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Q10

## **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.**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · GS I · 12 marks · Indian Society and Diversity

Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

### **Core demand of the question**

- 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
- Cover the idea of the Schedule and the main protective, political, and developmental articles
- Keep the explanation within a 12.5-mark length

### **Revision summary**

- **ST is a constitutional status:** communities notified under **Article 342** and defined in **Article 366(25)**.

The schedule exists so isolation and land vulnerability can be answered by law, not by charity alone.

**Articles 15(4), 16(4), 46**, and **335** frame education, jobs, and protection from exploitation.

The **Fifth and Sixth Schedules** and **Article 275** fund and structure tribal-area government.

Reserved seats and the ST commission give political and watchdog voice.

### **Flow diagram**

President Art 342 -> ST list

ST list -> Arts 15 16 330 332 335

ST list -> Fifth Sixth Schedules Art 244

ST list -> Art 46 275 339

Arts 15 16 330 332 335 -> Upliftment safeguards

Fifth Sixth Schedules Art 244 -> Upliftment safeguards

Art 46 275 339 -> Upliftment safeguards

### **Conclusion**

- Answer the name from **Articles 342 and 366**, then list protection, reservation, schedules, finance, and political seats as one package.
- **Keep examples short:** a **Fifth Schedule** state versus a **Sixth Schedule** council, so the map of upliftment is clear.

Tribals are Scheduled Tribes because the Constitution schedules them under **Article 342** for targeted justice. Upliftment is written as special care in equality clauses, scheduled-area government, Union grants, service claims, and reserved legislatures, which still need honest delivery on the ground.

### Facts & figures

#### Article 342

Presidential notification, with Governor consultation, of Scheduled Tribes for each state; Parliament may amend the list.

#### Article 366(25)

Definition of Scheduled Tribes as those deemed under **Article 342**.

#### Fifth and Sixth Schedules

Special administration for scheduled areas and for specified north-eastern tribal areas, via **Article 244**.

#### Articles 330 and 332

Reservation of Lok Sabha and state assembly seats for Scheduled Tribes.

#### Article 338A

**National Commission** for Scheduled Tribes, added by the Eighty-ninth Amendment, to monitor constitutional safeguards.

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