



Tribals in India

CHARTING A DEVELOPMENT PATH

INTRODUCTION

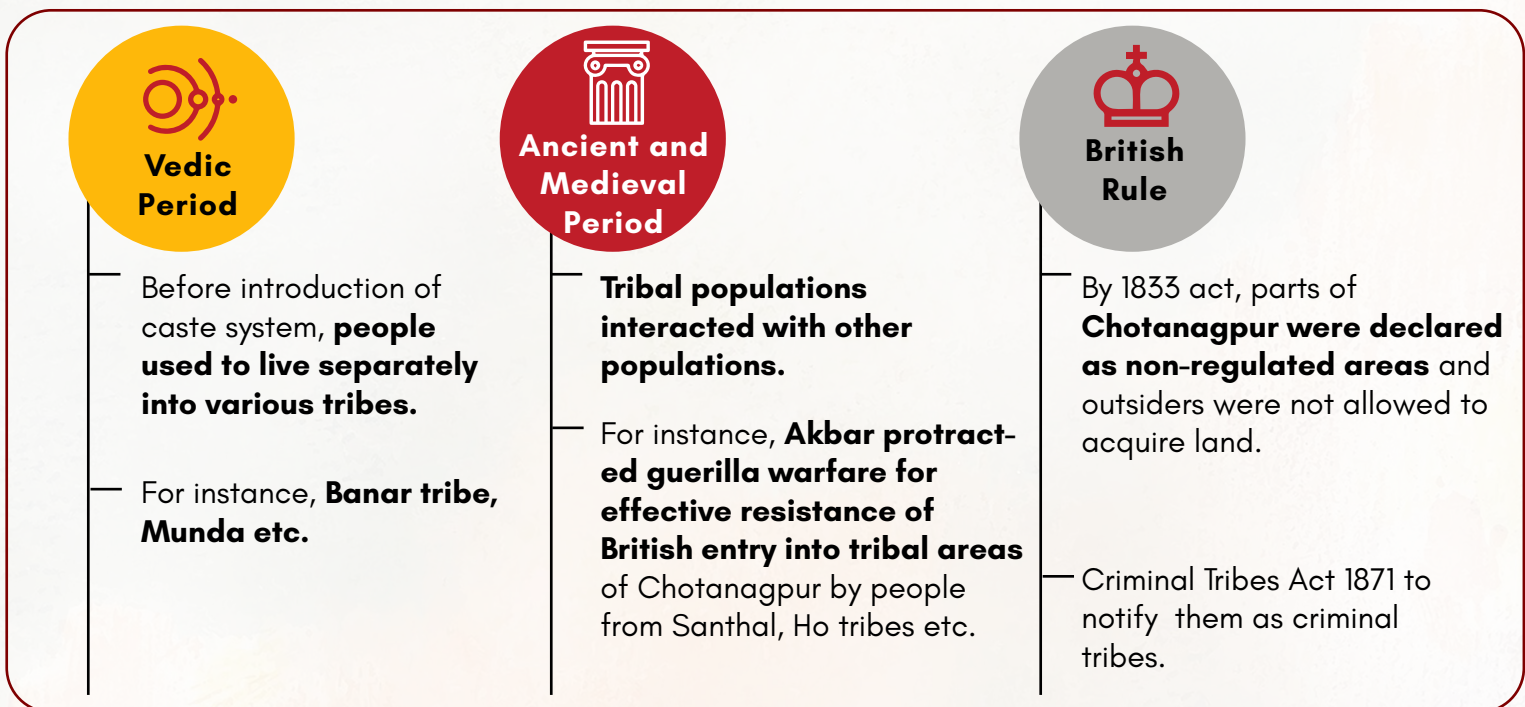
The word **"Tribe"** is derived from the Latin word **"Tribus"** meaning **"one third"** and originally referred to one of the three territorial groups that united to form Rome. Tribe is also called as **"aboriginal"** or **"Adivasis"**. India has the second largest tribal population in the world after Africa. Also, as per census 2011, India is home to about 700 tribal groups with a population of 104 million. They have developed a **sybiotic relation with their local environment**, around which they have developed their cultural traditions, economy and social life. For them their land is not merely a source of livelihood rather a representation of their cultural identity and existence.



