



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

05th OCTOBER, 2024



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services

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S.NO. TOPIC

1. KERALA URGENTLY NEEDS TO IDENTIFY RISK ZONES
2. JAISHANKAR TO VISIT PAK. FOR SCO MEETING
3. 28 NAXALITES KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES
4. PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI SCHEME
5. KAUTILYA ECONOMIC CONCLAVE
6. TRIBE IN NEWS "CHENCHUS"

KERALA URGENTLY NEEDS TO IDENTIFY RISK ZONES

Kerala urgently needs to identify risk zones

On July 30, two villages, Mundakkai and Chooralmala, in the Wayanad district of Kerala, were hit by landslides. On October 4, while noting that the disaster ranked among the deadliest in India, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that 231 people had died and 41 remained missing. The catastrophic event has once again exposed our helplessness in the face of nature's fury. At the same time, it has raised questions about our approach to disaster management not only in the area of Wayanad that was affected this time and that has suffered a few deadly landslides over the last four decades, but for the State as a whole.

No longer relatively disaster-free

With the sea to its west and the Western Ghats to its east, Kerala used to be considered a relatively disaster-free zone. Its development activities have taken place on this premise. Settlements are distributed throughout the State, from the coastline to the steep hill slopes. Kerala is perhaps the only State where human settlements have sprung up along the coastal line. Though the forest boundary is frozen, there are encroachments by the people and for development projects. Along with settlements, roads and other infrastructure have been built with complete disregard for natural drainage and slope stability. The average population density of the parts of the Western Ghats in Kerala is well above the all-India average.

The natural advantage of being relatively disaster-free seems to be waning. In the last few decades, the intensity and frequency of disasters have increased. Kerala has three distinct geographic zones, and all three are facing disasters, especially floods and landslides. Coastal erosion, a regular phenomenon, has affected more than 250 kilometres of the total coastal length of 590 km in the State. Besides, sea surge has affected different parts of the coast. The lowlands and midlands suffer from floods. Parts of the lowlands surrounding the Vembanad lake get inundated during every monsoon. The World



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Once landslide susceptibility maps surrounding population centres are ready, monitoring the triggering mechanism would ensure that timely warnings are provided

Meteorological Organization described the Kerala floods of 2018 as the 'floods of the century' and attributed the disaster to climate change. Landslides in the Western Ghats are also becoming regular during every monsoon.

Landslide inventory map needed

Wayanad, located to the east of the Western Ghats bordering the Mysore plateau, is characterised by deep gorges and ravines. Like the river Sharavati, the Chaliyar also originates in the eastern side of the Western Ghats. Both these rivers cut across the mountain range and debouch into the Arabian Sea, in spite of the easterly tilt of the Wayanad-Mysore plateaus. This can be attributed to the existence of tectonic factors. A spatial correlation exists between tremors and landslides. Incidences of fractures/cracks have been reported from Wayanad and Idukki post landslides. Tremors were felt in parts of Wayanad after the July landslide as well. Recurring incidences of landslides and the huge human and economic losses call for scientific re-appraisal of the causative factors, which are now being simplified and confined to parameters such as slope, soil thickness, rainfall intensity and duration, and land use change. The ongoing debates show that there is a gap in understanding the incidence of landslides in this region.

Global research in this field calls for a nuanced approach. We need a landslide inventory map of each region/area. To finalise zones susceptible to landslides, we can prepare a landslide susceptibility map factoring in the geological set up (lithology, structure and tectonics, rock composition, physico-mechanical properties), slope, soil characteristics, hydrologic parameters, drainage and infiltration, vegetation cover, human activities such as mining and quarrying, slope alteration, and agricultural activities. Once such maps surrounding population centres are ready, monitoring the triggering mechanism (rainfall or tremors in the case of Kerala) would ensure that timely warnings of landslides are provided, and lives saved. The State and trained local self-help groups can do this together.

Due to rapid warming of the Arabian Sea, there is an increased risk of extreme weather and climate events, such as floods, heat waves, and cyclones. The heat content of the Indian Ocean has risen rapidly since the 2000s. There has been an anomalous increase of 1.2°C in summer sea surface temperatures over the last 100 years in the generally cool western Indian Ocean (Arabian Sea). This has created an environment conducive for cyclogenesis (development or strengthening of cyclonic circulation in the atmosphere) in the Arabian Sea. The impact of these changes is being felt on Kerala. In 2017, Cyclone Ockhi hit the State. It was the most severe cyclonic storm to affect Kerala in recent memory.

On the whole, the 'safe operating space', a term coined by Johan Rockstrom and the group at the Stockholm Resilience Centre in the case of global environmental change, is shrinking in Kerala. The occurrence of staggered events of floods and landslides, and simultaneous landslides on either side of the hill ranges, as in Wayanad and Vilangad (Kozhikode district) this time, and at Puthumala (Wayanad district) and Kavalappara (Malappuram district) in 2019, also warrant elucidation.

A paradigm shift

Under these circumstances, there is a need for a paradigm shift in disaster management practices, which are mostly reactive, top-down, and revolve around rescue, relief, and rehabilitation. Globally, this has given way to a more proactive and comprehensive approach of addressing all aspects of a disaster cycle, such as preparedness, resilience, risk reduction, mitigation, reconstruction, recovery, response, and relief. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction provides guidelines for disaster risk reduction. It recognises the primary role of the State in disaster risk reduction but says that the State should share this responsibility with other stakeholders including local governments, the private sector, and communities. We need to understand the risk of disaster, strengthen disaster risk governance to manage the risk of disaster; invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience; and enhance disaster preparedness for effective response to 'build back better'.

First, Kerala needs to work out disaster risk zones based on multiple criteria covering both physical and social components within a social ecological frame with the help of subject experts and generate a permanent database. As landslides and floods follow watershed boundaries, the disaster risk zones must be translated according to the watersheds/river basins. Second, Kerala needs the people's participation in preparing disaster risk maps. Given its experience in the People's Plan Campaign, it is important for Kerala to introduce a community-based disaster risk management in which at-risk communities are actively engaged in identifying, analysing, planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating disaster risk reduction initiatives. This would provide opportunities for strengthening communication, discussion, and learning within the community and between the community and the local and Central government. It would also ensure a bottom-up approach, help reduce tension and potential conflicts and pave the way to integrate disaster risk management in local level development. A quadruple helix model involving community and social organisations, academia/research institutes, the government, and business and industry may be useful.





- ❖ On July 30, two villages (Mundakkai and Chooralmala) in Wayanad, Kerala, were devastated by landslides.
- ❖ The event highlights the vulnerability to nature's fury and the need for improved disaster management.

What is a Landslide?



