- Facilitate **dissemination of information and create awareness** about tribal issues and heritage.

# 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.