The mapping of the changing historical relationships between people, lands and identities in the central tribal belt of India and in north-eastern parts of the South-Asian subcontinent, sets the context for this study's investigation of one of the world's least known minority situations. The currently muted drama of human rights violations and escalating livelihood crisis among the Adivasis in north-western Bangladesh unfolds within a sub-region of bewilderingly many and interconnected ethnic and ethno-nationalistic struggles for political recognition. This book documents the massive loss of agricultural and forested land, through circumvention of protective land laws in the post-colonial period. This resulted in erosion of indigenous knowledge systems, forced migration and escalating poverty. The persistent discrimination of the Adivasis and their inability so far to partake directly in the international indigenous movement is explained in the light of cultural homogenous nationalisms and internal institutional fragmentation as a result of ethnic and religious divisions. The book unravels how the Adivasis have not been given their due recognition inspite of their history as Bengal's earliest inhabitants and their prominent role in mass rebellions leading up to the nationalist movement.
See also:
Bangladesh’s tribal population live primarily in the Chittagong Hills and in the regions of Mymensingh. Bangladesh is also a home of about 15 percent Hindus, Buddhist, Christian and Indigenous people. It also incorporates the idea that the adivasis are the original inhabitants of South Asia. Bengali terms for non-Bengali groups are upojati, pahari, or Jumma. Uojati has connotations similar to the English word tribe. The indigenous people of Bangladesh unanimously demanded to be introduced and known as ‘Adivasis’ not in any other names which are derogatory. Taking note of Human Rights Council resolution of June 2006, the Council adopted the text of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (including 45 articles).