- ❖ A **landslide** is a geological phenomenon involving the downward **movement of a mass of rock, soil, and debris on a slope**. This movement can vary in scale from small, localized shifts to massive and destructive events.
- ❖ **Triggers:** Heavy rainfall, earthquakes, volcanic activity, human activities (construction, mining), groundwater changes.

Types of Landslides:

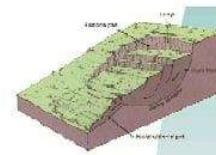
- ❖ **Slides:** Movement of soil or rock along a rupture surface.
 1. **Rotational Slides:** Curved rupture surface.
 2. **Translational Slides:** Planar rupture surface.
- ❖ **Flows:**
 1. Soil or rock containing water flows like fluid.
 2. Subtypes: Earth flows, debris flows, mudflows, and creep.
- ❖ **Spreads:**
 1. Lateral extension and cracking of soil or rock mass.
 2. Often due to liquefaction or plastic deformation.
- ❖ **Topples:**
 1. Forward rotation and free-fall of mass from a steep slope or cliff.
- ❖ **Falls:**
 1. Detachment of soil or rock from a steep slope, descending by free-fall, bouncing, or rolling.



Fall



Topple



Slide



Spread



Causes of Landslides

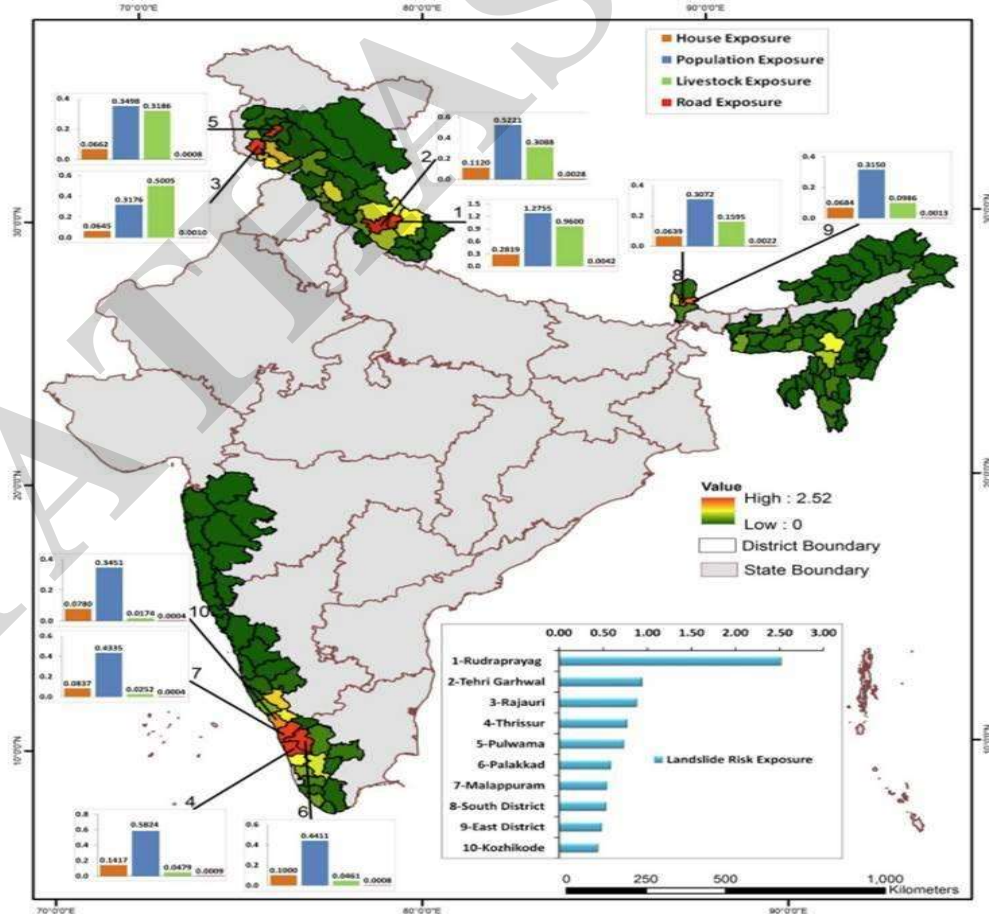
(Natural)

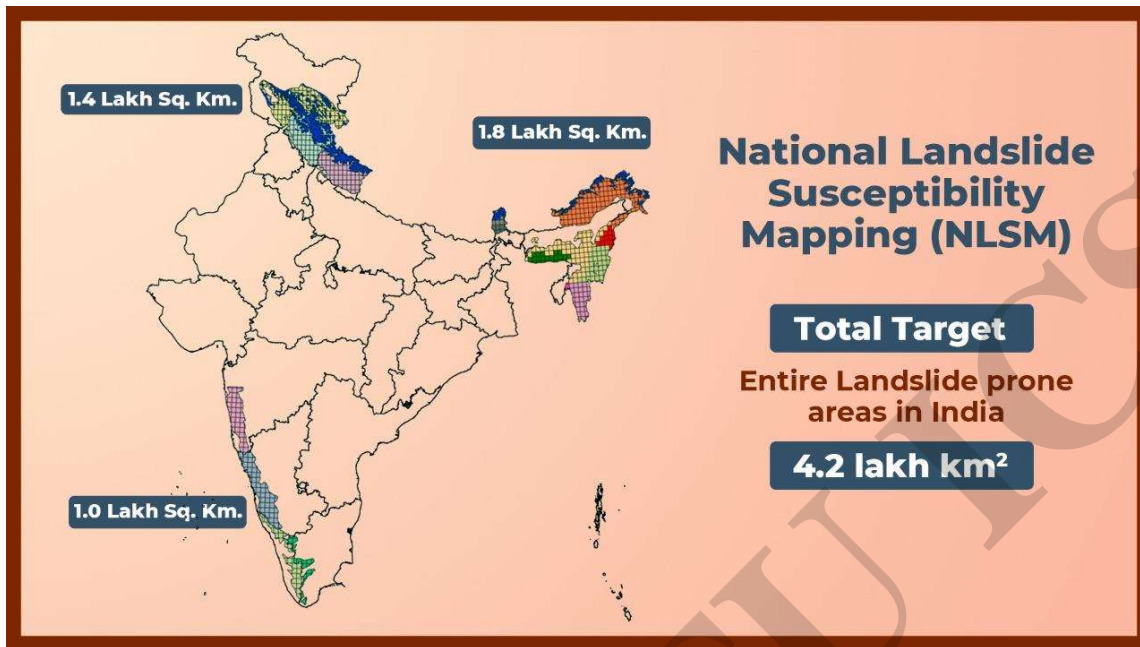
Anthropogenic

- **Heavy Rainfall** – Heavy rainfall is one of the most common triggers of landslides. It increases pore water pressure as well as the weight of soil by making it saturated.
- **Erosion** – Clay and vegetation present within the soil or rock act as cohesive elements and help bind particles together. By removing these cohesive elements, erosion makes an area more prone to landslides.
- **Earthquakes** – intense ground shaking due to earthquakes causes instability in rocks and soils, thus triggering landslides.
- **Volcanic Eruptions** – Ash and debris deposited by volcanic eruptions overload slopes while the accompanied seismic activity causes instability. All these, together, trigger landslides.