In this context, we'll discuss about how are tribal communities characterized and classified in India? How these categories of tribal people came into being? What role do tribal communities play in representing and conserving India's distinct heritage? How are tribal communities presently being governed in India? What are the prominent impediments faced by tribal communities in their developmental path and what measures can be taken to ensure sustainable development of tribals in India?

HOW TRIBAL COMMUNITIES ARE CHARACTERIZED AND CLASSIFIED IN INDIA?

Tribal population in India is believed to be the oldest population of the land and an integral part of Indian civilization. From Vedic to British periods, India's history has been heavily influenced by its tribal people.



Given their evolution through time, tribal population in India is widely dispersed. There can be multiple ways to classify them.

☆ **Geographically**, they are divided into three main zones, namely **North and North- Eastern Zone, Central Zone and Southern Zone.**

▣ **Linguistically, Indo-Aryan, Austro-Asiatic, Dravidian and Tibeto-Burman broad groups** have been identified amongst tribes of India.

▣ **Racially**, Tribes of India are broadly classified into **Mongoloid, Proto-Austroloid, and Negrito.**

☆ **Constitutional**- The Constitution of India does not provide the definition of tribes but has a section on Scheduled Tribes under Article 342.

▣ **Scheduled Tribes (STs)**: People who have been listed in the Constitution and mentioned in successive presidential orders are called STs.

▣ **The President considers characteristics like** tribes' primitive traits, distinctive culture, shyness with public at large, geographical isolation and social and economic backwardness before notifying them as a Scheduled Tribe.



☆ Other Administrative Classifications-

▣ **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs):** PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.

▣ These include **Asurs, Birhor, Bodo Gadaba, Bondo Poroja** etc.

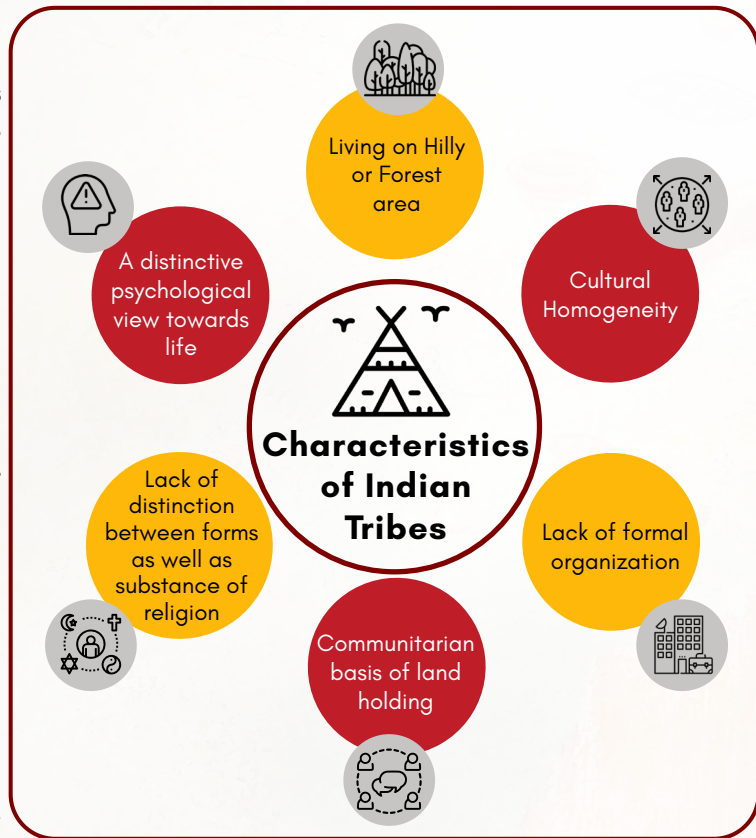
▣ **De-notified Tribes:** Due to specific administrative as well as law and order reasons, these are communities or tribes that were 'notified' as being 'born criminal' during British regime under Criminal Tribes Act, 1871.

▣ This Act **was repealed in 1952**, and **communities were 'de-notified', hence the name.**

▣ These include **Chhara, Devipujak, Sansi, Sandhi, Dafer** tribes etc.

