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Q8(b)**What are the major challenges tribal communities are facing in contemporary India?**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2026 · Anthropology GS 2 · 15 marks · The concept of ethnicity

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7.3 The concept of ethnicity; Ethnic conflicts and political developments; Unrest among tribal communities; Regionalism and demand for autonomy; Pseudo-tribalism. Social change among the tribes during colonial and post-Independent India.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round.

Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006

Legislation enacted to recognize and vest forest rights and occupation in forest-dwelling scheduled tribes who reside in such forests for generations.

Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA)

Extends Part IX of the Constitution to Scheduled Areas with provisions empowering Gram Sabhas with self-governance over community resources.

Xaxa Committee Report, 2014

High-level committee report on the socio-economic, health, and educational status of tribal communities of India, highlighting systemic alienation.

Samata v. State of Andhra Pradesh, 1997

Supreme Court judgment ruling that transfer of tribal land to private mining companies in Scheduled Areas is null and void under the Fifth Schedule.

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