- **Deforestation** – By holding soils as well as obstructing the flow of falling debris, vegetation cover plays an important role in preventing landslides in any area. Deforestation takes away this preventive cover and increases vulnerability to landslides.
- **Encroachment in Vulnerable Terrains** – humans have been encroaching in landslide-prone areas such as hilly terrains. This has led to increased construction activities in these areas and increased chances of landslides.
- **Uncontrolled Excavation** – Unauthorized or poorly planned excavation activities, such as mining, quarrying, etc destabilize slopes and increase the chances of landslides.
- **Climate Change** – Climate change caused by various anthropogenic activities has led to abrupt alterations in precipitation patterns and increased frequency of extreme weather events.

Landslide Prone Areas in India





- ❖ ISRO has recently released the **Landslide Atlas of India**. As per this atlas, some of the prominent statistics regarding **landslides in India** are as follows:
- ❖ India is among the top five landslide-prone countries in the world.
- ❖ Excluding snow-covered areas, around 12.6 percent of India's geographical land area is prone to landslides.
- ❖ A rough break-up of reported **landslides in India** is as follows:
 - * About 66.5 percent from the NorthWestern Himalayas
 - * About 18.8 percent from the NorthEastern Himalayas
 - * About 14.7 percent from the Western Ghats.

How are Landslides in the Himalayan region different from Landslides in the Western Ghats?

Himalayas

- high seismicity due to plate tectonic movement
- easily erodible sedimentary rock.
- young & energetic rivers → high eroding
- Anthropogenic factors → deforestation, mining, road construction

Western Ghats

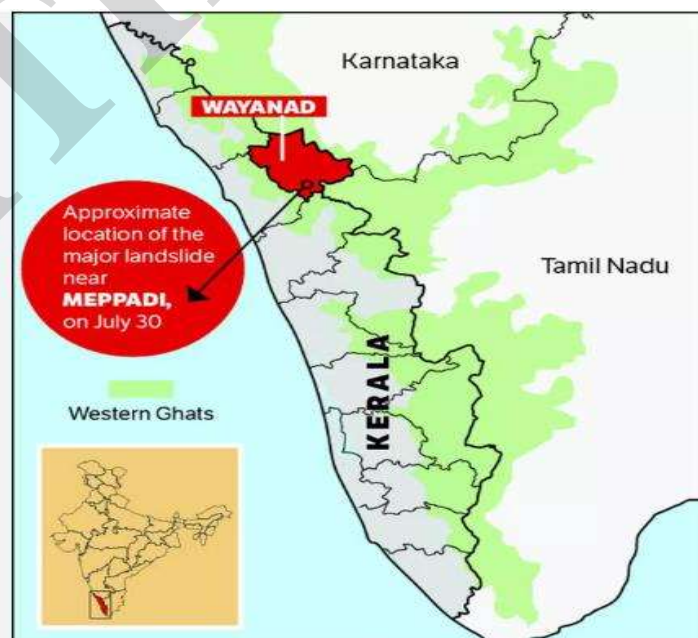
- concentrated rainfall
- Overburdening of hill
- Mining & Quarrying
- forest fragmentation
- Anthropogenic → deforestation
seasons → windmill projects.

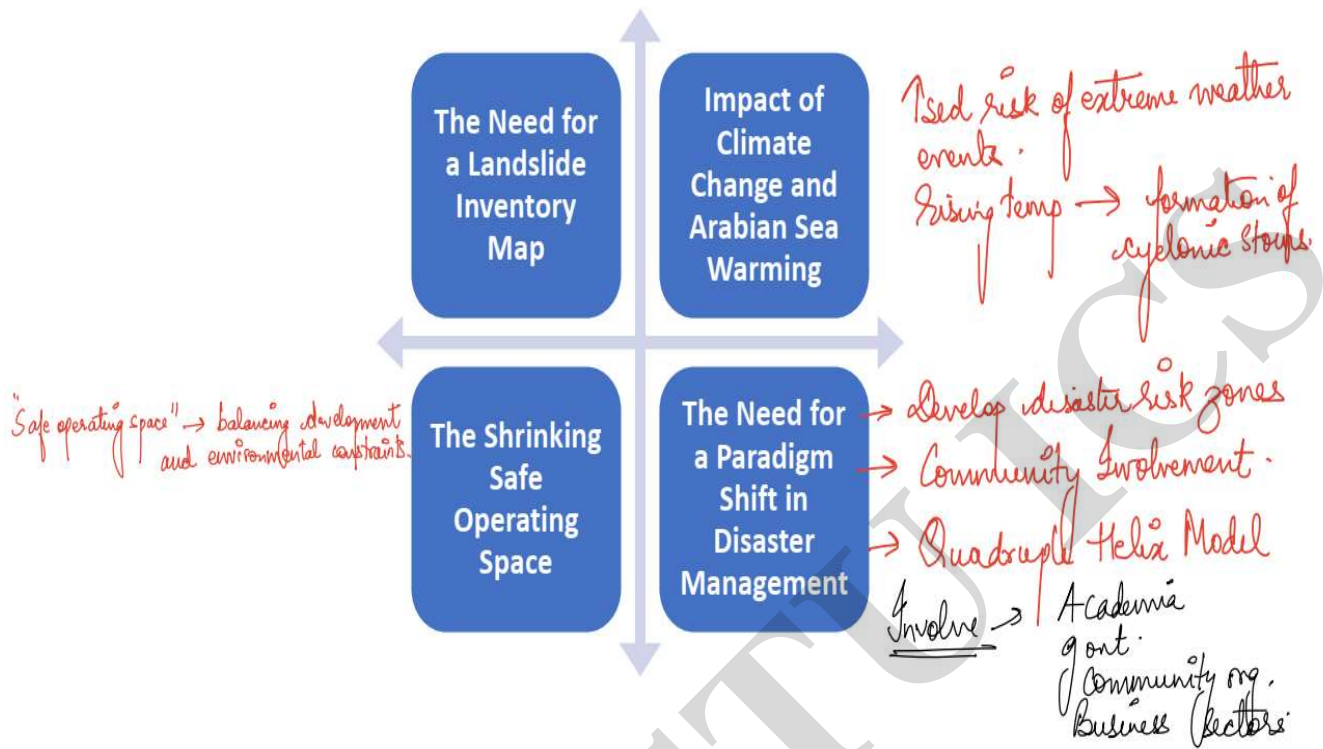
Initiatives to mitigate the risk of landslides

