

UNIT 6.2 — PROBLEMS OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES: KEY DATA

40-50% Tribal land alienated in scheduled areas (govt estimates)	45.86% Tribals below poverty line (Tendulkar 2011-12) vs 21.9% national	45.3% ST households indebted (NSSO 70th Round 2013) vs 31.4% general
58.96% Tribal literacy (Census 2011) vs 74.04% national — 15pt gap	47.3% Multidimensionally poor (NITI MPI 2021) vs 25.01% national	91.8% In informal sector (PLFS 2019-20); urban unemployment 8.2%

TOPIC 1: LAND ALIENATION

State-wise Data

- Jharkhand: 10-12 lakh acres illegal; 1.5M families
- Odisha: 3 lakh acres despite OSTA 1956
- Chhattisgarh: 25 lakh acres illegal occupation
- AP: 10 lakh acres in agency areas
- Maharashtra/Thane: 90% Warli land alienated
- Transfer: 70% debt, 20% fraud, 10% forcible
- Rate: 1 lakh ha/year nationally (Xaxa 2014)

Official Reports — Land

- Xaxa (2014): FRA 33% implemented; gram sabha bypassed 70%
- Bandyopadhyay (2010): Only 15-20% cases restored; official collusion
- B.D. Sharma (2002-04): 85L displaced (1951-90); only 25% rehab; "land alienation is genocide of tribal identity"
- Saxena (2010): 1% CFR claims filed; 4M claims rejected
- CAG Coal India (2013): 8.6L ha diverted; PESA violated 90%
- NITI Aayog (2021): 30-40% still alienated; green energy = new displacement threat
- NCST (2018-23): 15-20K cases/year; conviction rate below 5%

8 Key Tribe Cases — Land Alienation

1. Dongria Kondh — Vedanta Niyamgiri (2013)

660 ha bauxite in sacred Niyamgiri Hills. SC ordered 12 gram sabhas — all 12 rejected unanimously. Landmark CFR + consent case. Fuerer-Haimendorf tribe-territory linkage.

2. Bhils — Sardar Sarovar Dam

193 villages submerged. 40,000+ tribal families (60% displaced). Narmada Bachao Andolan (1985-ongoing). Inferior wasteland given. Akhatij festival discontinued; joint family breaking.

3. Santhals — Pathalgadi Movement

Despite CNT Act 1908 + SPT Act 1949, 3L acres alienated post-2000. Methods: benami, marriage fraud, fake adoption. Pathalgadi (2017-18) asserted gram sabha supremacy. Historical: Hul 1855.

4. Jarawa (Andaman) — PVTG

Only 400-450 surviving. 109 km road through reserve. SC closure order (2002) unimplemented. Human safari banned (2013). Disease contact + cultural extinction risk.

5. Gond — Gadchiroli + Hasdeo

60% Gond land to moneylenders in Gadchiroli. Hasdeo Arand: 4,500 ha coal. 2.5L Gond families landless in MP alone.

6. Kondh — Multiple Projects (Odisha)

POSCO (12,000 acres) + Lanjigarh refinery. Betel vine (primary cash crop) destroyed. Dongar deity sites threatened. Women-led gram sabha resistance.

7. Warli — Real Estate (Maharashtra)

90% traditional land alienated in Thane/Palghar. Resort development via intermediaries. Tribals became tenants on own land. PILs filed 2015-2020.

8. Chenchu — Tiger Reserve (AP/Telangana)

10,000+ facing Nagarjuna Sagar displacement. WPA 1972 vs FRA 2006 conflict. Elwin documented Chenchu-forest symbiosis (1940s). Hunter-gatherer lifestyle destroyed.

TOPIC 2: POVERTY

Core Statistics

- 45.86% tribal BPL (Tendulkar 2011-12) vs 21.9% national
- 47.3% multidimensionally poor (NITI MPI 2021) vs 25.01%
- MPI 2023: reduced to 40.3% — still 2X national (19.28%)
- Chhattisgarh: 63% ST poverty; Jharkhand 61%; Odisha 59%
- MPCE Rural ST: Rs 1,054 vs General Rs 1,430 (NSS 68th)
- 43.8% tribal children stunted (NFHS-5) vs 35.5% national
- Slowest improvement: Nutrition (only 3 points in 6 years)

Key Reports — Poverty

- Renke Commission (2006-08): 50.1% BPL; 70% inter-generational poverty trap
- Xaxa (2014): ST poverty reducing 1.5%/year vs 2.2% general — 30 years to eliminate at current rate
- NITI MPI (2021/23): 10 deprivation indicators; cooking fuel 72%; housing 60% kutcha
- World Bank (2018): Indian tribals poorer than comparable indigenous populations globally; 60% wages for same work

PVTG Poverty — Extreme Cases

Birhor (Jharkhand) — 95%+ BPL

Population ~10,000. Annual income Rs 8-12k. IMR 80/1,000 (vs 28 national). Avg lifespan 42 years. Forest rights denied; nomadic label used to reject claims.