▣ **Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Communities:** They are defined as those communities who move from one place to another rather than living at one place all the time.

▣ These includes **hunters and food-gatherers** (Konda Reddis, Chenchus etc.), Nomadic Pastoral and Non-Pastoralists (Pardis, Banjaras, Bhils etc.).



In Conversation!

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)



Vini: Hey Vinay! Have you heard that our Prime Minister will be inaugurating four PVTG skilling centres?

Vinay: Yes. This'll provide the PVTGs a long-term support to diversify their livelihoods, improve their incomes and quality of life.

Vini: Could you please explain PVTGs to me?

Vinay: PVTGs are sub-set of tribal communities who have pre-agricultural level of technology, face stagnant or declining population growth, extremely low level of literacy and subsistence level of economy. There are total 75 listed PVTGs in India and Odisha has the highest number of PVTGs.

Vini: Oh yes, I've read that Dhebar Commission in 1973 created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups.

Vinay: And Government of India in 2006 renamed the PTGs as PVTGs.

Vini: So, what are the basic characteristics of PVTGs?

Vinay: They are mostly homogenous, with small population, physically isolated, social institutes cast in a simple mould, absence of written language, simple technology and a slower rate of change etc.

Vini: Right. Thanks Vinay!



WHAT ROLE DO TRIBAL COMMUNITIES PLAY IN REPRESENTING AND CONSERVING INDIA'S DISTINCT HERITAGE?

In India, tribal communities have enriched the country's cultural heritage, through their exquisite art and craft. Also they have played a leading role in the promotion, protection and conservation of the environment through their traditional practices. With their vast repository of traditional knowledge, tribals have been the torch-bearers of sustainable development.

☆ Indian Heritage

☐ **Art and culture:** Tribes living on folk arts such as singing and dancing, music barding, acrobatics, conjuring, snake charming enrich the heritage of our diverse Indian art and culture.

✦ For instance, the **Nats perform acrobatics, the Kalbelas of Rajasthan, popularly known as Saperas** earn primarily their livelihood on snake charming, dancing, singing and conjuring.

☐ **Cultural diversity:** Tribal festivals have been around for centuries and they bore religious significance enriching cultural heritage of India.

✦ For example, **Karama festival in Odisha** in which branches of a Karam tree are planted by spinster women in a bid to have their fortunes changed.

✦ Similarly, **Sarhul festival in Jharkhand** is about securing the safety of the village by worshipping the Sal tree- the abode of goddess Sarna.



☆ Traditional Knowledge

☐ **Traditional Medicine:** Indian herbs and traditional Ayurveda medicinal system relies on the knowledge that has been shared and passed on through generations. Tribals constitute an important repository of such knowledge.

✦ **Garasia tribes** have extensive knowledge about **ethno-medicinal plants in Sirohi district (Rajasthan)**, which are listed in IUCN Red List of threatened species. To protect them, they have developed patches of forest termed sacred groves for folk deities.



INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE TO THE RESCUE: Best practices from across the country

☆ **Sustainable agriculture:** In Ziro valley, **Apatani tribes are known for their sustainable agriculture practices of wet rice cultivation** where nutrient washouts from hilltops flow in to enable crop growth.

☐ **Land irrigation is facilitated by canals dug** and linked to streams from hills.

☐ **Soil fertility is maintained by organic wastes and recycling of crop residues** which can be adopted in other areas to secure food production in lieu of changing climate.

☆ **Wildlife protection:** Tribal communities employ totems and religious beliefs that restrict culling of animals and certain plants. For example, Adi tribes in Arunachal Pradesh, believe that tigers, sparrows, and pangolins are well-wishers of humankind and hence are not hunted.

☐ They also believe that cutting down banyan trees can lead to famine and death. This ultimately helps in species preservation.

☐ **Water conservation:** Due to climate change, overuse of groundwater, changing rainfall regime has led to increased water stress in the country. To address such issues traditional knowledge can be utilised.



- ✦ **Bhil tribes' people in Madhya Pradesh's** Jhabua and Alirajpur districts have revived their age-old tradition "halma" to solve such problems with a community based approach.
- ▣ **Forest Conservation:** The ethnic people of India have played a vital role in preserving bio-diversity of several virgin forests and have conserved several flora and fauna in sacred groves of tribals as well as play an important role in fighting forest fires.
 - ✦ Baiga and Gond communities' light fires under mahua trees and keep in check a massive build-up of flammable stock that combusts in mega blazes like in California in 2021.
- ▣ **Indigenous varieties:** The ethnic and indigenous people have conserved several plants and endangered varieties of agricultural crops.
 - ✦ For instance, **indigenous varieties of rice such as Pattambi, Champara, Valsana are conserved by Kurichya, Pariyar, Khasi, Jatin and Garo tribes** in North East region.

HOW ARE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTLY BEING GOVERNED IN INDIA?

Having understood the unique characteristics and significance of tribals, it is implicit that their governance requires a distinctive approach.

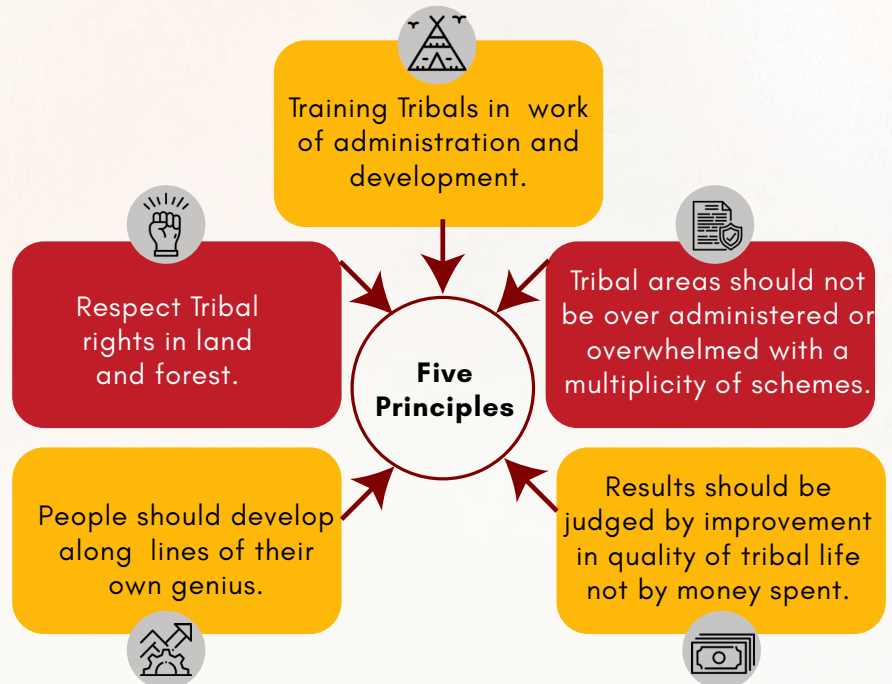
Nehru's Tribal Panchsheel was that unique guiding principle after independence to formulate policies and provisions for the indigenous communities. Government has taken multiple steps/approaches to bring tribal in the mainstream society as well as preserve their distinct culture and traditions.

☆ For Integrated development of the tribes

- ▣ **National Tribal Policy (NTP):** Also known as National Policy on Scheduled Tribes. It seeks to **bring STs into the mainstream of society** through a **multipronged approach** for their all-round development without disturbing their distinct culture.
- ▣ **Reservation policy:** There shall be a reservation of **15 percent and 7.5 percent** for the members of the **Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs)** respectively in the matter of appointment by **direct recruitment to civil posts and civil services** on all India basis by open competition.
 - ✦ To bring SCs/STs into the mainstream society by providing them education opportunities the government has also provided **reservation to SC/ST (15 and 7.5 percent respectively) in premier Institutions like IIT's and IIM's.**

Panchsheel approach to Tribal upliftment

In 1952, **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had advocated 'Panchsheel' for Tribal development to address issues of Tribal justice.**



- ▣ **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955:** It was enacted to prescribe punishment for the preaching and practice of "Untouchability" for the enforcement of any disability arising therefrom and for matters connected therewith.



