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Tribals in Rajasthan seek more panchayats in scheduled areas



The tribal outfits in Rajasthan have demanded inclusion of over 165 village panchayats of seven districts in **the scheduled areas under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)**.

- The tribal groups said the population of Scheduled Tribes in these panchayats had crossed 50%, making them eligible to be declared as **scheduled areas**.
- The objective of the demand is to facilitate the control of local communities over minor minerals and minor forest produce as well as development activities in the region.
- It will also ensure statutory protection of the tribal population.
- Consequently, the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, will apply to these areas.
 - The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 or PESA is a law enacted by the Government of India for ensuring self-governance through traditional Gram Sabhas for people living in the Scheduled Areas of India.
- The tribal groups have also been spearheading a movement for creation of a separate State, **Bhil Pradesh**, to be carved out of the tribal-dominated areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.