

## **6.9 TRIBAL POPULATIONS AND RIGHTS**

- The two main regions of a tribal settlement are the country's north-eastern states and the highlands and plains of its central and southern regions.
- Despite some regional variation, the tribes share many traits, including living in relative geographical isolation and being relatively more homogeneous and more self-contained than the non-tribal social groups.
- To balance the dichotomy between assimilation of tribal peoples and their independent identity and a national policy is required that would allow them to preserve their way of life without compromising development.

### **The Constitution of India**

It has accepted the ideas of equality and justice both in the Social and Political fields.

It abolishes any discrimination to any class of persons on the ground of religion, race or place of birth.

It specifically provided certain Articles in the Constitution for the upliftment of tribals.

It also to protect them from the oppressions caused by the other people in the society.

The protective rights granted by the Indian Constitution, 1950 to the tribal people can be classified under the following heads.

- Educational and Cultural Rights (Articles 15(4), 29, 46 and 350.)
- Social Rights (Articles 23 and 24)
- Economic Rights (Articles 244 and 275)
- Political Rights (Articles 164(1), 243, 330, 334 and 371.)
- Employment Rights (Articles 15(4), 16(4) and 16(4A).)

In addition to these rights Fifth and Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution completely deals with the welfare of the tribal people.

### **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes:**

- The Constitution (89<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Act, 2003 has amended Article 338 and added a new Article 338-A which provides for the establishment of National Commission for the Scheduled Tribes.
- The Commission consists of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and three other members.
- They shall be appointed by the president of India

### **Duties of Commission:**

- To investigate and monitor all matters related to the safeguards of Scheduled Tribe's.
- To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of Scheduled Tribes.
- To participate and advise on the planning process of socio-economic developments of scheduled tribes.
- To make recommendations that should be taken by the Center and States for the effective implementation for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes.