



Chenchu Tribe

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Why in News?

The [Chenchu tribe](#) in Andhra Pradesh is encountering growing difficulties as a result of the **discontinuation of the [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme \(MGNREGS\)](#)** Chenchu Special Project, which has **negatively impacted** their livelihoods, food security, and access to essential services such as healthcare and education.

Who are Chenchus?

- The Chenchus, also called '**Chenchuvaru**' or '**Chenchwar**', is numerically the smallest [Scheduled Tribe](#) of Odisha.
 - Their traditional way of life has been based on **hunting and food gathering**.
 - They are **considered one of the oldest Telugu-speaking tribes**.
- They are one of the 12 [Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups \(PVTGs\)](#) in Andhra Pradesh, a classification given to tribes with low literacy, stagnant population growth, and limited access to development.
- They mainly reside in forested regions, **including the [Nallamala forest](#)** and surrounding areas, relying on forest produce for their livelihood.

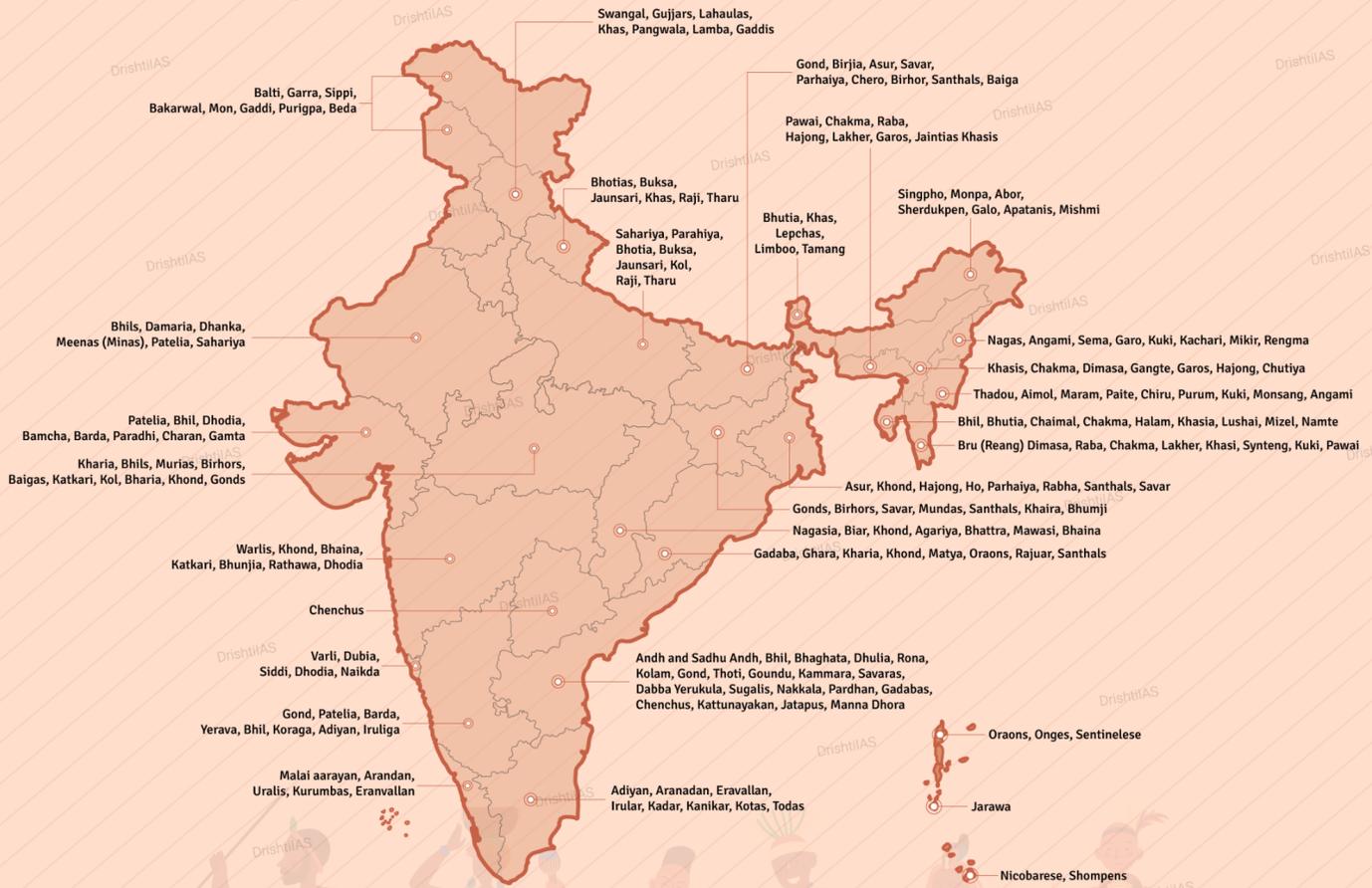
Major Initiatives for PVTGs

- [Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.](#)
- [Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.](#)
- [PM PVTG Mission.](#)

What is MGNREGS?

- **About:**
 - It is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world **launched in 2005** by the [Ministry of Rural development](#).
 - It provides a legal guarantee for **one hundred days of employment** in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage.
- **Legal Right to Work:**
 - Unlike earlier employment guarantee schemes, the act aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework.
 - At least **one-third of beneficiaries have to be women**.
 - Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the [Minimum Wages Act, 1948](#).

Major Tribes in India



- STs constitute **8.6%** of the population of India (Census 2011). Draft National Tribal Policy, 2006 records **698 STs** in India.
- **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Among the 75 listed PVTGs, the highest number is found in Odisha.
- **Bhil** is the largest tribal group (38% of the total scheduled tribal population of India) followed by the Gonds.
- **Madhya Pradesh** has the highest tribal population in India (Census 2011).
- The **Santhal** are the oldest tribes in India. The Santhal system of governance, known as **Manjhi-Paragana**, can be compared to local self-governance.
- According to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes list (modification orders), 1956, the inhabitants of **Lakshadweep** who and both of whose parents were born in these islands are treated as STs.
- **Article 342** of the Constitution prescribes procedure to be followed for specification of STs.
- **Article 275** provides for the **grant of special funds** by the Union Government to the State Government for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and providing them with a better administration.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India: (2019)

1. PVTGs reside in 18 States and one Union Territory.
2. A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status.
3. There are 95 PVTGs officially notified in the country so far.
4. Irular and Konda Reddi tribes are included in the list of PVTGs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3

(b) 2, 3 and 4

(c) 1, 2 and 4

(d) 1, 3 and 4

Ans: (c)

Q. At the national level, which ministry is the nodal agency to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006? (2021)

(a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

(b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj

(c) Ministry of Rural Development

(d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Ans: (d)

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