

Mangarh hillock

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In news- The National Monuments Authority has recently submitted a report on declaring Mangarh hillock in Rajasthan as a monument of National Importance to honour Bhil tribal freedom fighters.

A brief note on the Hillock-

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

Bhil tribes-

- **Bhil or Bheel are an Adivasi Dravidian** influenced ethnic group in West India. **They speak the Bhil languages,** currently a subgroup of the Western Zone of the Indo-Aryan languages.
- **They are one of the largest tribal groups, living in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka,** Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- **The name is derived from the word 'billu', which means bow in the Dravidian lexis.**
- **They are divided into a number of endogamous territorial divisions,** which in turn have a number of clans and lineages.
- **In Rajasthan, they exist as Bhil Garasia, Dholi Bhil, Dungri Bhil, Dungri Garasia, Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, Tadvi Bhil, Bhagalia, Bhilala, Pawra, Vasava and Vasave.**
- **Many Bhils now speak the dominant later language of the region they reside in,** such as Marathi, Gujarati or a Bhili language dialect.

- **They are considered as Schedule Tribe in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tripura.**

About Monuments of National Importance-

The Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 defines an “Ancient Monument” as follows:

Ancient Monument means any structure, erection or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave, rock-sculpture, inscription or monolith which is of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which has **been in existence for not less than 100 years.**

A “Monument of National Importance” is designated by the Archaeological Survey of India and includes the following:

- The remains of an ancient monument.
- The site of an ancient monument.
- The land on which there are fences or protective covering structures for preserving the monument.
- Land by means of which people can freely access the monument.

National Monuments Authority (NMA)-

- The NMA under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India has been **setup as per provisions of The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains AMASR (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010 .**
- Several **functions have been assigned to the NMA for the protection and preservation of monuments and sites** through management of the prohibited and regulated area around the centrally protected monuments.
- One amongst these responsibilities of **NMA is also to consider grant of permissions to applicants for construction related activity in the prohibited and regulated area.**

- It has been **mandated to categorize all the protected monuments and protected areas declared as of National importance** as per provision of Section 20 I of 'The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010' .