BANE 143: TRIBAL CULTURES OF INDIA
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT
(TMA)

Course Code: BANE 143
Assignment Code: BANE 143/ASST/TMA/July 2026 and January 2027
Total Marks: 100

There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all questions in all the Sections.

Assignment – I

Answer the following in about 500 words each. 2X20= 40

a. Define tribes. Discuss the particularly vulnerable groups in India.
b. Examine the tribal monographs written during the constructive and the evaluative phases in India.

Assignment – II

Answer the following in about 250 words each. (Write Short Notes) 2X10=20

a. Summarise the issues related to migration and indebtedness of the tribes in India.
b. Evaluate the forest policies in India during the colonial period and its impacts on tribes with suitable examples.

Answer the following questions in about 75 words each. 5X2=10

a. Tribal women and education
b. Displacement and rehabilitation
c. The Jharkhand movement
d. M.N. Srinivas and Sanskritisation
e. Customary Law

Assignment – III

a. Write a synopsis to present how you would conduct ethnographic research in a nomadic community. Justify the unit of study in your synopsis with emphasis on the relevance of the study. **20**
b. Discuss the qualitative and quantitative analysis of data and report writing for the synopsis that you proposed in Assignment III a. **10**

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a. Define tribes. Discuss the particularly vulnerable groups in India.

Answer

A tribe is generally understood as a community whose members share a sense of collective identity, historical connections, cultural practices and social relationships. Earlier anthropological descriptions often emphasised common territory, language, kinship, customary leadership and comparatively close dependence on local natural resources. However, no single feature applies equally to every tribe. Some communities live in villages, others in towns; some depend on farming and forests, while others work in modern occupations. Therefore, a tribe should not be treated as an isolated or unchanging group.

Meaning and characteristics of a tribe

In India, the word *tribe* also has an administrative and constitutional meaning. Article 342 enables the President, subject to the constitutional procedure, to specify Scheduled Tribes for particular States or Union Territories. The Scheduled Tribe category is not identical to an anthropological definition, because official recognition is determined through a legal process. Communities such as the Gond, Bhil, Santhal, Munda, Naga and Toda illustrate considerable diversity in language, religion, livelihoods and social organisation. This diversity makes generalisations risky.

Tribal identities are commonly supported by collective memories, local institutions, kin networks, festivals, rituals and relationships with land. In many areas, customary councils guide local decisions and disputes, although their authority changes with education, migration, statutory law and elected institutions. Tribal societies maintain economic and cultural links with other communities. They should be studied as active participants in wider society rather than as surviving examples of an earlier historical stage.