Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Discuss the constitutional and developmental measures required to ensure the socio-economic empowerment of tribal communities in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/11/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Constitutional safeguards, Fifth and Sixth Schedules, PESA Act, Forest Rights Act, education, healthcare, livelihood security, cultural preservation, participatory governance.

Model Answer

Introduction

Tribal communities face interconnected challenges such as geographical isolation, poverty, limited access to public services and displacement. Their empowerment requires inclusive development alongside protection of their identity and rights.

Constitutional and Legal Safeguards

Articles 46, 275(1) and 338A provide important safeguards for tribal welfare. The Fifth and Sixth Schedules establish special administrative arrangements, while PESA Act, 1996 and Forest Rights Act, 2006 strengthen community rights and local self-governance.

Key Developmental Priorities

- **Education:** Improve residential schools, scholarships, digital access and mother-tongue-based education.
- **Healthcare:** Strengthen primary healthcare, nutrition, maternal care and culturally appropriate health services.

- **Livelihoods:** Promote minor forest produce, skill development, sustainable agriculture and market access.
- **Infrastructure:** Expand roads, electricity, drinking water and digital connectivity without undermining ecological balance.
- **Participation:** Empower Gram Sabhas and ensure tribal representation in decision-making.

Conclusion

Tribal development must move beyond welfare delivery towards rights-based and participatory empowerment. Balancing economic opportunities, cultural preservation and community autonomy is essential for inclusive growth.

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