

Hakki Pikki community

April 21, 2023

In news— More than 181 members of the Hakki Pikki tribal community from Karnataka are stuck in violence-hit Sudan recently.

About Hakki Pikki tribal community-

- The Hakki Pikki are a semi-nomadic tribe who have travelled and lived in various parts of the country over the past few decades.
- According to SPPEL (Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages) established by Ministry of Education (Government of India), **'Hakki-Pikki' is one of the major tribal communities in Karnataka.**
- In Kannada, the word 'Hakki' stands for 'bird' and 'Pikki' stands for the verb 'to catch'. Therefore, the community is known as the **'bird catcher,'** which is their traditional occupation.
- The Hakki-Pikki community migrated from the northern India population, which is about 8,414 (2001 census), and is found in Karnataka.
- According to the 2011 census, the population of Hakki-Pikki is 11,892. After their trade of bird hunting was outlawed, they were rehabilitated in the 1970s.
- They began doing odd jobs like working in fields and sharpening knives and sickles by riding around towns on bicycles after bird-hunting was banned. They also sell the herbal remedies they extract.
- The Hakki-Pikkis are said to be a **matriarchal group.**
- The population is predominantly found in Shivamogga, Davanagere and Mysuru districts of Karnataka.
- Despite being surrounded by Dravidian languages and living in southern India, **the community speaks an Indo-Aryan language.** Their **mother tongue was designated**

'Vaagri' by scholars.

- They communicate in 'Vaagri' at home but speak in Kannada when conducting daily business.
- **UNESCO has listed 'Vaagri' as one of the endangered languages.**
- In Karnataka, the Hakki-Pikkis are **renowned for their indigenous medicines.**
- The community resided in the dense jungles for a long time and created its own plant and herb-based medicine systems.
- The Hakki-Pikkis have traditional medical knowledge that is in demand in several African countries. Therefore, community members have been travelling to the continent for the last many years.