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## Katkari Tribe | Van Dhan for Jaan and Jahaan



### Key Takeaways

- The Katkari are an Indian Tribe mostly belonging to the state of Maharashtra. They have been categorised as a Scheduled tribe.
- The Census of India 2001 (GOI 2012) indicates that Maharashtra is home to 235,022 Katkari, mainly in Raigad and Thane districts.
- In Maharashtra the Katkari have been designated a Particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG).

**Context:** There are certain tribal communities who use a pre-agricultural level of technology, face stagnant or declining population growth, **Katkari Tribe** is one of those **PVTGs** and are using **Giloy**, used as a medicine, to ramp up local markets with the help of **Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana**.

### **What is Giloy?**

**Tinospora cordifolia**, which is known by the common names **heart-leaved moonseed**, **guduchi**, and **giloy** (□□□□□□) in Ayurveda, is used in **medicines** which treat various kinds of **fever (viral fever, malaria, etc.)** as well as **diabetes**. It is used in extract form, powder form or cream.

- It is indigenous to the tropical areas of **Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.**

### What you need to know about **Katkari Tribe?**

- The **Katkari** are an Indian Tribe mostly belonging to the **state of Maharashtra.** They have been categorised as a **Scheduled tribe.**
- They are **bilingual**, speaking the **Katkari language**, a dialect of the **Marathi-Konkani languages**, with each other; they speak Marathi with the Marathi speakers, who are a majority in the populace where they live.
- In Maharashtra the Katkari have been designated a **Particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG)**, along with two other groups included in this sub-category: the **Madia Gond** and the **Kolam.**
- The **Census of India 2001 (GOI 2012)** indicates that **Maharashtra** is home to **235,022 Katkari**, mainly in **Raigad and Thane districts.**
- Small numbers of **Katkari** also live the states of **Gujarat, Karnataka and Rajasthan.**
- The food **habits of the Katkari** are a reason for their social exclusion. The **Katkari** are one of **only a few tribal groups** in India that **eat rodents**, including the **Little Indian Field Mouse, the Black Rat and the Greater or Indian Bandicoot.**
- They believe that their strength and long life comes from eating the meat of rodents

### What are **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)?**

**Particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG)** is a government of India classification created with the purpose of **enabling improvement in the conditions of certain communities** with particularly low development indices.

- During the 4th Five Year Plan a sub-category was created within **Scheduled Tribes** to identify groups that considered to be at a lower level of development.
- This was created based on the **Dhebar Commission report** and other studies.
- This sub-category was named **“Primitive tribal group”.**

The main features of such a group include the following and the groups that satisfied any one of the criterion were considered as PTG.

- A pre-agricultural system of existence, i.e., **practice of hunting and gathering.**
- **Zero or negative population growth.**
- **Extremely low level of literacy** in comparison with other tribal groups.

At the conclusion of the Fifth Five year plan, 52 communities were identified as being a **“primitive tribal group”**, these communities were identified on the basis of recommendations made by the respective state governments.

At the conclusion of the **Sixth Five year plan 20 groups were added** and **2 more in the Seventh Five year plan, one more group was added in the eighth five-year plan**, making a total **75 groups were identified as PTG.**

- The **75th group recognised as PTG** were the **Maram in Manipur in 1993-94.**
- No new group was declared as PTG on the basis of the 2001 census.
- In 2006 the government of India proposed to rename **“Primitive tribal group” as Primitive and vulnerable tribal group”**
- PTG has since been renamed Primitive and vulnerable tribal group by the government of India.
- As per 2001 Census, **Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of PVTGs** in the country followed by **Odisha, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.**
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands has the **lowest number of PVTGs in India.**