

Bhil Pradesh

May 26, 2022

In news- The demands for a “Bhil Pradesh”, a separate state for tribal people in western India, have of late begun to be raised again.

More about ‘Bhil Pradesh’-

- The Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP), a political party based in Gujarat, envisions Bhil Pradesh as a **separate state carved out of 39 districts spread over four states:** 16 in **Gujarat**, 10 in **Rajasthan**, 7 in **Madhya Pradesh**, and 6 in **Maharashtra**.
- Bhil social reformer and spiritual leader Govind Guru first raised the demand for a separate state for tribals back in 1913 after the **Mangarh massacre**.
- The massacre, which took place six years before Jallianwalla Bagh and is sometimes referred to as the **“Adivasi Jallianwala”**, saw hundreds of Bhil tribals being killed by British forces on November 17, 1913 in the hills of Mangarh on the border of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- Post-Independence, the tribal majority regions were divided by the political parties, so that the tribals don’t organise and unite.
- Though several Union governments brought various laws, benefits, schemes, and committee reports on tribals, they went slow on their execution and implementation.

About Bhils community-

- Bhils or Bheels are an Adivasi ethnic group in West India.
- They speak the Bhili languages, a subgroup of the Western Zone of the Indo-Aryan languages.
- As of 2013, Bhils were the largest tribal group in India.

- They were designated as a criminal tribe by the British colonial government under the **Criminal Tribes Act 1871**, which meant that a Bhil could be “randomly picked up, tortured, maimed or even killed” by the colonial authorities.
- The Bhil are **classified as a Scheduled Tribe in** Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tripura under the Indian government’s reservation program.
- The Bhilala sub-division is known for its **Pithora painting**.
- Bhil painting is characterised by the use of multi-coloured dots as in-filling.
- **Ghoomar is a traditional folk dance** of the Bhil tribe, where Ghoomar is considered as the symbol of womanhood.