- ❖ The **Disaster Management Act, of 2005** provides a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for the management of various disasters including landslides.
- ❖ **National Landslide Risk Management Strategy (2019)**: covers all aspects of **landslide** disaster risk reduction and management, such as hazard mapping, monitoring, and early warning systems.
- ❖ **Landslide Risk Mitigation Scheme (LRMS)**: This is a scheme under preparation that envisages financial support for site-specific landslide mitigation projects recommended by landslide prone states
- ❖ **National Guidelines on Landslides and Snow Avalanches**: prepared by the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** to guide the activities envisaged for mitigating the risk emanating from landslides at all levels.
- ❖ **Landslide Atlas of India**

Key points from the article

- ❖ **Kerala's Shift from a Relatively Disaster-Free Zone**
 - * **Geographical Setting:**
 - Kerala is situated between the Arabian Sea (west) and the Western Ghats (east).
 - Historically considered a disaster-free region, but this is no longer true.
 - Human settlements stretch from coastal regions to hill slopes.
 - * **Increasing Disasters:**
 - Frequency and intensity of disasters (floods, landslides, coastal erosion) have surged in recent decades.
 - Coastal erosion impacts over 250 km of Kerala's 590 km coastline.
 - Major floods, such as the 2018 Kerala floods, attributed to climate change.
- ❖ Landslides in the Western Ghats have become regular, particularly during monsoons





UPSC PYQ:

Q.1 Differentiate the causes of landslides in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats. (2021)

Q.2 The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides." Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation. (2016)





JAISHANKAR TO VISIT PAK. FOR SCO MEETING

Jaishankar to visit Pak. for SCO's Heads of Government meeting

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

In the first such visit in nearly a decade, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will travel to Islamabad to attend the Heads of Government meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on October 15 and 16, the Centre announced on Friday.

The Ministry of External Affairs said Mr. Jaishankar's visit was "mainly" for the SCO grouping's meeting, given India's focus on "regional cooperation mechanisms". No bilateral meetings on the sidelines have been decided thus far, it added.

The last time an Indian External Affairs Minister travelled to Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj in 2015 for the Heart of Asia conference and bilateral talks.

"Mr. Jaishankar will be leading India's delegation to the SCO meeting," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told journalists at a

Minister pledges help to Sri Lanka

COLOMBO

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday met Sri Lanka's new President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, and pledged India's "full support" to the nation's economic recovery. » **PAGE 13**

briefing. "As and when the programme develops, the visit develops, we will keep you informed," he said, when asked if there was a request from Pakistan for a bilateral meeting with its Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

According to sources, it is also unclear whether Mr. Jaishankar will stay in Islamabad overnight on October 16, as he may return to New Delhi the same day.

Mr. Jaishankar may arrive for the formal SCO meeting on October 16 by a special flight and return to New Delhi the same day. Officials said the Exter-

nal Affairs Minister's visit was based on "reciprocity", given that despite bilateral tensions, Pakistan had sent its then-Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto to attend the SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting in Goa in May 2023. It is also significant that the Narendra Modi-led government is sending a Minister for an SCO conference, but has refused to attend the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) summit, due to be held in Pakistan since 2016.

Responding to a question about the recent meeting between the new Bangladesh leader Muhammad Yunus and Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, where Mr. Yunus called for a "revival" of the eight-nation SAARC process, the spokesperson alleged that it was Pakistan that was "stalling SAARC", not India.

CONTINUED ON
» **PAGE 12**

- ❖ First visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister to Pakistan in nearly a decade (since Sushma Swaraj in 2015).

Shanghai Cooperation Organization:

- ❖ SCO stands for "Shanghai Cooperation Organization". It is an intergovernmental political, economic, and security alliance **founded in 2001** by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. The first summit was held in Shanghai, China, in 2001.
- ❖ **The SCO aims to promote** cooperation and mutual support in areas such as trade, investment, energy, transportation, and security.
- ❖ **The official working language** of the SCO Secretariat is Russian and Chinese.
- ❖ **The main objectives of SCO are:**
 - * Strengthen **relations among member states**.
 - * **Promote cooperation** in political affairs, economics, and trade, scientific-technical, cultural, and educational spheres as well as in energy, transportation, tourism, and environmental protection.
 - * **Safeguard regional peace**, security, and stability.
 - * Create a **democratic, equitable** international political and economic order.





10th member : Belarus

* 2024 SCO Summit : Astana (Kazakhstan).

- ❖ The membership of SCO has expanded since 2001, and it currently has 9 member states- China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Iran, and Uzbekistan
- ❖ **1996:** ‘Shanghai Five’ established by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.
- ❖ **2001:** After adding Uzbekistan in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.
- ❖ **2015:** At Ufa, Russia, the SCO decided to admit India and Pakistan as full members.
- ❖ **2016:** India and Pakistan signed the memorandum of obligations in Tashkent (Uzbekistan), thereby starting the formal process of joining the SCO as full members.
- ❖ **2017:** At Astana, India and Pakistan officially joined SCO as full members
- ❖ **2021:** It was announced that Iran would become a full member of the SCO.



SCO Organizational Structure

- The Council of Heads of State
- The Council of Heads of Government
- The Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs
- The Council of National Coordinators
- The Secretariat
- The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)
- The SCO Business Council
- The SCO Interbank Consortium

→ highest decision making body.

→ 2nd highest council

→ Administrative arm of SCO, Beijing

→ for combating terrorism Hq: Tashkent [Uzbekistan]

→ all central banks of member countries.





❖ **Significance:**

- Addresses security issues in Asia with primarily Asian members.
- The SCO represents 40% of the world's population, and member countries contribute approximately USD 23 trillion to global GDP.

❖ **Relevance of SCO for India**

- **Regional Cooperation:** SCO membership allows India to enhance cooperation with Central Asian countries, improving relations since their formation in 1991. Facilitates communication with major regional actors on common security issues.
- **Counter-Terrorism Efforts:** The RATS is a significant permanent structure within the SCO. It has helped countries like India with counter-terrorism exercises, intelligence analysis, and sharing information on terrorist movements and drug trafficking.

❖ **Challenges for India:**

- Balancing ties with **China and Russia**, addressing regional security concerns, managing **relations with Pakistan**, ensuring economic benefits, maintaining strategic autonomy, dealing with the issue of sovereignty, and increasing bilateral trade with SCO countries.

UPSC PYQ 2022

Q.3 Consider the following: (2022)

1. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
2. Missile Technology Control Regime
3. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

India is a member of which of the above?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution

Answer: D Exp: Option d is the correct answer.

