Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Tribal land and forest rights are essential for inclusive development and social justice in India. Discuss the challenges in protecting these rights and suggest suitable measures.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Tribal rights, Forest Rights Act 2006, PESA Act 1996, Fifth Schedule, Gram Sabha, land alienation, displacement, mining projects, forest conservation, livelihood security, implementation gaps, civil liberties, impartial investigation, community participation, conflict resolution.

Model Answer

1. Introduction

Tribal communities have a close relationship with their traditional lands and forests, which provide livelihoods, cultural identity and social security. The Forest Rights Act, 2006 and PESA, 1996 seek to protect their rights and strengthen community participation in governance.

2. Main Body

Major Challenges

- Land alienation: Displacement due to mining, industries and infrastructure projects can undermine tribal livelihoods.
- Implementation gaps: Delays in recognising forest rights and inadequate awareness weaken the effectiveness of protective laws.
- Conflict and mistrust: Disputes over land and forest resources can lead to confrontations between communities and authorities.
- Accountability concerns: Allegations of excessive force or unfair arrests require impartial investigation and due process.
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Measures to Protect Tribal Rights

- Ensure effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act and PESA.
- Strengthen Gram Sabhas and consult tribal communities before decisions affecting their customary resources.
- Provide fair rehabilitation and livelihood support where displacement is unavoidable.
- Ensure impartial investigations, legal assistance and accountability in cases of alleged rights violations.
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3. Conclusion

Protecting tribal rights requires a balance between development, environmental conservation and social justice. Participatory governance, effective law enforcement and respect for constitutional safeguards can build trust and reduce conflict in tribal areas.

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