

The concept of Tribes

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Indian Tribe Definition:

- A body of Indians of the same or a similar race, united in a community under one leadership or government, and inhabiting a particular though sometimes ill-defined territory.
- In Oxford Dictionary of sociology 'tribe' is defined as a social group bound together by kin and duty associated with a particular territory; members of the tribe share the social cohesion and associated with the family together with the sense of political autonomy of the nation.

- W.H.R. Rivers defined a tribe as 'a social group of simple kind, the members of which speak a common dialect, have a single government, and act together for such common purposes as warfare'.
- According to The Oxford English Dictionary the word 'tribe' is derived from the Latin term 'tribus' which was applied to the three divisions of the early people of Rome

Key Features Of Tribes In India

- India is the abode of a sizeable proportion of indigenous people, who still live away untouched by the shadows of modern society.
- To identify and distinguish these communities, the *Chanda Committee in the year 1960* had laid down 5 standards to include any community/caste in the tribal group.

These standards are broadly categorized into the following: –

- Special Culture
- Geographical Isolation
- Backwardness
- Characteristics Of Tribes
- Shyness

The General Features Of Tribes

- A tribe can be defined as a social section within a traditional society that consists of families that are connected through lines of economic, social, blood or religious ties, and also share a common dialect and culture
- Every tribe has certain qualities (social, political, and cultural) that distinguish it from the other
- The tribes in India are also called as “*adivasis*”

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- According to the *constitution of India*, tribal communities have been given recognition as scheduled tribe in *Schedule 5*.
- Article 366 (25) defined scheduled tribes as “*such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this constitution*”
- The inclusion of a community as a Scheduled Tribe is an ongoing process

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- The *total population of Scheduled Tribes in india is 84,326,240* as per the Census 2001. This accounts for 8.2% of the total population of the country.
- The share of the Scheduled Tribe in the urban areas is only 2.4%
- In Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka, we have the maximum population of scheduled tribes

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- The states of Meghalaya, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Bihar, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, contribute to 15.3% of total Scheduled Tribe population
- The share of other states that remain is minimal
- The STs in India make the largest proportion of the entire population in Lakshadweep and Mizoram, closely followed by the states of Meghalaya and Nagaland.

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- There is reservation of seats for the Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha.
- 47 seats are reserved in Lok Sabha for Scheduled Tribes. The 1st schedule to R. P. Act, 1950 as amended vide Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2008 gives the State-wise break up
- The number of seats is decided on the basis of the proportion of Scheduled Tribes in the State concerned to that of the total population

- The provision in Article 330 of the Constitution of India read with Section 3 of the R. P. Act, 1950 validates the above decision
- The largest number of scheduled Tribes are in Madhya Pradesh (Bastar), closely followed by Bihar
- Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh, and Pondicherry have no STs.

Problems of tribals in India

- **Six Main Problems Faced by the Indian Tribes**
- Loss of Control over Natural Resources: ...
- Lack of Education: ...
- Displacement and Rehabilitation: ...
- **Problems of Health and Nutrition: ...**
- **Gender Issues: ...**
- Erosion of Identity:

NATIONAL POLICY ON TRIBALS

- The Constitution through several Articles has provided for the socio-economic development and empowerment of Scheduled Tribes. But there has been no national policy, which could have helped translate the constitutional provisions into a reality. Five principles spelt out in 1952, known as Nehruvian Panchasheel, have been guiding the administration of tribal affairs.
- 1. Tribals should be allowed to develop according to their own genius
- 2. Tribals' rights in land and forest should be respected

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- 3. Tribal teams should be trained to undertake administration and development without too many outsiders being inducted
- 4. Tribal development should be undertaken without disturbing tribal social and cultural institutions
- 5. The index of tribal development should be the quality of their life and not the money spent

THANKING YOU