Polity & Governance · GS - II

How can the constitutional protection of tribal identity be reconciled with infrastructure-led development in India's North-Eastern states? Examine with reference to Arunachal Pradesh.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 22/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Tribal autonomy, Article 371H, customary practices, land and resource rights, infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, community participation, inclusive growth

Model Answer

Introduction

Arunachal Pradesh's development requires improved connectivity, livelihoods and public services while protecting its diverse tribal identities, customary institutions and traditional relationship with land and natural resources.

Balancing tribal rights and development

1. **Constitutional safeguards:** Article 371H provides special provisions for Arunachal Pradesh, including the Governor's responsibility regarding law and order.
2. **Community participation:** Tribal communities should participate in decisions concerning land, forests and infrastructure projects.
3. **Cultural preservation:** Indigenous languages, customary institutions and traditional knowledge must be integrated into development planning.

4. **Sustainable infrastructure:** Roads, hydropower and other projects should undergo rigorous environmental and social impact assessments.
5. **Economic empowerment:** Skill development, local entrepreneurship, tourism and value addition to indigenous products can generate community-based livelihoods.

Conclusion

Development should be participatory rather than imposed. A model combining constitutional safeguards, ecological sensitivity and local economic empowerment can enable Arunachal Pradesh to pursue self-reliance without eroding its indigenous identity.