- ❑ **SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:** It prevents the commission of offences of atrocities against the members of the SCs and STs.
- ❑ **Also, it provides for Special Courts for the trial** of such offences and for the **relief and rehabilitation of the victims** of such offences and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

☆ For preservation of tribal rights

- ❑ **Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996:** It was enacted on the recommendations of Dileep Singh Bhuria Committee for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas.
- ❑ It recognizes the **right of tribal communities, residents of the Scheduled Areas**, to govern themselves through their own systems of self-government and acknowledge their traditional rights over natural resources.

☆ For safeguarding tribal identity

- ❑ **Fifth Schedule:** Under **Article 244 (1)**, it deals with administration of scheduled areas where tribal communities are in a majority, envisages **creation of Tribal Advisory Council and confers comprehensive powers on the governor**.
- ❑ For instance, Governor may make regulations for the peace and good government of any area in the State prohibiting or restricting the transfer of land.
- ❑ **Sixth Schedule:** Under **Article 244 (2)**, it applies to the states of **Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura which are declared as tribal areas and provides for Autonomous Districts Councils (ADCs)** for such areas.
- ❑ **ADCs have legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy** within a state with regard to land, forest, water, agriculture, health, sanitation, inheritance, marriage and divorce, social customs etc. to preserve their culture and traditions.

- ❑ **STs and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act (FRA), 2006:** It was enacted to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land to forest dwelling STs and other traditional forest dwellers.

☆ For providing them isolated environment

- ❑ **Development of PVTG Scheme:** It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that aims at planning their socio-economic development in a comprehensive manner while retaining the culture and heritage of the community by adopting habitat development approach.
- ❑ **Inner Line Permit Policy (ILP):** An Indian citizen visiting or wanting to stay in certain North-eastern states – Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram – must take permission under the ILP system.

OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS



Article 15: Prohibit discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.



Article 16: Equal opportunity in matters of public employment.



Article 46: Promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes (SCs), STs and other weaker sections.



Article 243D: Reservation of Seats for STs in Panchayats.



Article 244: Administration for certain designated as Schedule Areas and Tribal Areas.



Article 330 and 332: Reservation of seats for SCs and STs in Lok Sabha, and in Legislative Assemblies of the States respectively.



Article 335: Claim of SCs and STs to services and posts.



Article 338-A: National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has been set-up to investigate and monitor all matters relating to safeguards provided for STs under Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force.



RECENT GOVERNMENT SCHEMES FOR UPLIFTMENT OF TRIBALS

☆ Socio- Economic

- ❑ **Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP Scheme.**
- ❑ **Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Vikas Yojana (PMVDVY):** To improve tribal incomes by value-adding, branding and commercialising MFPs by establishing Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) that will promote and facilitate tribal entrepreneurship.
- ❑ **Going Online As Leaders (GOAL) programme:** It aims at **digital empowerment of 5000 tribal youth and women** over five years through concept of mentor and mentee.
- ❑ **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):** To impart **quality education to ST children** in remote areas and to avail of opportunities in higher education and employment.
- ❑ **1000 Springs Initiative:** Joint initiative by **MoTA and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** to provide a localized solution to **meet water supply needs in remote areas.**
- ❑ **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library.**

☆ Administrative















- ❑ **Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme** to bridge gap between STs and other social groups through human resource development.

☆ Cultural

- ❑ **International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples:** Every year, **August 9 is celebrated** to raise awareness about role of indigenous people and need to preserve their communities.
- ❑ **National Tribal Festival:** To **showcase glimpses of rich cultural heritage of tribal people** through unique forms of folk dances, exhibition of traditional skill in painting, medicinal practices etc.

STATUS OF TRIBALS IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Despite the numerous efforts, tribals do not fare well on this front.

Indicators	ST	National average
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)	 41.6	 35.2
Under 5 Mortality rate	 50.3	 41.9
Institutional delivery	 82.3%	 88.6%
Immunization (12-23) months	 76.8%	 83.8%
Life expectancy	 63.9 years	 67 years
Literacy (Census 2011)	 59%	 73%
Poverty (Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2021)	 50.6%	 27.91%



WHAT ARE THE PROMINENT IMPEDIMENTS FACED BY TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN THEIR DEVELOPMENTAL PATH?

