

Chenchu Tribe

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Chenchu Tribe Latest News

Recently, Chenchu tribals in Amrabad Tiger Reserve opposed relocation from forest areas, citing livelihood concerns.

About Chenchu Tribe

- The Chenchus primarily reside in the **Nallamalai forests of Andhra Pradesh.**
- They are one of the **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** in Andhra Pradesh.
- They are also found in **Telangana, Karnataka, and Odisha.**
- The Chenchus have been **classified as the Proto Australoid group.**
- **Language:** They **speak variants of Telugu**, the Dravidian language of the region.
- **Society**
 - A Chenchu village is **known as "Penta"**.
 - Each **penta consists of a few huts** that are spaced apart and are grouped together based on **kinship patterns.**

- Small conjugal families predominate, **women taking equal rank with men** and marrying only upon maturity.
- **“Peddamanishi” or the village elder**, is generally the authority to **maintain social harmony** in a family or a village.

- **Livelihood**

- The Chenchu live life with exemplary simplicity. Most of them **still gather food** from the forest and roam in it to find things to meet their needs.
- The Chenchus **collect forest products like roots**, fruits, tubers, beedi leaf, mohua flower, honey, gum, tamarind, and green leaves and make a meagre income from it by selling these to traders and government cooperatives.

- **Religion and Belief**

- Chenchus **worship a number of deities**. Chenchus have also adopted certain religious practices from Hindus.
- They mainly believe in **Bhagaban Taru** who resides in the sky and **Garelamai Sama**, who is the Goddess of forest.
- For ages, the Chenchus have been associated with the **famous Srisailam temple** (dedicated to Lord Shiva and Devi Brahmaramba) in **Andhra Pradesh**, situated at the heart of Chenchu land.

Source: TT

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