

**GOVERNMENT POLICY AND INTERVENTION****Odisha may prove to be a first-mover in Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission**

**IN CONTEXT**-Union Finance Minister, in her Budget speech, said an amount of Rs.15,000 crore would be made available to implement the mission in the next three years.

- As Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech announced to launch the Pradhan Mantri PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group) Development Mission in order to saturate the PVTG families and habitations with basic facilities, Odisha being home to the highest number of PVTG communities in the country, is likely to be benefited the most.
- In fact, given the amount of experience Odisha possesses in handling focused and holistic programmes for PVTGs in the past decade, the State could be a first as well as best-mover among all States as far as the newly announced tribal programme was concerned.
- Of the 75 PVTGs identified in India, 13 such tribes live in Odisha. As per the 2018 baseline survey, 2,49,609 persons belonging to PVTGs (58,708 households) live in 1,679 habitations in 14 districts of the State.
- Union Finance Minister, in her Budget speech, said an amount of Rs.15,000 crore would be made available to implement the mission in the next three years, under the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes. It would be spent on basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- More than four decades ago, Odisha had implemented a micro project to address the basic needs and behavioural change of PVTGs in the State. At present, there are 20 micro projects focusing on the development of PVTGs.

**Beneficiary of CCD scheme**

- Odisha has also been a beneficiary of the Conservation cum Development (CCD) scheme, for which the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs allocates 100% financial assistance to the State Governments having PVTG communities.
- Odisha has already made a move towards the PVTG-focused programme without knowing that such a national mission is coming up.
- Since 2015, the Odisha Government had launched the Odisha PVTG Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme (OPELIP) at an estimated expenditure of Rs.711 crore, spread over seven years. The State government had secured 46% assistance for the OPELIP in the shape of a loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Under this programme, 542 habitations have been taken up for intervention.
- “With lessons learnt from OPELIP implementation, Odisha is best placed to handle the Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission. The State has been able to reach the last habitation of PVTG, through the programme.
- OPELIP Programme Director P. Arthanari said the outcome of the State’s PVTG focused programme in agriculture, income generation, health and behavioural change were widely appreciated.
- Odisha has 13 PVTGs followed by 12 in Andhra Pradesh and nine in Bihar. Some of the PVTGs such as Bonda, Dongria Kondh and Kutia Kondh live in high mountainous altitude and connecting their habitations with all-weather road infrastructure and health and educational institutes, would be a challenge for the respective governments.

**Focus on PVTGs**

- To improve socio-economic conditions of the particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs), Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission will be launched.
- This will saturate PVTG families and habitations with basic facilities such as:
  - safe housing,
  - clean drinking water and sanitation,
  - improved access to education,
  - health and nutrition,
  - road and telecom connectivity and
  - Sustainable livelihood opportunities.

**What are PVTGs?**

- PVTGs constitute the most vulnerable section among tribals and inhabit isolated, remote and difficult areas in small and scattered hamlets/ habitats.

- These are tribal communities who have declining or stagnant population, low level of literacy, pre-agricultural level of technology and are economically backward.
- 75 such groups of tribals in 18 States and 1 Union Territory have been identified and categorised as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

**Who are scheduled tribes?**

- Scheduled Tribes, as a term, was introduced as a part of Government of India Act, 1935 to give legal recognition to list of tribes marked for special treatment by the state.

**Characteristics:**

- Communities that are very old and did not practise a religion with a written text.
- They did not have a political form of the normal kind.
- They did not have sharp class divisions, were not part of the caste system and were neither Hindu nor peasants.