- ❖ **Option 1 is correct.** The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank that aims to improve economic and social outcomes in Asia. **India became a member in 2016.**
- ❖ **Option 2 is correct.** The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) is a multilateral export control regime whose members have an informal political understanding to limit the proliferation of missiles and missile technology. **India became a member of the MTCR in 2016.**
- ❖ **Option 3 is correct.** The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organization, created on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai (China). **India became a member in 2017.**

UPSC PYQ 2021

Q.4 Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. What importance does it hold for India? (2021)



28 NAXALITES KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES

28 Naxalites killed by security forces in Chhattisgarh gunfight

This is the second-highest tally of Naxal casualties in any operation in the State; the number of insurgents killed this year touches 185; one policeman injured in grenade blast in Bastar region; anti-Naxal operations surged since BJP came to power

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

At least 28 Naxalites were killed by security forces in a gunfight in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on Friday, according to the police.

One policeman was injured in a grenade blast during the operation.

The gunfight began around 1 p.m. in the Abujhmad area of Narayanpur district in the left-wing extremism-affected Bastar region. At 8 p.m., the police provided the final number of bodies recovered, after which Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai congratulated the forces in a post on X.

"In a fierce encounter between security forces and Naxalites in the border area of Narayanpur and Dantewada districts, reports suggest that 28 Naxa-

Red alert

Encounters between security forces and Maoists have become frequent this year. A look at the encounters since April this year



Oct. 4, 2024: 28 Maoists killed in Bastar area, the second highest in terms of casualties	Sept. 3: Nine Maoists killed in Dantewada	April 16: 29 Maoists killed at Kanker-Narayanpur border, recording the biggest ever toll	April 10: 12 Maoists gunned down April 2, 2024: 13 Maoists killed in Bijapur
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lites have been killed. This major achievement by our brave soldiers is commendable. I salute their courage and indomitable spirit," Mr. Sai said.

Arms found

In a statement issued earlier in the day, the police said a joint team of security forces from Dantewada

and Narayanpur set out on an operation after receiving specific information about the presence of Naxalites in Abujhmad, a largely unsurveyed area in southern Bastar. The clash broke out around 1 p.m., after which firing continued at regular intervals. An AK47 rifle, a Self Loading Rifle (SLR) and other

weapons were found at the site of encounter, the police said.

After Friday's anti-Naxal operation – the second biggest in terms of casualties inflicted by the State this year and in the conflict zone's history – the number of Naxals killed by the forces this year has shot up to 185.

There has been a surge in anti-Naxal operations since the new BJP government came to power in December 2023. Mr. Sai's post on X added: "Our fight to eliminate Naxalism will only end when we achieve complete success, and for this, our double-engine government is fully committed. The eradication of Naxalism from the State is our ultimate goal."

In a media interaction, the Chief Minister appealed to the Naxalites to

shun violence and join the mainstream and reiterated Union Home Minister Amit Shah's assertion that Naxalism would be eliminated from the State by March 2026.

The Opposition Congress in the State also congratulated the forces, with its spokesperson Sushil Anand Shukla claiming that the confidence building measures taken by the previous Congress government in the State had allowed the forces to set up their camps and gain a foothold in Naxal areas. He also said there should not be any questions raised about the encounter by villagers as has been the case in the past incidents.

In a late-night release, the police said there was the possibility of recovery of three to four more bodies.

What is Naxalism?

❖ Origin:

- Derives its name from the village **Naxalbari** in West Bengal.
- Started as a rebellion against local landlords after a peasant was attacked over a land dispute.
- The movement spread across less developed areas of **Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Left-wing extremists (LWE)** are called **Maoists** globally and **Naxalites** in India.

❖ Objective:

- Aim to overthrow the **Indian government** through armed revolution.
- Seek to establish a **communist state** based on **Maoist principles.**
- View the state as **oppressive** and **exploitative**, serving the interests of the ruling elite.
- Advocate addressing socio-economic grievances through **armed struggle** and **people's war.**

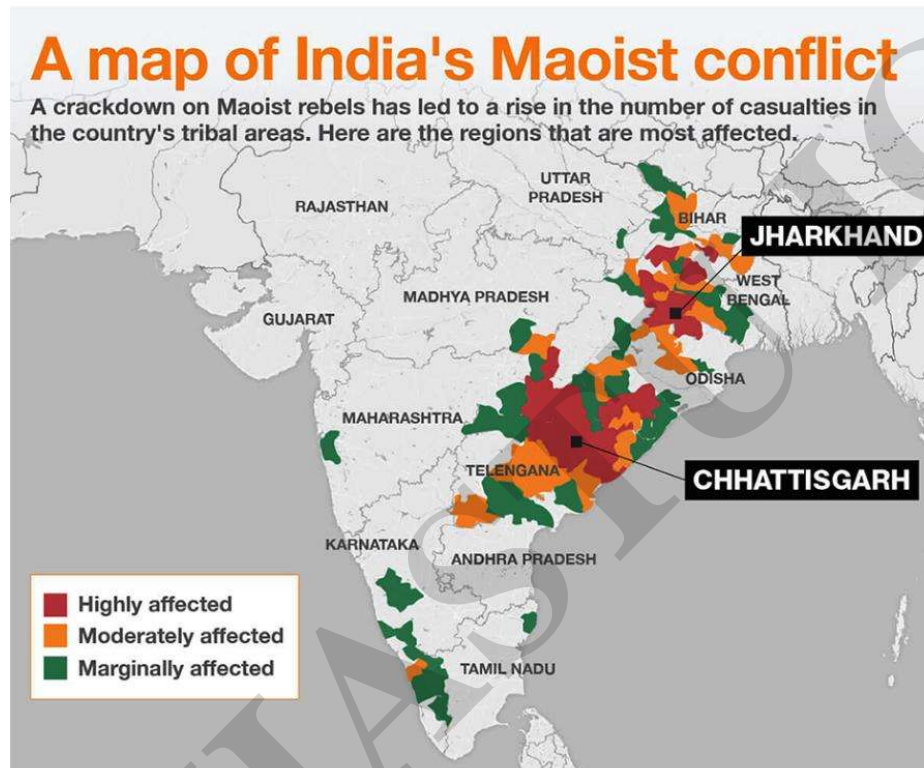
❖ Modus Operandi:

- Engage in **guerrilla warfare**, attacks on **security forces**, extortion, intimidation, and propaganda.
- Try to capture state power through **armed insurgency, mass mobilization, and strategic alliances.**
- Target **government institutions, infrastructure, and perceived collaborators.**
- Operate **parallel governance structures** in some areas, providing basic services and dispensing justice.



