Society & Social Justice · GS - I

Why are the tribals in India referred to as ‘the Scheduled Tribes’? Indicate the major provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India for their upliftment.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2016	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Constitutional identification; Article 342; historical marginalisation; Fifth Schedule; Sixth Schedule; reservation; safeguards; tribal development

Model Answer

Introduction

The term Scheduled Tribes refers to tribal communities that are constitutionally recognised and specified in official lists for protective measures and affirmative action.

Why They Are Called Scheduled Tribes

Article 342 empowers the President to specify tribal communities as Scheduled Tribes for particular states or Union Territories, subject to Parliament's power to modify the lists. These communities have historically faced geographical isolation, economic exploitation, displacement and limited access to public services.

Major Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 14:** Guarantees equality before the law.
- **Article 15(4) and Article 15(5):** Enable special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes, including Scheduled Tribes, in specified contexts.

- **Article 16(4) and Article 16(4A):** Provide for reservation-related measures in public employment and promotion, subject to constitutional conditions.
- **Article 46:** Directs the State to promote the educational and economic interests of weaker sections, particularly Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and protect them from social injustice and exploitation.
- **Article 244:** Provides for administration of Scheduled Areas and tribal areas under the Fifth and Sixth Schedules.
- **Fifth Schedule:** Provides a framework for Scheduled Areas and tribal administration in specified states.
- **Sixth Schedule:** Provides autonomous district and regional councils in specified tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- **Article 330 and Article 332:** Provide for reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.
- **Article 338A:** Establishes the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

Conclusion

Constitutional recognition aims to correct historical disadvantage while protecting tribal identity, representation and interests. Effective implementation must accompany these safeguards.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP