Society & Social Justice · GS - I

Does tribal development in India centre around two axes, those of displacement and of rehabilitation? Give your opinion.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Tribal development, displacement, rehabilitation, land alienation, mining, dams, forest rights, livelihood, cultural identity, participatory development

Model Answer

Introduction

Displacement and rehabilitation have historically been major dimensions of tribal development because large infrastructure, mining and conservation projects have frequently intersected with tribal habitats. However, tribal development cannot be reduced to these two axes alone.

1. Displacement as a Development Challenge

Tribal communities often depend on land, forests and common resources for livelihoods and cultural identity. Development-induced displacement can therefore cause economic loss as well as social and cultural disruption.

2. Rehabilitation

Conventional rehabilitation has often focused on monetary compensation and physical resettlement. Such approaches may fail to restore community networks, customary rights and sustainable livelihoods.

3. Wider Development Dimensions

Tribal development also involves education, healthcare, nutrition, connectivity, livelihood diversification, political participation and protection of forest and land rights. Laws and institutions relating to forest rights and self-governance seek to strengthen community participation.

4. Participatory Approach

Development should prioritise informed consultation, community participation, livelihood restoration and culturally sensitive planning.

Conclusion

Displacement and rehabilitation remain important axes, but a comprehensive tribal-development approach must move beyond compensatory rehabilitation towards rights-based, participatory and sustainable development that preserves dignity and cultural identity.

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