States Affected by LWE:

- ❖ The States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala are considered LWE affected.
- ❖ The **Red Corridor** is the region in the central, eastern and southern parts of India that **experience severe Naxalism–Maoist insurgency**.



What are the Causes of Naxalism?

- ❖ **Socio-Economic Factors:**
 - **Poverty and Lack of Development:** Naxalism thrives in underdeveloped regions with high poverty rates.
 - Adivasi and Dalit communities face social exclusion and lack access to healthcare and education, fueling resentment.
 - **Land Rights Disputes:** Adivasis are often displaced due to mining and development projects, creating anger.
 - Naxalites project themselves as champions of the marginalized.
 - **Exploitation by Powerful Entities:** Tribal communities face exploitation by landlords, moneylenders, and mining companies.
 - Naxalites position themselves as protectors against such exploitation.
 - **Caste Discrimination:** Dalits face social and economic marginalization, making Naxalism appealing as it challenges caste hierarchies.
- ❖ **Political Factors:**
 - **Weak Governance and Lack of Infrastructure:** Naxalism thrives where government presence is weak and infrastructure is poor, allowing Naxalites to operate freely.





- **No Follow-Up from the Administration:** After police secure a region, the administration often fails to provide essential services.
 - **Lack of Coordination between Centre and State:** States consider Naxalism a central government issue and avoid taking strong initiatives.
 - **Disillusionment with Democracy:** Naxalites believe the democratic system has failed them, offering a violent path to change.
- ❖ **Additional Factors:**
- **Globalization:** Discontent over displacement due to land acquisition for corporations increases Naxalite support.
 - **Confusion on Tackling Naxalism:** Debate over treating it as a social issue or security threat complicates responses.
 - **Wide Geographic Spread:** LWE groups operate in remote, inaccessible areas, making it difficult for security forces to track them.

Government Initiatives Against Naxalism

- ❖ **National Policy and Action Plan to Address Left Wing Extremism (2015):** Comprehensive strategy for countering Naxalism.
- ❖ **SAMADHAN:** A strategy for LWE control focusing on **Smart Leadership, Aggressive Strategy, Motivation and Training**, etc.
- ❖ **Aspirational Districts Programme:** Aims to transform socio-economically backward districts, including LWE-affected areas, by improving health, education, and infrastructure.
- ❖ **Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme:** Implemented in 10 LWE-affected States to fund security forces' needs, rehabilitation of surrendered LWE cadres, and community policing.
- ❖ **Special Central Assistance (SCA) for Most LWE Affected Districts:** Aims to fill critical gaps in public infrastructure and services in LWE-affected areas.
- ❖ **Scheme of Fortified Police Stations:** 604 fortified police stations constructed in LWE-affected areas to enhance security.
- ❖ **Road Connectivity Project for LWE Affected Areas (RCPLWE):** Focuses on improving road infrastructure in LWE-affected states for better accessibility.

UPSC PYQ

- Q.5 The persisting drives of the government for the development of large industries in backward areas have resulted in isolating the tribal population and the farmers who face multiple displacements. Malkangiri and Naxalbari foci, discuss the corrective strategies needed to win the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) doctrine that affected citizens back into the mainstream of social and economic growth. (2015)
- Q.6 Article 244 of the Indian Constitution relates to the administration of scheduled areas and tribal areas. Analyze the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of the Fifth Schedule on the growth of Leftwing extremism. (2018)
- Q.7 What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in the Eastern part of India? What strategy should the Government of India, civil administration, and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas? (2020)





PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI SCHEME



PM to release KISAN scheme funds today

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 18th instalment of Pradhan Mantri-Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme in Maharashtra's Washim on Saturday. » [Page 8](#)

- ❖ Under the scheme, **income support of Rs 6000 per annum is provided to all eligible farmer families** across the country in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each every four months.
- ❖ The fund of Rs 2,000 is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the eligible farmers/farmer's family under the **Direct Benefit Transfer Mode**.
- ❖ **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
 - Launched – 2019
- ❖ A landholder farmer's family is defined as **"a family comprising of husband, wife and minor children"** who owns cultivable land as per land records of the concerned State/UT.
- ❖ The entire identification process of the family rests with the State/UT Governments.
- ❖ It is a **Central Sector Scheme** with 100% funding from the Central Government.

Who is Eligible for PM-Kisan Scheme?

- ❖ Landholding farmers' families with cultivable landholding in their names,
- ❖ Farmers from both the urban and rural areas,
- ❖ Small and Marginal farmers families.

Who is Not Eligible for the Scheme?

- ❖ Institutional landholder,
- ❖ Present or retired officers and employees of state/central government as well as PSUs and government autonomous bodies,
- ❖ Beneficiaries with higher economic status are not eligible,
- ❖ Those who pay income tax,
- ❖ Farmer families holding constitutional posts,
- ❖ Professionals like doctors, engineers and lawyers,
- ❖ Retired pensioners with a monthly pension of over Rs 10,000.





Objective:

- ❖ To **supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers** in procuring various inputs
- ❖ to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income at the end of each crop cycle.
- ❖ To **protect them from falling in the clutches of moneylenders** for meeting such expenses and ensure their continuance in the farming activities.
- ❖ The PM-KISAN Mobile App developed and designed by the **National Informatics Centre** in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has been launched.
- ❖ The **farmers can view the status of their application, update or carry out corrections** of their **Aadhaar cards** and also check the history of credits to their bank accounts.





KAUTILYA ECONOMIC CONCLAVE

Modi says conflict-hit regions are important for energy security

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made oblique references to the widening conflicts in West Asia and the Russia-Ukraine war on Friday, saying the two regions were crucial for the global economy and energy security.

His comments came amid fears of further escalation in West Asia if Israel were to retaliate and attack Iran, potentially its nuclear, and oil facilities. This, analysts fear, could fuel a surge in energy prices and draw the region into a wider conflict.

Speaking at the third edition of the Kautilya Economic Conclave here, Mr. Modi on the domestic front committed to continuing structural reforms to help India become a developed nation by 2047.

‘War-like situation’

“This conclave is happening at a time when two big regions of the world are close to war-like situations. These two big regions are crucial for the global eco-



Narendra Modi

nomy as well as energy security,” he said without naming any country.

India is more than 85% dependent on the import of crude oil, which is converted into fuels like petrol and diesel, and about half of its gas needs.

A bulk of these come from West Asia, and in scenarios of Israel-Iran getting into prolonged conflict, the supplies could be impacted.

“In the midst of these big global uncertainties, we are all here witnessing the Indian era, we are discussing India. This shows the confidence in India... Whether it is science, technology or innovation, India clearly is at a sweet spot,” Mr. Modi said.

