



# Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021

## Why in News

Recently, [Rajya Sabha](#) has passed the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021**.

- The bill provides for **modifying Part-XVIII of the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950**, relating to the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

## Key Points

- **About the Bill:**
  - It seeks to **amend the constitutional list of Scheduled Tribes as recommended by Arunachal Pradesh**.
    - At present, there are **18 communities with their synonyms** appearing in the illustrative list of Scheduled Tribes in respect of the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
  - This **amendment** in the list of Scheduled Tribes, relating to the state of Arunachal Pradesh, will entail **no additional recurring expenditure** from the [Consolidated Fund of India](#), on account of benefits likely to be provided to persons belonging to the communities proposed in the Bill.
    - The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** is funding the **welfare of 10.45 crores of Scheduled Tribes population (Census, 2011)**.
    - Further, the **Scheduled Tribes are also eligible** for benefits under the **Scheduled Tribes Component (STC) of schemes** under the central government and state governments.
      - The **basic objective of Schedule Tribe Component** is to channelize/monitor the flow of outlays and benefits from the general sectors in the Central Ministries/Departments for the development of Scheduled Tribes at least in proportion to their population.
  - The Bill **removes the Abor tribe from the list** of identified STs in Arunachal Pradesh. Further, it **replaces certain STs with other tribes** (as indicated below):

Original list	Proposed changes under the Bill
Abor	Deleted from the list
Khampti	Tai Khamti
Mishmi, Idu, and Taroan	Mishmi-Kaman (Miju Mishmi), Idu (Mishmi), and Taroan (Digaru Mishmi)
Momba	Monpa, Memba, Sartang, and Sajolang (Miji)
Any Naga Tribes	Nocte, Tangsa, Tutsa, and Wancho

- **Scheduled Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh:**
  - **Nearly 64.2% of the total population** of Arunachal Pradesh is **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** according to the **2001 Census**.
  - The state has registered a decadal growth of 28.1% of ST population in 1991-2001 Census.

## Scheduled Tribe

- **Article 366 (25)** of the Constitution refers to **Scheduled Tribes** as those communities, who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution.
- **Article 342** says that **only those communities** who have been declared as such by the **President** through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be considered to be Scheduled Tribes.
- The list of **Scheduled Tribes is State/UT specific** and a community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State.
- The **Constitution is silent about the criteria** for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe. Primitiveness, geographical isolation, shyness and social, educational & economic backwardness are the traits that distinguish Scheduled Tribe communities from other communities.
- There are certain Scheduled Tribes, 75 in number known as **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**, who are characterised by:- a) pre-agriculture level of technology; b) stagnant or declining population; c) extremely low literacy; and d) subsistence level of economy.
- Government Initiatives: The **Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act**, 2006 (FRA); The **Provision of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act**, 1996; Minor Forest Produce Act 2005; **SC And ST (Prevention Of Atrocities) Act**; and the Tribal Sub-Plan Strategy are focused on the socio-economic empowerment of STs.

**Source:TH**

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