



Savitribai Phule Pune University

(Formerly University of Pune)

Foundation Course on NOMADIC TRIBES AND THEIR CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

To be implemented from Academic Year 2025-2026

Title of the Course: NOMADIC TRIBES AND THEIR CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Total Credits: 2 (Two)

Preamble:

Nomadic tribes form an integral yet marginalized part of India's cultural and social fabric. Historically labelled as “criminal tribes” during the colonial era, these communities have faced systemic stigmatization and exclusion, perpetuating cycles of poverty and social inequity. This course delves into the historical construction of such narratives, examines their socio-cultural identities, and explores contemporary challenges related to land rights, citizenship, and livelihood. The course aims to create an informed and empathetic understanding of the issues faced by nomadic tribes while encouraging students to engage with the policies and movements that seek to empower these communities.

Eligibility :Higher secondary(10+2)

Duration of the Course : 30 hours

Course Objectives

- To introduce the historical background and concept of nomadic tribes.
- To understand the construction of the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871, and its implications.
- To familiarize students with the contemporary issues faced by nomadic tribes.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Students will gain insights into the historical and cultural dimensions of nomadic tribes in India.
- They will develop awareness about the contemporary issues affecting these communities, including legal, social, and economic challenges.
- The course will sensitize students to the stigmatisation and exclusion faced by nomadic tribes and promote advocacy for their rights.

Course Structure

Unit 1: Historical Background of Nomadic Tribes

- a) Meaning and concepts of nomadic tribes.
- b) Classification and characteristics of nomadic tribes.
- c) Socio-cultural identities of nomadic tribes.

Unit 2: Colonial Construction of “Criminal Tribes”

- a) Administrative and economic policies of the British government and their implications.
- b) Criminal Tribes Act, 1871: Provisions, amendments, and settlements.
- c) Stigmatisation and social exclusion of nomadic tribes.

Unit 3: Denotification of Criminal Tribes and Contemporary Implications

- a) Repealing of the CTA and the Enactment of Habitual Offenders Act.
- b) Citizenship and issues of identity and stigmatisation
- c) Issues of settlement: Rights over land, resources, and livelihood.

References

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- Chavan, R. (2004). भटक्या विमुक्त्याची जात पंचायत, पुणे: Deshmukh & Pulishar P. L.
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- Fuchs, S. (1977). *The Aboriginal Tribes of India*. New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Kapadia, K. M. (1952). The Criminal Tribes of India. *Sociological Bulletin*, 1(2), 99-125.
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- Mane, L. (1987). भटक्या विमुक्त जमाती: एक ऐतिहासिक मागोवा Pune: Hakara Maharashtra Manav Vidnyan Parishad.
- Meena, R. (2000). Colonial Construction of a 'Criminal Tribe': Yerukulas of Madras Presidency. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 35(28/29), 2553-2563.
- Mukul, K. (2004). Relationship of Caste and Crime in Colonial India. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 39(10), 1078-1087.
- Aparna Rao A (2003), *Nomadism in South Asia*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi
- Raghaviah, V. (1968). *Nomads*. Sikandrabad: Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh.
- Renke, B. (1987). भटकू नका तुम्हाला कोण भटकायला सांगते. Pune: Hakara Maharashtra Manav Vidnyan Parishad.
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- Simhadri, Y. C. (1991). *De-notified Tribes*. New Delhi: Classical Publishing Company.

Examinations and Evaluation Pattern

The course having 2 credits shall be evaluated out of 50 marks and student should secure at least 20 marks (40%) in continuous as well as term end exam to earn full credits of that course.

Internal Examination

Internal examination shall be of 25 marks. The internal examination shall be based on issues and literature on nomadic tribes. The internal examination shall follow

minimum 3 or all the given methods. The methods of assessment for internal exams:
Assignment, Field visit report, Book or report review, Film or Documentary review.

Pattern of question paper for end examination

Question 1: Answer the following questions (ONE out of TWO)	10 marks
Question 2: Answer the following questions (ONE out of TWO)	10 marks
Question 3: Short notes on (ONE out of TWO)	05 marks

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