- ❖ Organized by The Institute of Economic Growth in partnership with the Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ This conclave will bring together close to 150 national and international academicians and policy makers to discuss some of the most important issues confronting the Indian economy and economies of the global south.
- ❖ Focus on themes such as financing the green transition, geo-economic fragmentation and the implications for growth, and principles for policy action to preserve resilience among others.



TRIBE IN NEWS: "CHENCHUS"



Forgotten in the forest: An elderly man, belonging to the Chenchu tribe, posing with his bow and arrow, in Panukumadugu gudem in Dornala mandal of Prakasam district. Traditionally a hunter-gatherer tribe, the Chenchus now rely on subsistence farming for a living. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

A tribe out of time

The Chenchus of Panukumadugu have lived in the dense Nallamala forests for centuries, their existence intertwined with the wilderness around them. However, their inability to keep up with the relentless pace of modernisation has led to dwindling work opportunities under the MGNREGS. **Nellore Sravani** writes how the Chenchus, caught between an ancestral past and an uncertain future, are grappling with isolation, poverty, and an erosion of their traditional way of life

Sitting under a tree on a cot woven from leaves and eggs, Dasi Kotiah sighs wearily when asked about what he's going to have for lunch.

"The usual," he replies. A thin meal of rice and *pachhadi*—a simple chutney made of chana, tamarind, and onion—has remained the family's staple diet for years now. "This is our food for 25 days in a month. We cannot afford anything beyond that. Where is the money?" Kotiah asks, shaking his head at the thought of buying fruits or vegetables from the market. His wry laugh speaks of a life where even the simplest comforts are out of reach.

Kotiah lives in a hamlet called Panukumadugu in Dornala mandal of Prakasam district. The hamlet is home to the Chenchus, said to be the oldest aboriginal, Telugu-speaking tribe and the most vulnerable of the 12 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in undivided Andhra Pradesh.

Around 25 kilometres away is Dornala, a small town at the edge of the Nallamala forest in Prakasam district. A pitstop for Srisaillam-bound devotees, Dornala has had a growth spurt in the past two decades with hotels and eateries coming up. Dornala is the nearest go-to place for the Chenchu villages, including Panukumadugu. The contrast between the town and the hamlet of Panukumadugu is stark, more than what meets the eye.

Most of the dwellings in Panukumadugu are single-room thatched huts, simple and sparse, with conical or square roofs and rounded bases. Of the few pucca houses built under the Indramma Ilu housing scheme, many are in disrepair. The only sturdy structure in this hamlet is the Anganwadi, where a single female teacher educates around 10 children.

While Dornala thrives with an expanding menu of cuisines in its restaurants, life for the Chenchus seems to be moving in the opposite direction, with development passing them by.

"Ever since we stopped working under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGS) in 2022, life has become much harder," Kotiah explains. "The wages I earn as an agricultural labourer aren't enough to support a family of 22." says Kotiah, who doesn't remember his exact age, though his Aadhaar card lists him as 69. Both he and his wife take whatever work they can find, earning ₹250 each per day.

But it's still not enough. "We need the 'karuvu pani' (MGNREGS) to be brought back," he says, a statement that is being echoed by other younger men and women of the village.

Left behind

However, the issue is quite complex. The Chenchus, who have steadfastly held on to their way of life, possess only a rudimentary understanding of modern society and find it difficult to adapt to the world that exists outside their village. "Most Chenchus lack post-industrialisation skills. They are still living in a pre-agrarian setup. To catch up with modern society, they first need to learn agricultural skills, and then must come to terms with

Reason behind the disillusionment among Chenchus with the new system of MGNREGS could be the insistence on first getting Aadhaar, and then linking it to one's bank account and job card. With most Chenchus being non-literate, they were probably too intimidated by all the red tape

BUDDHA CHAKRADHAR
Social researcher

industrialisation," explains Chakradhar Buddha, a senior researcher with LibTech India, a consortium of activists and academics that has extensively studied the impact that MGNREGS has had on the tribe for years.

Chenchus are characterised by extremely low literacy rates, a subsistence economy, and a stagnant or declining population. The total Chenchu population in Andhra Pradesh stands at 28,349.

"The Chenchus are heavily dependent on the forest for food and other necessities. This deep reliance has made it difficult for them to migrate to other areas and has isolated them from the outside world. As many live deep within the forest, numerous development programmes, including MGNREGS, have struggled to reach them," says Mr. Chakradhar.

In response, the A.P. government launched the MGNREGS Chenchu Special Project in 2009, aimed at alleviating poverty and improving their socioeconomic conditions. Locally, the Chenchus refer to it as '*15-rojula pani*, *upaadhi haami*' (15 days of guaranteed work) or '*ITDA pani*' (ITDA work).

The project was carefully tailored to the specific needs of the Chenchus, taking into account their physical strength, food insecurities, accessibility challenges, lifestyle, and cultural practices. Managed by the Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs), the special initiative provided 180 days of employment per individual, compared to the standard 100 days per household in other areas. Chenchus were able to work 15 days each month, year-round, on individual or community land.

Ill-thought-out moves

However, in December 2021, the Union government decided to bring all State-specific Management Information Systems (MIS), the operating software for MGNREGS, under the Centrally-controlled MIS, which standardised MGNREGS operations nationwide.

"This aligned the Chenchu Special Project with the broader national framework, which meant that policies in place for a person outside applied to Chenchus as well. This move of the government has had a devastating impact on the Chenchus, because of the reduction of employment days for them, removal of work concession and shift to bank-based payments," explains Mr. Chakradhar.

"A reason behind the disillusionment among the Chenchus with the new system of MGNREGS across the three districts were going for Aadhaar and then linking it to one's bank account and job card for disbursement of wages. With most Chenchus being non-literate, they were probably too intimidated by all the red tape," Mr. Chakradhar says, adding that the Chenchu Special Project was precisely aimed at helping the Chenchus overcome such hurdles.

"Earlier, Chenchus in 125 *gudems* (villages) across the three districts were going for MGNREGS work. But now, no one is interested in coming. We are also demanding that the special project be revived," said the ITDA Srisaillam Project Officer.

As per a Socio-Economic Survey taken up by the A.P. government in 2020-21, the project generated 69 lakh person days of employment between 2009 and 2021.

But now, most of the people in Panukumadugu, Marripalem and Billagundipenta 'gudems' in Prakasam district have stopped going for MGNREGS work. As per the data collected by LibTech India, only about 1,500 of the 4,000 enrolled households are taking up work across Atmakur, Dornala, and Yerragondapalem mandals.

A major deterrent for the villagers is the uncertainty surrounding the wage disbursement process. Kotiah, like most others here, cannot read or write. At Panukumadugu, most of the 75 families do not have a mobile phone or a two-wheeler and more than 70 people, including children, do not have Aadhaar cards. Without Aadhaar, they are excluded from the Public Distribution System (PDS) as well as the AarogyaSri health insurance scheme.