First during the colonial rule, and subsequently, in independent India, tribal communities have a long history of marginalization, neglect and oppression. As highlighted in the above infographic, despite numerous steps, a huge gap exists between the tribal people and other section of society. This can be attributed to the following-

☆ Socio-Cultural issues

- ❑ **Erosion of identity:** The **traditional institutions and laws of tribals have come into conflict with modern institutions; inflow of non-tribals in scheduled areas**, along with decreasing tribal population has led to degradation of tribal identity. Example, Bo language has gone extinct.
- ❑ **Education:** Early participation of children into work, **poverty, inadequacy of educational institutions, lack of administrative policy regarding the educational institutions** in tribal areas have contributed to the **high incidence of illiteracy and early dropout**.
- ❑ **Health and Nutrition: Unhygienic and primitive practices**, lack of nutritious diet, **poor healthcare infrastructure**, inadequate vaccination and immunization of infants and children leading to **chronic infections, malnutrition and water borne diseases**.
 - ❑ **Tribals face triple burden of diseases:** communicable diseases (malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy etc.), non-communicable diseases (diabetes, cardiovascular and cancers) and mental health problems like stress, substance abuse and so on.
 - ❑ For instance, as per UNICEF, 40 percent of under- five tribal children are stunted.
- ❑ **Gender gap:** Women in indigenous communities (patriarchal tribes) **do not enjoy equal rights and opportunities such as** reproductive health, education, access to political power, social status etc. Women remain **underrepresented in decision-making bodies** like the assembly or parliament and community leadership roles.
 - ❑ For instance, in political representation in 2022, **tribal state of Arunachal Pradesh has only four women MLAs** in the current assembly of 60 mandated members, and it has **never had a woman MP since the attainment of statehood** in 1987.

☆ Economic issues

- ❑ **Land Alienation:** Historically, the Forest policy of the British Government was more inclined towards commercial considerations.
 - ❑ Later, tribal lands were **occupied by moneylenders, zamindars and traders by advancing loans** etc. And with **opening of mines, diversion of forest lands for railway construction etc.** tribal were displaced from their own lands.
- ❑ **Poverty and unemployment:** Tribals followed primary occupations such as hunting, gathering, and agriculture. The technology used was primitive, thus there was **no surplus production leading to meagre or no profit**. Hence their per capita income was much lesser than the Indian average.
 - ❑ **Lack of skill, illiteracy and lack of higher education, low wages besides malnutrition etc.** continue to be the major problems leading to poor employment opportunities and high unemployment ratio.

☆ Environment issues

- ❑ **Man-Animal conflicts:** In recent times, man-animal conflict has gone up due to the increase in human population, land-use transformations for developmental activities, habitat fragmentation and increasing wildlife population as a result of conservation strategies.
- ❑ **Natural resources:** With the advent of industrialisation in India, discovery of mineral and other resources in tribal inhabited areas, these pockets were opened to outsiders and state control replacing tribal control to boost growth.



IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INDIA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Pandemic and lockdown had severely affected the livelihoods, health, and mobility of indigenous people. They continued to face a threat to their rights to land and identity, as several incidents of forced eviction were reported during the lockdown. Some of the issues are as follows,

- ☆ **Forced eviction:** In 2020, Kalahandi Forest (Kondh tribe) department forcibly demolished the homes of 32 tribal families in Sagada village, Odisha without prior information.
- ☆ **Detention:** Tribals have been detained illegally during lockdown.
 - ▣ For instance, 20 Adivasis in Kevadiya Village, Gujarat were detained when they were protesting the construction of a fence around their villages, during the lockdown, for the 'Statue of Unity' project.
- ☆ **Violence:** In Siwal village, **Madhya Pradesh Forest officials attempted to vacate the "encroached" land by destroying standing crops**, resulting in violence against the villagers.
 - ▣ In Madhya Pradesh, attempts to evict Adivasis of Bhilaikheda, resulted in police brutality against them.
- ☆ **Displacement:** At least 30 projects in forest areas were provided environmental clearances by the Indian government during the pandemic.
 - ▣ For example, **over 20,000 families, face threat of displacement** due to commercial licenses given for coal mining in the states of **Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha**.