Sahariyas (Rajasthan) — 68.8% BPL

5.3L population. Starvation deaths 2008-10. 65% children malnourished. 75% women anaemic. Sahariya Development Project (2010) reduced BPL from 89% to 68%.

Hill Kharias (Odisha) — 90% BPL

16,000 population. Food insecure 9-10 months/year. TB: 1,200/100,000 (vs 193 national). MMR: 380/100,000 (vs 97 national). 85% indebted at 60-100% annual interest.

Toda (Tamil Nadu) — SUCCESS CASE

Poverty: 85% (1971) to 25% (2011). Factors: land security, dairy economy, education, political voice. BUT: demographic decline; cultural erosion paradox. W.H.R. Rivers ethnography (1906).

TOPIC 3: INDEBTEDNESS

NSSO 70th Round (2013) — Core Data

- 45.3% ST households indebted vs 31.4% general rural
- Average debt: Rs 33,000 (ST) vs Rs 25,000 (general)
- Debt-asset ratio: 18% ST vs 12% general
- Informal sources: 70% (moneylenders 35%, landlords 20%, traders 15%)
- Interest: 50-120% informal; weighted avg 42%/year for tribals
- Purpose: 40% consumption, 25% agriculture, 20% social ceremonies
- Highest: AP (60%), Telangana (58%), Tamil Nadu (55%)
- Lowest: Mizoram (22%), Nagaland (25%) — community support systems stronger

Key Tribe Cases — Indebtedness

Katkari (Maharashtra) — Brick Kiln Bondage

Advance Rs 20-50k; family works 8-10 months; net earning Rs 4-15k after deductions. Intergenerational — children inherit debt. SC judgment 2016 unimplemented. 5,000+ rescued by Shramik Mukti Sanghatana.

Sahariya (Rajasthan) — Agricultural Debt Trap

75% indebted. Avg debt Rs 45,000 (150% annual income). 60% seasonal migrants. Only 5% have KCC. PRADAN SHG model: 500 SHGs, 30% cleared external debt.

Bhils (MP) — Soybean and Suicides

70% indebted (from 35% pre-soybean). Input costs Rs 7,500/acre; MSP unaware; below-market arthiya prices. 150+ farmer suicides Dhar district 2010-20.

TOPIC 4 and 5: LOW LITERACY + POOR EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Literacy Statistics

- Tribal literacy: 58.96% (2011) vs 74.04% national — 15pt gap
- Male: 68.53% | Female: 49.35% — 19pt gender gap
- PVTG literacy: below 20% avg; Sentinelese 0%, Jarawa under 5%
- Progress: 1991 (29.6%) to 2001 (47.1%) to 2011 (58.96%)
- At current rate: parity with national in 2050
- School dropout I-X: 68% tribal vs 40% national
- GER higher education: 17.2% ST vs 27.1% national
- ASER 2020: Only 35% Class V read Class II level text

Infrastructure Deficits (UDISE 2019-20)

- Only 15% tribal schools meet ALL RTE norms (vs 45% nationally)
- No girls toilets: 58% — major dropout cause post-puberty
- No electricity: 68% tribal schools
- No drinking water: 48% tribal schools
- Teacher vacancies: 32% in tribal areas (vs 15% national)
- Pupil-teacher ratio: 1:48 tribal vs 1:28 national norm
- Single-teacher schools: 28% tribal vs 12% national
- Teacher absenteeism: 42% tribal (vs 25% national)

EXAM TIP — Debt-Land Alienation Nexus

"60% of land alienation is traced to original debt (MTA, 2016). Sequence: borrow to survive — unable to repay — mortgage land — permanently lose land. Indebtedness is thus both CAUSE and CONSEQUENCE of land alienation — a vicious cycle that only FRA + PESA + institutional credit can break." This causation framing signals analytical maturity.