Starting from January 1, 2024, the Aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS) was made mandatory for payment of wages to workers under MGNREGS. Now, the national framework requires a job-seeker to get their job card seeded with their Aadhaar card and then link their Aadhaar card with their bank account. This has become an overwhelmingly daunting task for the Chenchus.

Now, we don't even know if wages are being deposited into our accounts. No one explains what's happening. Those who have bank accounts fear being cheated since they cannot read or write. Bankers often get irritated when we keep asking

BHUMANI VENKATESAM
Chenchu elder

know if wages are being deposited into our accounts. No one explains what's happening. Those who have bank accounts fear being cheated since they cannot read or write. Bankers often get irritated when we keep asking," Kotiah says.

Except for one or two people, no one in this habitation has a mobile phone. The only way they can find out if money has been deposited is to visit a bank in Dornala, which is 25-30 km away, at least three times a month.

While Panukumadugu is located in the plains, many Chenchu gudems are situated within the Nagarjuna-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve (NSTR) and are deep in the forest, making trips to Dornala expensive.

Bhumani Venkatamma, a Chenchu from Marripalem, located deep in the forest, shares that the Chenchus struggle to find work for most of the year.

"At best, we get work for six months when farmers hire us for the chilli or cotton fields. Sometimes they ask us to herd cattle, which pays us about ₹200-₹300 per day. But we don't do that every day; it's only twice a week," she says, adding that in October, November, and December, they have nothing to do.

Has, and have-nots

Ironically, the Aadhaar card has become a subtle source of discord between those who have it and those who don't.

"Only those with Aadhaar are eligible for receiving wages under the new system. Not just that, but other things like coverage under AarogyaSri, school admission and getting ration cards are all possible only if one has Aadhaar," Venkatamma says, adding that some people do not have Aadhaar yet.

When asked why some people do not have Aadhaar cards, activists said many do not have birth certificates. The whole process of getting a birth certificate itself is quite tedious, it is learnt.

"Even so, we are not comfortable with our payments being deposited into bank accounts. There are many people in our tribe with the same name. Apart from me, there are two other women named Bhumani Venkatamma. Once, a villager's payment was wrongly credited into the account of another person with the same name. Ever since then, we have been wary of the whole thing," Venkatamma shares.

Traditionally, the Chenchus have been foragers. In *The Chenchu of Andhra Pradesh*, anthropologist Md. Azeem Mohideen notes that they rely on the forest economy, gathering leafy vegetables, wild fruits, tubers, and roots for consumption, while earning income from selling Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) like gum, honey, soapnuts, and beed at the Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC). However, LibTech India activists report that restrictions on their movement in the forest and the collection of forest produce have increased recently due to wildlife conservation laws.

"We sell our produce at the GCC, but the returns are insufficient. We also sell through the Srisaillam ghat road or at the Devasthanam," says Venkatamma, who struggles to feed her family of six, including four children. While she has a ration card allowing her to receive 35 kg of PDS rice per month, she finds it inadequate.

P. Srinivasa Rao, former Deputy District Medical and Health Officer of ITDA-Srisaillam, recalls: "About 25 years ago, when we visited the gudems for work, we were fed various curries made from leafy vegetables found in the forest. As many as 23 types of leaves were used in cooking. Each night, a family member would venture into the forest with bows to hunt small animals like rabbits and peacocks for the next day's meal. These days, we neither find these animals in the forest nor do the Chenchus utilise leaves as they once did."

This situation has led to a higher incidence of nutritional deficiencies among children. "Child marriages and consanguineous marriages are common in the community. These factors have made them more susceptible to sickle cell anaemia and thalassemia, with high infant and maternal mortality rates," says Dr. Srinivasa Rao.

Venkatamma recalls how they used to spend money on milk and lentils before the project was halted. She even managed to save enough to buy a TV and some gold, she smiles. Unfortunately, her brother broke the TV in a drunken fit, and now she has no money to repair it.

"We are called the protectors of the forest, yet ironically, we are being excluded from it in the name of 'tribe conservation,'" laments Bhumani Venkatamma, another elder from Billagundipenta, a village deep in the forest. He notes that while the elders at least had access to forest produce, the youth are left with neither the forest nor any means of earning a livelihood.

The Chenchus received pattas under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, commonly known as the Forest Rights Act (FRA). During their time in MGNREGS work, those who had received pattas were tasked with clearing land, creating trenches, and removing pebbles.

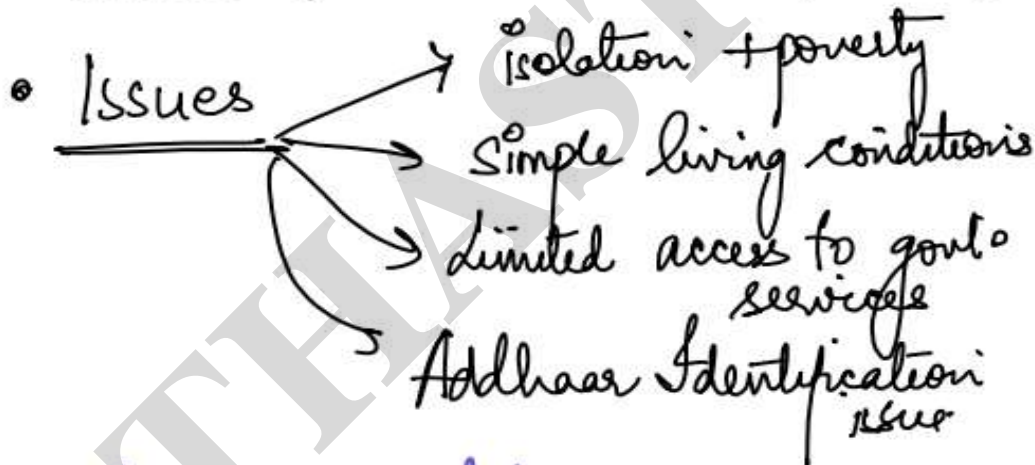
The project aimed to transform the tribe from hunter-gatherers to producers. Under the special project, many Chenchus worked on their own land and received government funds for purchasing pesticides and seeds. However, with its discontinuation, they are unsure how to manage their land.

Meanwhile, with dilapidated houses, irregular incomes, limited transportation, and a lack of electricity in some gudems, the Chenchus stare at an uncertain future.

CHENCHU TRIBE of.

Panukamadugu. → Andhra, Telang.,
Karnatak, Odisha

- Lived in Nallamalla forests for centuries
- Traditionally hunter gatherer tribe.
- Now rely on subsistence farming under **MGNREGS.**



• Telugu speaking tribe.

• Most vulnerable of the 12 PVTGs of Andhra Pradesh.

Keep Learning and Keep Revising!