☆ Policy issues

- ▣ **FRA, 2006:** There is lack of coordination between the tribal, revenue and forest department on implementation of the FRA.
 - ✘ Also, there is **lack of recognition of Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights**.
 - ✘ There is a huge resistance from the forest department to recognize CFR Rights and sharing of power with Gram Sabha for conservation and management of forest resources.
- ▣ **PESA, 1996:** It is observed that the local tribal community of Fifth Schedule areas has very limited understanding of the law and powers extended to them under PESA.
 - ✘ **Despite of more than 25 years of implementation** of PESA, there exist **gaps in adoption of PESA at state level in letter and spirit**.
 - ✘ For instance, despite having a 26% Adivasi population, Jharkhand has failed to formulate rules for the implementation of PESA.

☆ Security issues

- ▣ **Impact of Naxalism:** Lack of education, **poverty, unemployment, personal/ ancestral enmity along with attraction to uniforms and weapons of Maoists**, are the reasons behind tribal youths joining the outlawed movement rather than their ideology about the fight for land.
 - ✘ **As a result of clashes between Naxalites** and security forces, and unrest against the alleged violations by security forces, tribals have been displaced from Chhattisgarh to neighbouring states.

WHAT MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBALS IN INDIA?

The true spirit of development of tribals lies in making them realise their rights and ensuring that the rights are protected through institutional means, ultimately upholding the Tribal Panchsheel. Multiple interventions are required to chart out a developmental strategy and improve the conditions of tribals in India. Some of them are as follows.



☆ Socio-Economic Measures

- ❑ **Tribal centred education system:** There is need to **provide job-oriented education**, set up non-formal and vocational training centers to meet local needs, and setting up of **sports training centers** to promote tribal children's talents.
 - ❑ **Teacher training institutions should be opened** in the Tribal Sub Plan areas and curriculum should be drawn up taking into account the socio-cultural milieu, tribal ethos, language etc.
- ❑ **Awareness:** There is a need to take up massive awareness creation activities among the tribal to make them realize their development potential. **Area based approach should be adopted** to create infrastructure and road connectivity.
- ❑ **Health:** Improving **coverage and accessibility of Primary Health Cares** and instead of alienating or rejecting traditional healer's option of engaging them in the healthcare system must be explored.
 - ❑ Traditional herbal medicines should be protected through community ownership and intellectual property rights of tribal community over their own herbal medicines and practices should be ensured.
- ❑ **Identification:** Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) among the tribes need special attention, their customary right to **land; forest and sources of livelihood must be respected** and protected.
- ❑ **Funding: Autonomous Councils must be covered under State Finance Commission (SFC)** and SFC should lay down appropriate principles of resource distribution between State and Autonomous Council. Funding should not be left to arbitrary discretion of State Governments.
- ❑ **Employment:** There is a dire need to **establish agro-based training institutions and related labor-intensive processing industries** in tribal regions by engaging SHGs, cooperative institutions and Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas.

☆ Administrative Measures

- ❑ **Enlarging the Tribal Panchsheel-** Nearly three-quarters of a century after independence, several policies and constitutional safeguards, fortified by statutes and judicial pronouncements, are now in place. This advocates a pragmatic action plan in consonance with tribal panchsheel.
- ❑ **ILO's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989:** Indigenous and tribal peoples shall enjoy the full measure of human rights and fundamental freedoms without hindrance or discrimination. The ratification of this convention by India, would assert our choice to assimilate Tribals while respecting their social and cultural autonomy.
- ❑ **Representation:** There should be provision for **reservation for tribal women (one-third) as well as smaller tribal groups in the Autonomous Development Council (ADCs)** and other political institutions.
 - ❑ Plenary powers could be given to Gram Sabhas to fight cases of tribal land alienation collectively, as tribal cannot afford legal battles, given their socio-economic conditions.

CONCLUSION

In the era of globalization and the digital divide, it is vital for tribal population as well as the non-tribal population of India to bridge the representation gap in order to ensure appropriate legitimization of tribal voices, identities, culture, collective human rights and contextual issues. As India is aspiring to be a global super-power, it needs to rethink and redefine its definition of development to incorporate the discourse of inclusive tribal development. This will also be in sync with the Sustainable Developmental Goals agenda.