**Constitutional safeguards:**

- Article 15(4): Special provisions for advancement of other backward classes (which includes STs);
- Article. 23: Prohibition of traffic in human beings and beggar and other similar form of forced labour;
- Article. 24: Forbidding Child Labour.
- Article. 29: Protection of Interests of Minorities (which includes STs);
- Article. 46: The State shall promote, with special care, the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes, and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation,
- Article.164(1): Provides for Tribal Affairs Ministers in Bihar, MP and Orissa;
- Article. 243: Reservation of seats in Panchayats.
- Article.244: Provisions of Fifth Schedule shall apply to the administration & control of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in any State other than the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura which are covered under Sixth Schedule, under Clause (2) of this Article.
- Article. 275: Grants in-Aid to specified States covered under Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution.
- Article. 330: Reservation of seats for STs in Lok Sabha;
- Article. 337: Reservation of seats for STs in State Legislatures;
- Article. 334: 10 years period for reservation;
- Article. 350: Right to conserve distinct Language, Script or Culture; Instruction in Mother Tongue.
- Article. 371: Special provisions in respect of NE States and Sikkim

**Way forward:**

- **Improvement in Healthcare Facilities:** Mobile medical camps to improve outreach in remote tribal populations would play a major role. Provision of emergency transportation for pregnant tribal women to health facilities for obstetric care is one of the major necessities of the tribal women. Health workers from tribal communities may become the link between the healthcare facilities and tribal communities.
- **Improvement in Food and Nutrition Facility:** Large scale opening of Mini-Anganwadis with much relaxed norms and expansion of Village Grain Banks to tribal areas are some of the strategies that can be adopted to 'Reach the Unreached' in the tribal areas.
- **Employment and Income opportunities:** Employment and income generation opportunities should be ensured for tribal areas, either through wage or self-employment to raise their economic status. Efforts should also be made to extend micro-credit for self-employment ventures and implementation of MNREGA.
- **Minor forest produce:** Collection of minor forest produce and their marketing also needs to be encouraged.
- **Management of Water Resources:** Watershed management, rain water harvesting and water saving practices. Mass education and public awareness amongst the rural and tribal population for effective water resource management and protecting the water resources from pollution.
- **Empowering Tribal Women:** Promoting leadership role in Joint Forest Management and Panchayati Raj Institutions. Legal and administrative measures to check the practice of victimizing women suspected of witchcraft.

**PRELIMS**

**1. What is Follow on Public Offering?**

- ✚ **Context:** Adani Enterprises has cancelled its Rs 20,000 crore follow-on public offer (FPO), the company said in a regulatory filing.

**What is FPO?**

- ✚ Follow on Public Offering (FPO) is the way by which a company that is already listed on a stock exchange can raise funds from the public.
- ✚ It is different from Initial Public Offering.
- ✚ When a company raises funds from the public for the first time and then gets listed it's called an IPO.
- ✚ Whereas when a company that is already listed on the exchange raises funds from the public it's called FPO. Chronologically, FPO comes after an IPO

**Types of FPO**

- ✓ Diluted FPO:
  - There is dilution in the ownership of existing shareholders.
  - Here, the company decides to issue new shares to the public which increases the total number of shares outstanding.
  - When there is an increase in the number of shares, the ownership percentage of existing shares decreases since newly issued shares will also represent a certain proportion of ownership in the company.
- ✓ Non-Diluted FPO:
  - There is no dilution in ownership of existing shareholders because no new shares are issued.
  - The shares which are offered to the public are shares that are held by non-public shareholders.
  - Usually, these shareholders are Promoters, Directors of the company, or Pre-IPO investors.

**2. Judicial majoritarianism**

- ✚ **Context:** The recent majority judgment of the Supreme Court on demonetisation questions our blind acceptance of numerical majorities in judicial decision-making.

