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Q59

The provisions in Fifth Schedule and Sixth Schedule in the Constitution of India are made in order to (a) protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes (b) determine the boundaries between States (c) determine the powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats (d) protect the interests of all the border States Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2015 · General Studies · 2 marks · Polity and Governance

Indian Constitution, polity, rights, governance - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

The **Fifth Schedule** deals with administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in States other than those under the **Sixth Schedule**. The **Sixth Schedule** provides autonomous district and regional councils in specified tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. Together they protect tribal interests. This option is the official key.

(b)

State boundaries are dealt with under **Articles 2-4** and related parliamentary law, not by the Fifth and Sixth Schedules. This option is therefore not the key.

(c)

Powers of Panchayats are in Part IX and the **Eleventh Schedule**. The Fifth and Sixth Schedules are a different tribal-area scheme. This option is not the key.

(d)

The Schedules are not a general charter for all border States; they target Scheduled Tribes and specified tribal areas. This option is therefore wrong.

Summary

Official key is (a) protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes. **Fifth Schedule** covers Scheduled Areas and Tribes outside the **Sixth Schedule States**; **Sixth Schedule** creates autonomous councils in listed north-eastern tribal areas. Boundary-making and Panchayat devolution sit elsewhere in the Constitution. The Schedules are not a blanket border-State guarantee. Only (a) states their purpose.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Article 244

Applies Fifth and Sixth Schedules to tribal areas

Tribes Advisory Council

Fifth Schedule body in States with Scheduled Areas

Sixth Schedule States

Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram

ADC

Autonomous District Council under the **Sixth Schedule**

Eleventh Schedule

Panchayat subjects; not the tribal Schedules

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