TOPIC 6: UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDER-EMPLOYMENT

PLFS 2019-20 Data

- Urban ST unemployment: 8.2% vs national 6.9% — EXCEEDS national
- Informal sector: 91.8% tribal workers (only 8.2% formal)
- Casual daily wage: 45% tribal vs 32% national
- Avg monthly earnings ST regular: Rs 9,500 vs General Rs 14,200 (33% wage gap)
- MGNREGA: 28% person-days tribal (8.6% population = 3X over-representation)
- Avg work: 180-200 days/year (165 days unemployed/underemployed)
- Govt Group A jobs: 4.2% ST vs 8.6% population — 50% under-representation
- Private sector: estimated below 2% tribal representation

Xaxa — "Adverse Incorporation" (Key Concept)

Tribals enter market economy only at exploitative bottom — as casual labour, not as equal participants. ILO (2019): Only 6.3% tribal workers qualify for "decent work" vs 17.8% general. Urban unemployment HIGHER than national — migration not solving the crisis.

Kutia Kondh (Odisha) — Podu Ban Crisis

Shifting cultivation banned (2000s) without alternative. Complete livelihood collapse. 70% food insecure (PVTG survey 2018). FRA should have legalised Podu — only 12% CFR approved in Kandhamal. Child stunting 49.2% (vs 35.5% national).

Unit 6.3: Development Programmes

Scheme	Key Data + Assessment
EMRS (1997-98)	690 operational; 1.5L students; 45% Class XII pass vs 28% general tribal; 2,800+ NEET/JEE in 5 years
Van Dhan Kendras (2018)	1,850 operational; only 22% profitable; Rs 950 cr sales 2022-23; marketing remains challenge
FRA 2006	2.26 cr titles; 40L claims rejected; CFR only 1.08L; Community Forest Resource titles 56,000
PESA 1996	9/10 states diluted provisions; gram sabha bypassed in 70%+ projects; 2022 Model Rules released
MFP MSP (2013)	87 items; tribals now get 60-70% vs earlier 20-30% market price; only 40-50% items actively procured
PM-PVTG Mission (2023)	Rs 15,000 cr; 75 PVTGs; 28L population; 9 basic amenities; first dedicated PVTG mission
Sickle Cell Mission (2023)	10-15% tribal carriers; Chhattisgarh 38%; 7 cr to screen; SCD causes 60+ school days/year missed
Tribal Sub-Plan (STC)	Rs 1,18,017 cr allocated 2022-23; 25-30% diverted; only 55-60% actually reaching tribals (CAG 2020)

Constitutional Framework

- Fifth Schedule (Art 244): 10 states; 42.75L sq km; 5.04 cr tribals
- Sixth Schedule (Art 244(2)): NE states; 10 ADCs; legislative + executive + judicial powers
- Art 342: 705 ST communities; 8.6% population (10.43 cr, Census 2011)
- Art 46 (DPSP): Promote educational + economic interests; protect from exploitation
- Art 15(4) + 16(4): Enable reservation; 7.5% ST in central govt jobs

Success Stories — Always Include One

Mendha-Lekha, Gadchiroli — CFR Model

Gond village; 400 population. First CFR in Maharashtra (2009); 1,800 ha. Bamboo sale: Rs 40-50L/year vs Rs 2-3L earlier. 100% proceeds to village. UN FAO best practice. Women 50% in decisions.

Mizoram — Sixth Schedule Development Success

Literacy 91.6% (2nd highest India). IMR 4/1,000 (lowest tribal state). Poverty below 5% — below national average. ADC governance + Tlawmngaihna cultural value. Post-Mizo Accord (1986) peace dividend.