TOPIC AT A GLANCE

Tribe is derived from Latin word "Tribus" meaning "one third". Tribe, called as "aboriginal" or "Adivasis", is a social group that shares common ancestors, beliefs, culture, customs, and traditions. India has second largest tribal population in world after Africa. As per census 2011, India is home to about 700 tribal groups with a population of 104 million.

Characteristics of Indian Tribes

Distinctive psychological view

Lack of distinction between forms as well as substance of religion

Lack of formal organization

Cultural Homogeneity

Living on Hilly or Forest area

Communitarian basis of land holding

Role of tribal communities in representing and conserving India's distinct heritage

- ☆ **Cultural diversity:** Tribal festivals like **Karama in Odisha, Sarhul in Jharkhand** bore religious significance enriching cultural heritage of India.
- ☆ **Traditional Medicine:** Garasia tribes have **ethno-medicinal plants knowledge in Sirohi (Rajasthan)**, which are listed in IUCN Red List of threatened species.
- ☆ **Water conservation:** **Bhil tribes in Madhya Pradesh** have revived their **age-old tradition "halma"** to solve water problems with community-based approach.
- ☆ **Indigenous varieties:** For instance, **rice crop like Pattambi, Champara are conserved by Khasi and Garo tribes** in North East region.

Classification of Tribal communities in India

- ☆ **Geographical,** Racial and Linguistic.
- ☆ **Constitutional:** Tribes that have been **listed in Constitution and mentioned in successive presidential orders** are called **Scheduled Tribes**.
- ☆ **Administrative:**
 - ▣ Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)
 - ▣ De-notified Tribes (eg. Chhara, Devipujak etc.)
 - ▣ Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Communities

Tribal communities governed in India

- ☆ **Reservation policy:** 15% (SCs) and 7.5% (STs) in appointment by direct recruitment to civil posts and civil services on all India basis by open competition.
- ☆ **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.**
- ☆ **SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**
- ☆ **Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996:** Recognizes rights of tribal communities, residents of Scheduled Areas.
- ☆ **Fifth Schedule (Article 244 (1)) and Sixth Schedule (244 [2])**
- ☆ **Development of PVTG Scheme:** To plan their **socio-economic development while retaining culture and heritage of community** by adopting habitat development approach.

Impediments faced by tribal communities in their developmental path

- ☆ **Erosion of identity:** Bo language has gone extinct.
- ☆ **Education:** Participation of children into work, **poverty, lack of administrative policy regarding educational institutions.**
- ☆ **Health and Nutrition:** Lack of nutritious diet, **poor healthcare infrastructure,** inadequate vaccination.
- ☆ **Land Alienation:** Tribal lands were occupied by moneylenders, zamindars by advancing loans and tribal were displaced from their own lands.
- ☆ **FRA, 2006:** Lack of coordination between tribal, revenue & forest department on FRA implementation.
- ☆ **Impact of Naxalism:** **Poverty, unemployment, personal/ ancestral enmity along with attraction to Maoists uniforms and weapons** are reasons behind tribal youths joining the outlawed movement.
- ☆ **Gender gap:** Women **do not enjoy equal rights and opportunities** remain **underrepresented in decision-making bodies.**

Measures can be taken for sustainable development of tribals in India

- ☆ **Tribal centred education system:** Need to **provide job-oriented education,** setting up of **sports training centers** to promote tribal children's talents etc.
- ☆ **Awareness:** **Area based approach should be adopted** to create infrastructure and road connectivity.
- ☆ **Health:** **Traditional herbal medicines should be protected through community ownership** and intellectual property rights of tribal community over their own herbal medicines and practices should be ensured.
- ☆ **Identification:** PVTGs among tribes need special attention.
- ☆ **Funding:** **Autonomous Councils must be covered under State Finance Commission (SFC).**
- ☆ **Employment:** Need to **establish agro-based training institutions and related labor-intensive processing industries** in Scheduled Areas.
- ☆ **Representation:** Provision for **reservation for tribal women (one-third) as well as smaller tribal groups in Autonomous Development Council (ADCs)** and other political institutions.
- ☆ **ILO's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989:** Ratification of this convention by India, would assert our choice to assimilate Tribals while respecting their social and cultural autonomy.
- ☆ **Enlarging Tribal Panchsheel:** Need to have pragmatic action plan in consonance with tribal panchsheel.

