

# **Arunachal Pradesh University**

## **Common Entrance Test (APUCET)**

### **Syllabus for M.A. in Tribal Studies**

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#### **Unit I: Foundations of Tribal Studies**

- i. Meaning, nature, scope, and interdisciplinary dimensions of Tribal Studies
- ii. Concept and definitions of tribe, indigenous peoples, Adivasi, Janjati, Scheduled Tribes, PVTGs, and denotified tribes
- iii. Emergence and development of Tribal Studies in India
- iv. Anthropological, historical, folkloristic, emic, etc, and human rights approaches
- v. Tribe–caste continuum and tribal identity
- vi. Contemporary issues affecting tribal communities

#### **Unit II: Tribal Society and Culture**

- i. Characteristics of tribal societies and cultures
- ii. Material and non-material culture
- iii. Social organisation: family, marriage, kinship, lineage, clan, moiety, and dormitory institutions
- iv. Tribal worldview and philosophy
- v. Animism, totemism, shamanism, myths, rituals, and life-cycle ceremonies
- vi. Cultural continuity and change, preservation, and revival

#### **Unit III: Tribal Communities of India and Arunachal Pradesh**

- i. Distribution and classification of Scheduled Tribes in India
- ii. Geographic and linguistic distribution of tribes in Arunachal Pradesh
- iii. Major tribes of Arunachal Pradesh and their cultural characteristics
- iv. Tribal governance systems, customary institutions, and village councils
- v. Festivals, performing arts, material culture, subsistence practices, and livelihoods
- vi. Contemporary developmental challenges

#### **Unit IV: Tribal Languages, Literature, and Oral Traditions**

- i. Linguistic diversity among Indian tribes
- ii. Major tribal language families: Tibeto-Burman, Austroasiatic, Dravidian, etc.
- iii. Language endangerment and revitalisation
- iv. Oral traditions, myths, legends, folklore, epics, proverbs, and songs
- v. Language movements and preservation efforts
- vi. Role of language in cultural identity

## **Unit V: Tribal Customs, Law, and Governance**

- i. Meaning and characteristics of customary law
- ii. Sources of customary law and distinction between law and custom
- iii. Tribal justice systems and dispute resolution mechanisms
- iv. Crime, punishment, oath, ordeal, and social sanctions
- v. Codification of customary laws
- vi. Gender issues, property rights, and customary institutions
- vii. Interface between customary law and constitutional law

## **Unit VI: Tribal Economy, Ecology, Health, and Indigenous Knowledge**

- i. Traditional subsistence economies
- ii. Agriculture, shifting cultivation, hunting, gathering, fishing, and handicrafts
- iii. Tribal health concepts and indigenous healing systems
- iv. Ethnomedicine and traditional healers
- v. Ecology, environmental conservation, and sacred landscapes
- vi. Indigenous knowledge systems and sustainable resource management
- vii. Emerging health and environmental challenges

## **Unit VII: Gender, Development, and Contemporary Tribal Issues**

- i. Gender roles and division of labour
- ii. Status of women in tribal societies
- iii. Gender, education, health, and participation
- iv. Tribal development policies and welfare programmes
- v. Urbanisation, modernisation, migration, and globalisation
- vi. Land alienation, displacement, and socio-economic change
- vii. Human rights and social justice

## **Unit VIII: Research Methodology in Social Sciences and Tribal Studies**

- i. Nature and types of research
- ii. Research design and formulation of research problems
- iii. Quantitative and qualitative methods
- iv. Ethnography and participant observation
- v. Interviews, questionnaires, schedules, case studies, FGDs, and surveys
- vi. Sampling techniques
- vii. Ethics in fieldwork and research
- viii. Data analysis, report writing, and referencing

## **Unit IX: Theoretical Perspectives in Anthropology, Sociology, and Tribal Studies**

- i. Evolutionism
- ii. Functionalism
- iii. Diffusionism
- iv. Historical Particularism

- v. Structuralism
- vi. Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology
- vii. Cultural Materialism
- viii. Postmodern and Postcolonial approaches
- ix. Contributions of Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim
- x. Indigenous and decolonial perspectives

### **Unit X: General Social Science Aptitude and Current Tribal Affairs**

- i. Indian Constitution and provisions relating to Scheduled Tribes
- ii. Tribal administration and governance
- iii. Basic concepts in sociology, anthropology, history, economics, and political science relevant to Tribal Studies
- iv. Census and demographic trends among tribal populations
- v. Sustainable Development Goals and tribal development
- vi. Current issues concerning indigenous peoples in India and globally
- vii. Government schemes and policies for tribal welfare
- viii. Logical reasoning, analytical ability, and interpretation of social data

### **Suggested Readings:**

1. Introductory texts on Tribal Studies, Indigenous Studies, and Adivasi Studies.
2. Standard textbooks on Social Anthropology and Cultural Anthropology.
3. Foundational works in Sociology, particularly those dealing with social structure, culture, institutions, and social change.
4. Books and reference materials on the tribes of India, with special emphasis on the tribal communities of Northeast India and Arunachal Pradesh.
5. Literature on tribal society, culture, religion, customary law, kinship, family, marriage, and political organisation.
6. Resources on tribal languages, folklore, oral traditions, indigenous literature, and cultural heritage.
7. Publications on tribal economy, livelihoods, ecology, environmental anthropology, and sustainable development.
8. Materials relating to tribal health, ethnomedicine, indigenous knowledge systems, and traditional healing practices.
9. Texts covering gender issues, women's status, and social transformation in tribal societies.
10. Introductory books on research methodology, ethnographic methods, qualitative and quantitative research, and academic writing in the social sciences.
11. Standard works on classical and contemporary anthropological and sociological theories relevant to Tribal Studies.
12. Reference materials on the Constitution of India, Scheduled Tribes, tribal administration, constitutional safeguards, and development policies.

13. Government reports, policy documents, and committee reports relating to tribal welfare, education, health, and socio-economic development.
14. Census publications and official statistical reports concerning tribal populations and demographic trends.
15. Peer-reviewed journals and research articles in Tribal Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Indigenous Studies, and related disciplines.
16. Authentic ethnographies and field-based studies documenting the social and cultural life of tribal communities.
17. Reports and publications on biodiversity conservation, traditional ecological knowledge, and cultural resource management.
18. Current affairs resources covering recent developments in tribal policies, indigenous rights, environmental issues, and socio-economic changes.
19. Official publications and websites of government ministries, research organizations, and educational institutions dealing with tribal affairs and indigenous communities.