

# Raji Tribe - UPSC Notes

## Why in News?

In *Khetar Kanyal*, a village dominated by the Raji tribe in **Pithoragarh district** of **Uttarakhand**, the *absence of any female candidate for the post of village pradhan* (head) has highlighted deeper socio-political and gender representation issues within this marginalized community.

---

### About Raji Tribe

- **Location:** Primarily found in the **Kumaon region** of **Uttarakhand**, especially in the **Pithoragarh district**; also present in parts of **western Nepal**.
- **Other Names:** Also known as *Banrawats*, *Ben Manus*, and *cave dwellers* due to their traditional lifestyle.
- **Classification:** Listed as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** by the Government of India.
- **Population:** One of the **smallest tribal communities** in India.
- **Language:** Speak a Tibeto-Burman language called **Bat-Kha**.

---

### Traditional Lifestyle

- **Past Livelihoods:**
  - Forest gatherers
  - Honey collection from wild beehives
  - Fishing and small-game hunting
- **Present Livelihoods:**
  - Transitioning to **agriculture**: rice, maize, and barley are staple crops.
  - Skilled in **handicrafts**, particularly **weaving and bamboo basketry**.

---

### Religion and Beliefs

- Practice a blend of **Hinduism** and **nature worship**.
- Rituals often revolve around forests, animals, and natural forces.

---

## Social Structure

- **Clan-based society:** Each clan has distinct customs and traditions.
- **Elders** play a central role in **conflict resolution** and **decision-making**.
- Local self-governance through **Panchayats** ensures community cohesion.

---

## Housing and Architecture

- Homes are built from **locally available materials:** wood, mud, and stone.
- Elevated construction to withstand **harsh terrain, wildlife, and flooding**.
- Settlements are usually in **forest or hilly areas**, consistent with their traditional lifestyle.

---

## Conservation and Challenges

- As a **PVTG**, the Raji tribe faces challenges such as:
  - **Loss of traditional livelihood** due to forest conservation laws
  - **Low literacy and poor health indicators**
  - **Limited political participation**, especially among women
  - **Cultural erosion** due to modern influences

---

## UPSC Relevance

- **Static GK:** Tribal groups of India
- **Current Affairs:** Gender and tribal rights
- **Governance & Social Justice:** Issues related to PVTGs, Tribal Panchayati Raj
- **GS Paper I & II:** Society, vulnerable sections, government policies

---

## Raji Tribe - Quick Facts

Feature  
**State**  
**District**

Details  
Uttarakhand  
Pithoragarh

Feature	Details
<b>Other Names</b>	Banrawats, Ben Manus, Cave Dwellers
<b>Language</b>	Bat-Kha (Tibeto-Burman family)
<b>Tribal Category</b>	Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)
<b>Primary Livelihoods</b>	Gathering, agriculture, handicrafts
<b>Religion</b>	Hinduism + Nature Worship

---

## FAQs on Raji Tribe

**Q1. In which Indian state is the Raji tribe mainly found?**

**Ans:** Uttarakhand

**Q2. What is another common name for the Raji tribe?**

**Ans:** Banrawats

**Q3. Which district of Uttarakhand is primarily inhabited by the Raji tribe?**

**Ans:** Pithoragarh

**Q4. What language is spoken by the Raji tribe?**

**Ans:** Bat-Kha (Tibeto-Burman language)

**Q5. What is the status of the Raji tribe as per Government classification?**

**Ans:** Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Youtube](#)