

UPSC Civil Services Examination

Political Science & International Relations

Topic: - Scheduled Tribes - Indian Polity Notes

Scheduled Tribes

The Constitution of India does not give any definition for Scheduled Tribes. According to **Article 366(25)** of the Constitution, Scheduled Tribes are those communities who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. Also, **Article 342** of the Constitution says that: The Scheduled Tribes are the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within these tribes and tribal communities which have been declared as such by the President through a public notification.

Scheduled Tribes in India

According to the 2011 Census, the Scheduled Tribes account for 104 million representing 8.6% of the country's population. These Scheduled Tribes are spread throughout the country largely in forest and hilly regions.

- The essential characteristics of these communities are:-
 - Primitive Traits
 - Geographical isolation
 - Distinct culture
 - Shy of contact with community at large
 - Economically backwards
- As in the case of the SCs, the Plan objective of empowering the tribals is being achieved through a three-pronged strategy of **social empowerment, economic empowerment and social justice**.

Note on Primitive Tribal Groups

There are certain tribal communities who have declining or stagnant population among these scheduled tribes. They have a low level of literacy, possess a pre-agricultural level of technology and are economically backward.

- 75 such groups in 17 States and 1 Union Territory have been identified and categorized as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs).
- A majority of these groups have not attained any significant level of social and economic progress. They generally inhabit remote localities which have poor infrastructure and barely any administrative support.
- This makes them the most vulnerable sections among the scheduled tribes and a priority is required to be accorded for their protection, keeping in check the declining trend of their population and their development.

Statewise Scheduled Tribes List

| State | Tribes |
|--------------------------|--|
| Andhra Pradesh | Andh And Sadhu Andh, Bhil, Bhaghata, Dhulia, rona, Kolam, Gond, Thoti, Goundu, Kammara, Savaras, Dabba Yerukula, Sugalis, Nakkala, Pardhan, Gadabas, Chenchus A.k.a Chenchawar, Kattunayakan, Jatapus, Manna Dhora |
| Arunachal Pradesh | Singpho, Dafla, Momba, Abor, Sherdkpen, Galong, Apatanis |
| Assam | Khasis, Chakma, Dimasa, Gangte, Garos, Hajong, Chutiya |
| Bihar | Gond, Birjia, Asur, Savar, Parhaiya, Chero, Birhor, Santhals, Baiga |
| Chhattisgarh | Nagasia, Biar, Khond, Agariya, Bhattra, Mawasi, Bhaina, |
| Goa | Varli, Dubia, Siddi, Dhodia, Naikda |
| Gujarat | Patelia, Bhil, Dhodia, Bamcha, Barda, Paradhi, Charan, Gamta |
| Himachal Pradesh | Swangal, Gujjars, Lahaulas, Khas, Pangwala, Lamba, Gaddis |
| Jammu and Kashmir | Balti, Garra, Sippi, Bakarwal, Mon, Gaddi, Purigpa, Beda |
| Jharkhand | Gonds, Birhors, Savar, Mundas, Santhals, Khaira, Bhumji |
| Karnataka | Gond, Patelia, Barda, Yerava, Bhil, Koraga, Adiyani, Iruliga, |
| Kerala | Malai, Aarayan, Arandan, Uralis, Kurumbas, Arandan, Eranvallan |
| Madhya Pradesh | Kharia, Bhils, Murias, Birhors, Baigas, Katkari, Kol, Bharia, Khond, Gonds, |
| Maharashtra | Warlis, Khond, Bhaina, Katkari, Bhunjia, Rathawa, Dhodia. |

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Manipur | Thadou, Aimol, Maram, Paite, Chiru, Purum, Kuki, Monsang, Angami |
| Meghalaya | Pawai, Chakma, Raba, Hajong, Lakher, Garos, Jaintias Khasis |
| Mizoram | Dimasa, Raba, Chakma, Lakher, Khasi, Synteng, Kuki, Pawai. |
| Nagaland | Nagas, Angami, Sema, Garo, Kuki, Kachari, Mikir |
| Odisha | Gadaba, Ghara, Kharia, Khond, Matya, Oraons, Rajuar, Santhals. |
| Rajasthan | Bhils, Damaria, Dhanka, Meenas(Minas), Patelia, Sahariya. |
| Sikkim | Bhutia, Khas, Lepchas. |
| Tamil Nadu | Adiyan, Aranadan, Eravallan, Irular, Kadar, Kanikar, Kotas, Todas. |
| Telangana | Chenchus. |
| Tripura | Bhil, Bhutia, Chaimal, Chakma, Halam, Khasia, Lushai, Mizel, Namte. |
| Uttarakhand | Bhotias, Buksa, Jannsari, Khas, Raji, Tharu. |
| Uttar Pradesh | Bhotia, Buksa, Jaunsari, Kol, Raji, Tharu. |
| West Bengal | Asur, Khond, Hajong, Ho, Parhaiya, Rabha, Santhals, Savar. |
| Andaman and Nicobar | Oraons, Onges, Sentinelese, Shompens. |
| Little Andaman | Jarawa. |
| North-East | Abhors, Chang, Galaong, Mishimi, Singpho, Wancho. |

UPSC Questions related to Scheduled Tribes in India

What is the difference between 5th Schedule and 6th Schedule?

- Article 244 in Part X of the Constitution envisages a special system of administration for certain areas designated as 'scheduled areas and 'tribal areas'.
- The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in many states except the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- While the Sixth Scheduled of the Constitution deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four north-eastern states of Assam Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

It makes special provisions for "tribal areas". The rationality behind the special arrangements is that:

- The tribes in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram have not assimilated much with the life and ways of the other people in these states.
- These areas have hitherto been anthropological specimens.
- The tribes in these 4 states still have their roots in their own culture, customs and civilization.

| Schedule of the Constitution | States | |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Fifth Schedule | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Andhra Pradesh, 2. Chhattisgarh, 3. Gujarat, 4. Himachal Pradesh, 5. Jharkhand, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madhya Pradesh, • Maharashtra, • Odisha, • Rajasthan • Telangana |
| Sixth Schedule | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assam 2. Meghalaya | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tripura • Mizoram |
| Unregistered | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kerala, 2. Tamil Nadu, 3. Karnataka, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Bengal, • Uttar Pradesh • Jammu & Kashmir |

Why tribals are called Scheduled Tribes?

- The Tribals/Tribes are called Scheduled Tribes as they are included in one of the Schedules of the Constitution of India.