KEY THINKERS — TRIBAL ISSUES

VX	Virginius Xaxa (2008, 2014) "Adverse incorporation" — tribals enter market at exploitative bottom. "Dual marginalization" — economic + cultural. "State, Society and Tribes" (2008). Chair, Xaxa Committee 2014. MOST POWERFUL citation in any tribal answer.	NS	Nandini Sundar (1997) "Subalterns and Sovereigns" — Bastar Gonds; continuity of exploitation from colonial to post-independence India. Conflict-education nexus documented. "Education as casualty of war."
VE	Verrier Elwin (1939-1959) "The Baiga" (1939), "The Agaria" (1942), "A Philosophy for NEFA" (1959). Evolution: National Park to positive neutrality to Panchsheel. FRA 2006 is intellectual heir. Do NOT present as merely isolationist — he evolved his position significantly.	AB	Andre Beteille "Tribes with economy" (forest/land-based) vs "tribes as labour" (dispossessed, wage-dependent). Civilisational loss when tribals shift from former to latter. Universal welfare approach — reduce deprivation, not cultural preservation vs integration binary.
GG	G.S. Ghurye (1963) "Scheduled Tribes" — tribals as "backward Hindus". Integration thesis. Called Elwin "arch-protector of backwardness". Shows Hindu nationalist influence. Both extremes wrong; contemporary synthesis needed.	SC	S.C. Roy (1912-1915) "Mundas and their Country" (1912); "Oraons of Chota Nagpur" (1915). Historical baseline of pre-colonial tribal prosperity. Land alienation by zamindars — same mechanism persists today.
CF	Fuerer-Haimendorf (1982) "Tribes of India: Struggle for Survival" — revisited after 35 years; documented impoverishment. "Detribalization without integration." Multi-volume Hyderabad ethnography (1943-46). Niyamgiri validates tribe-territory linkage.	KS	K.S. Singh (1985) "Tribal Society in India" — displacement-unemployment nexus. Traditional institutions (Ghotul, Dhumkuria) declining. 220 tribal languages threatened. Predicted Oraon impoverishment trajectory accurately.

ELWIN vs GHURYE — STRUCTURED COMPARISON

Dimension	Verrier Elwin	G.S. Ghurye	Contemporary Synthesis
Core position	Positive neutrality; tribal self-development on own terms	Integration; tribals = backward Hindus; assimilation into mainstream	<i>Rights-based self-determination (Xaxa + UNDRIP 2007)</i>
Key work	"A Philosophy for NEFA" (1959)	"The Scheduled Tribes" (1963)	<i>UNDRIP (2007); Xaxa Committee (2014); FPIC principle</i>
Policy influence	Nehru Panchsheel (5 points); FRA 2006; PESA 1996	Mainstreaming education; critiques isolation as paternalism	<i>PESA + FRA + gram sabha empowerment</i>
Strength	Protects culture; respects autonomy; anti-paternalistic	Correctly critiques isolation; education access advocate	<i>Balances rights with participation; avoids both extremes</i>
Weakness	Early position: romanticisation; isolation unsustainable	Cultural assimilation; Hindu nationalist bias; denies distinctiveness	<i>Implementation challenge in ground reality</i>
Current relevance	FRA 2006 is direct heir; gram sabha model = Elwin-Nehru vision	Private sector integration arguments use Ghurye framing	<i>UNDRIP + FPIC = 21st century policy standard</i>

EXAM STRATEGY — HOW TO SCORE 12-14/15 IN TRIBAL QUESTIONS

Opening Hook — Use This <i>"With tribal urban unemployment at 8.2% — exceeding the national average — and 91.8% in the informal sector (PLFS 2019-20), the tribal employment crisis reveals not a lack of work but a lack of decent work." Data + source + analytical framing = 3 marks in one sentence.</i>	PVTG Signal = Depth <i>Include one PVTG per 20-mark answer: Birhor (95% BPL; lifespan 42 years); Kutia Kondh (Podu ban = 70% food insecure); Jarawa (400 surviving; cultural extinction risk). Precise data signals reading depth. Examiner impression: +2 to +3 marks.</i>
Xaxa Citation Rule <i>Use Xaxa Committee 2014 TWICE: opening (45.9% poverty, FRA 33% implemented, gram sabha bypassed 70%) AND conclusion (gram sabha consent mandatory, comprehensive tribal legislation). Both uses are distinct and valid.</i>	Under-employment Trap — Avoid This <i>Rural tribal unemployment = 4.6% — apparently low. NEVER cite as positive. Explain: 45% casual daily wage, 180-200 days employment/year at below-minimum wages. Low unemployment rate is misleading; distinguish from under-employment explicitly.</i>
Elwin Nuance = Marks <i>Show evolution: National Park (1939) to modified position (1943) to positive neutrality to Tribal Panchsheel (1959). NEVER present Elwin as merely "isolationist." Examiners specifically reward candidates who know he evolved over 20 years.</i>	Always End With Success Story <i>Mendha-Lekha (CFR; Rs 40-50L/year vs Rs 2-3L earlier) OR Mizoram (91.6% literacy; poverty below 5%). Never end tribal answers on pure critique. Success story + replicable lesson = strong conclusion marks.</i>

