



# Land Rights of Tribals and SC/ST Act

## Why in News?

Recently, Jharkhand's Chief Minister **directed officials to safeguard the [land rights of tribals](#)** and take quick action to ensure their possession over plots where court rulings are in their favor following disputes.

- Emphasising that **Scheduled Tribes (STs) have been the most marginalised and deprived population**, it was also directed to officials that **all cases registered under the [Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes \(Prevention of Atrocities\) Act, 1989](#) be disposed of** on a priority basis.

## Key Points

- The [Constitution of India](#) **does not endeavor to define the term 'tribe'**, however, the term [Scheduled Tribe](#) was inserted in the Constitution through Article 342 (i).
  - It lays down that 'the [President](#) may, by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within the tribes or tribal communities or parts which shall, **for the purposes of this Constitution, be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes.**
  - The [Fifth Schedule](#) of the Constitution provides for the setting up of a [Tribes' Advisory Council](#) in each of the States having Scheduled Areas.
- One of the **most significant issues faced by tribal communities is the lack of secure land rights**. Many tribes live in forest areas or remote regions where their traditional rights to land and resources are often not recognized, leading to displacement and land alienation.
- **SC/ST Act 1989 is an Act of Parliament enacted to prohibit discrimination against SC & ST communities** members and prevent atrocities against them.
  - The Act was passed in Parliament of India on 11th September 1989 and **notified on 30 January 1990.**

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