Seasonal migrations of tribal communities in Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan

**KEY OBSERVATIONS**

- India's socio-economic development is uneven, and marginalized tribal communities endure continuous stress in some areas.
- Seasonal migrations have been a long-standing issue for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population. People need to access food and money through casual labor.
- A combination of intertwined social, economic, and political factors sustain tribal seasonal migrations. This is a seasonal survival and work result in repeated movements between now and 2020.
- Women and children are more vulnerable to nutrition and health issues due to depleting socioeconomic conditions leading to seasonal migration.

**SCENARIOS TO 2020**

1. Deprived in the 2020 agenda
- Scheduled Tribes (STs) are often neglected in the national government agenda.
- Involvement in rural areas improves food security at a local level but poses challenges at a state level.
- The mechanization of farming reduces employment opportunities for STs.
- Debts incurred during seasonal migrations remain high.

2. Increased government support and labor programs
- Increased government support and labor programs reduce poverty and labor regulations, increasing household income.
- Investments in water access and safe rural programs improve food security.
- Land grabbing slows, and compensation schemes are implemented for those alienated from their land.
- Minimum wages and employment programs are increased, reducing the ST vulnerability index.
- Dependence on remittances reduces, with a key forecast of seasonal migrations.
- Decision-making power of tribal communities increases noticeably. This is a long-term shift to 2020 and beyond.

3. Dependence on agriculture
- Dependence on agriculture continues. Drought and appetitive pressure remain a warning of the increasing vulnerability of the ST population.
- Climate change causes agricultural crop failures, leading families to migrate to urban centers for food and work opportunities, resulting in health and education pressure.

**CONCLUSION**

Tribal seasonal migrations indicate India's rugged challenges, achieving both economic growth and addressing social vulnerabilities as a priority. The need to focus on these issues is critical to the ST community's well-being. Inequality, poverty, and women's and children's health remain the highest priorities.