**What is judicial majoritarianism?**

- ✓ **Numerical majority:**
  - ✚ As opposed to standard matters heard by Division Benches consisting of two judges, numerical majorities are of particular importance to cases which involve a substantial interpretation of constitutional provisions.
  - ✚ In such cases, Constitutional Benches, consisting of five or more judges, are set up in consonance with Article 145(3) of the Constitution.
  - ✚ Such Benches usually consist of five, seven, nine, 11 or even 13 judges.
  - ✚ This is done to facilitate decision-making by ensuring numerical majorities in judicial outcomes.
- ✓ **Constitutional status:**
  - ✚ The requirement for a majority consensus flows from Article 145(5) of the Constitution which states that no judgment in such cases can be delivered except with the concurrence of a majority of the judges. Judges are free to deliver dissenting judgments or opinions.
- ✓ **The debate:**
  - ✚ Differences among the judges and methodological fallacies: Any differences in judicial decisions can be attributed to a difference in either the methodology adopted or the logic applied by the judges.
  - ✚ The differences can also be attributed to the judges' own 'judicial hunches' which may be an outcome of their subjective experiences, outlook, and biases.
  - ✚ In such circumstances, it is entirely possible that the majority may fall into either methodological fallacies or errors or be limited by their 'judicial hunch' respectively.
- ✓ **Minority decisions sidelined:**
  - ✚ In such situations, a meritorious minority decision, irrespective of the impeccability of its reasoning receives little weightage in terms of its outcomes.
  - Examples of such meritorious dissents:

- ✚ The dissenting opinion of Justice H.R. Khanna in A.D.M. Jabalpur v. Shivkant Shukla (1976) upholding the right to life and personal liberty even during situations of constitutional exceptionalism.
- ✚ Dissenting opinion of Justice Subba Rao in the Kharak Singh v. State of U.P. (1962) case upholding the right to privacy which received the judicial stamp of approval in the K.S. Puttaswamy v. UOI (2017) case.

**3. Mahila Samman Savings Certificate**

- ✚ **Context:** Union Finance Minister Wednesday announced a one-time small savings scheme for women to commemorate celebrations of 75 years of Independence.

**Key features of the scheme:**

- Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, a unique one-time small deposits programme for women, allows for savings of up to Rs 2 lakh.
- The small saving certificate will have a fixed interest rate of 7.5% for two years.
- The deposit can be made in the name of a woman or a girl child.
- The maximum deposit amount has been kept at Rs.2 lakh.
- The scheme will have a partial withdrawal facility as well.

**4. India to become the global hub for millets (Shree Anna)**

- ✚ The Union Budget 2023-24 has highlighted the importance of coarse grains or millets as means of sustainable cultivation that can raise the income of small farmers in arid regions besides providing food and nutritional security globally.
- ✚ Millets have been an integral part of our Indian diets for centuries. Millets, in addition to providing numerous health benefits, are also beneficial to the environment due to their low water and input requirements.
- ✚ The United Nations declared 2023 the International Year of Millets at the request of the Government of India to raise awareness and increase the production and consumption of millets.
- ✚ The economic survey 2023 highlighted that India alone was responsible for the production of 80 per cent of Asia's and 20 per cent of the global production of millet. India's average yield of millet is 1239 kg/ha, compared to the global average yield of 1229 kg/ha.
- ✚ India is the largest producer and second-largest exporter of Shree Anna in the world. India grows several types of Shree Anna including Jowar, Raagi, Bajra, Ramdana, Cheena, and Saama.
- ✚ The Union Budget for 2023-24 on February 1 included a special focus on millet. The Union Budget 2023-24 highlighted that to make India a global hub for Shree Anna Research, the Indian Institute of Millet Research in Hyderabad will be made into a center of excellence for sharing best practices, research and technology at the international level.

**ANSWER WRITING**

**Q. Public service delivery plays a critical role in enhancing individual capabilities to participate fully in the growth of the economy. Discuss the Challenges and Opportunities with regard to public service delivery in India.**

- Public services delivery is defined as the translation of all the plans and programmes of government, civil services and other public service offices such as PSUs, nationalized banks, extended groups of employees, into implementable actions. It is an instrument of development and change. It has become one of the most essential and vital parts of the administrative system.
- The objective of public service is to convert the goals and objectives of the executive into reality. Public service is a blend of certain features viz. expertise, vitality and leadership. This blend enables the public services to function in an independent and efficient manner.
- Public services have always been an important arm of the government for formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of its programmes. Public service delivery is one of the most significant and critical aspects of good governance because it affects the lives of millions of people.
- In particular, it is imperative that a high quality of basic services be provided to all citizens, since these are not only ends in themselves, but also play a critical role in enhancing individual capabilities to participate fully in the growth of the economy. India is a developing country and it is through better public service delivery that inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development can be achieved.

**Challenges with public service delivery**

- They are hierarchical in structure with superior subordinate relationships, reliance on control

through inspection; rigid rules and procedures; preference for precedence, top down planning and communication and bottom up reporting; merit cum seniority based promotions and security of services.

- Other challenges include complex regulations, complicated forms, lack of information, absence of performance standards, and lack of accountability, corruption and incompetence.
- The budgetary expenditure on social services typically addresses the need of the non-poor
- Allocation on social expenditure does not reach the frontline service provider
- In-effective service delivery by service providers
- Lack of demand from the poor and the marginalized

**Opportunities to improve public service delivery**

- With more connectivity and enhanced technological developments the government and public departments are coming with more improved public service delivery systems and new models. For example, the Sevottam model has been developed to enhance the efficiency of public service delivery systems.
- Digital technology has improved the public delivery services by enhancing the real time information access to people. This has also increased the accountability and transparency in the system. By generating awareness drives among the people, public service delivery can be enhanced.

Hence, effective public management of our resources and by creating open, transparent and accountable systems effective public service delivery can be ensured

**MCQs**

1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” exclusively for them.
2. Under the scheme, Conservation-cum-Development (CCD)/Annual Plans are to be prepared by each State/UT for their PVTGs based on their need assessment, which are then appraised and approved by the Project Appraisal Committee of the Ministry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) **Both 1 and 2**
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI) has made a significant move that allows Indians abroad to use the fast payments network Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
2. This move is a significant step towards wider adoption of the homegrown payments platform UPI and opens up new possibilities for non-resident Indians (NRIs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) **Both 1 and 2**
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Manual scavenging refers to the practice of physically cleaning, carrying, disposing or handling in any manner, human excreta from dry latrines and sewers.
2. In spite of the best efforts by the government, manual scavenging continues to persist in parts of the country due to lack of alternatives like space to lay sewer lines, ill-held traditions and lack of other employment avenues for the poor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) **Both 1 and 2**
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. ‘Shree Anna’ term in Budget 2023-24 is used for which of the following food grain?

- a) Rice
- b) **Millet**
- c) Wheat
- d) Pulse

5. Which of the following are the Saptrishi-7 priorities in Budget 2023-24
1. Youth Power
  2. Unleashing the Potential
  3. Green Growth
  4. Inclusive Development

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
  - b) 1 and 3 only
  - c) 2 and 4 only
  - d) 1, 2, 3 and 4**
6. Government initiative 'Bharat SHRI' which is announced in Budget 2023-24, is related to which of the following?
- a) To develop own Artificial intelligence based search engine
  - b) To provide health benefit to senior citizens
  - c) Digitisation of ancient inscription**
  - d) Providing internet facilities to tribal areas
7. Recently announced 'PM-PRANAM' scheme in Budget 2023-24 is related to which of the following?
- a) To promote tourism in religious circuit
  - b) Restoration of archeological sites
  - c) Promoting alternative fertilizer and balance use of chemical fertilizer**
  - d) Providing benefit to farmers on agricultural loan.
8. Consider the following statements regarding new income tax slabs under budget 2023-24:
1. Now those earning up to Rs.7 lakh a year need not pay any income tax under the new tax regime.
  2. Those switching to the new tax regime can also hereafter avail of the Rs.50,000 standard deduction.
  3. Taxpayers could, however, still opt to file under the old regime, which allows for tax exemptions and deductions on investments and expenses such as HRA.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 & 2 only
  - b) 2 & 3 only
  - c) 1 & 3 only
  - d) 1, 2 & 3**
9. Consider the following statements
1. There is continuous rise in credit to agriculture sector during the last seven years
  2. There is continuous rise in food grain production during the last seven years

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only**
- b) 2 only
- c) Both correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. Consider the following statements

1. India and the United States elevated their strategic partnership with the launch of an initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology or iCET.
2. The India-US Cyber Framework signed in September 2016, provides for expanding cooperation in the cyber domain.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both correct**
- d) Neither 1 nor 2