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Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

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Q5(c)

Tribalism and Pseudotribalism

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2025 · Anthropology GS 2 · 10 marks · Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization

1.1 Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization-Prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Neolithic-Chalcolithic), Protohistoric (Indus Civilization). Pre-Harappan, Harappan and post-Harappan cultures. Contributions of the tribal cultures to Indian civilization.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Strategic essentialism

A group simplifies and stages its culture to be seen by the state, common in ST-inclusion campaigns.

PVTG layer

A subset of STs recognised as more vulnerable, which already admits that not all listed tribes stand in the same place.

Bêteille

Argued that tribe and caste in India are entangled administrative categories, which complicates any pure-versus-pseudo test.

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