

**SOCIETY****Sustainable Livelihoods for PVTGs. Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population****In News, why?**

Recently, the Pradhan Mantri-Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) Scheme, an ambitious project, was introduced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. This effort, which aims to uplift Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), has the ability to solve the particular difficulties that these groups face and to provide the necessary infrastructure for a better future.

**The PM-JANMAN Scheme: What is it?****About:**

- The goal of the government initiative PM JANMAN is to integrate tribal tribes into society at large.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will carry out the program (which consists of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes) in coordination with the State governments and the PVTG communities.
- The plan will focus on 11 crucial interventions that will be managed by nine line Ministries, guaranteeing that the programs that are currently in place are implemented in the areas where PVTGs reside.
- It includes a number of areas, such as chances for sustainable livelihoods, access to clean drinking water, better healthcare, education, and nutrition, as well as safe housing under the PM-AWAS Scheme and enhanced road and telecommunications connectivity.
- The plan also calls for the construction of solar street lights, off-grid solar power systems for one lakh families, and Van Dhan Vikas Kendras for the trading of forest produce.
- By addressing the various and intersecting kinds of prejudice and exclusion that the PVTGs experience, as well as by acknowledging and appreciating their special and significant contribution to both national and international development, the program is anticipated to improve the quality of life and overall well-being of the group.

**Difficulties with Implementation:**

- One of the biggest challenges facing PVTGs is the lack of up-to-date statistics. The last census that was conducted in 2001 counted around 27.6 lakh people living in these communities.
- Although baseline surveys have been initiated by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, a precise and up-to-date dataset of PVTG populations has not yet been assembled.
- The population of PVTGs in Maharashtra, Manipur, and Rajasthan was not included in the population data that was provided to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment in 2022. Instead, it was based on the 2011 Census.
- The accuracy of assessing the needs and progress of PVTG communities is hampered by the absence of current data.
- The National Advisory Council of 2013 advised that a separate Census be conducted for PVTG communities, but this recommendation has not been followed, which makes it much more difficult to collect comprehensive data on housing, health, and education.
- The need for specialized and adaptable methods and treatments due to the complexity and diversity of the PVTGs' demands and capacities across various states and regions.
- The state and mainstream society stigmatize and discriminate against PVTGs, and there is a need for public education and stakeholder sensitization on these issues.
- The scheme's convergence and coordination with the federal and state governments' current plans and programs, as well as the requirement for the effective and efficient delivery and use of resources and services.

**Who are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)?**

- Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) are a special category that the Dhebar Commission created in 1973. PTGs are tribal communities that use pre-agrarian technology, have low literacy rates, a declining or stagnating population, and are economically backward.
- Of the indigenous communities, these are the ones considered to be less developed.
- The Indian government rebranded the PTGs as PVTGs in 2006. They struggle because of inadequate infrastructure and administrative support, living in isolated and inaccessible places.

**Throughout India's 18 States and Union Territories, there are 75 PVTG communities.**

- The state of Odisha has the most PVTGs (15), followed by the states of Andhra Pradesh (12), Bihar and Jharkhand (9), Tamil Nadu (6), Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh (7), Kerala and Gujarat (5 each).

- The remaining communities are dispersed throughout West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Tripura, Manipur, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.
- As PVTGs, all four Andaman tribal groups and one Nicobar Island tribe are acknowledged.

**Other Initiatives for PVTGs**

- Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.
- Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.
- PM PVTG Mission.

**Conclusion:**

PVTG are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. More developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds so there is a need for sustainable development of these PVTG groups by ensuring various welfare schemes

**ECONOMY****Context: Calibrating a strategy for India's future growth**

India's growth in 2023-24 is currently projected by the Reserve Bank of India at 7% while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have pegged it at 6.3%.

**Introduction**

- Following two quarters of growth of 7.8% and 7.6%, respectively, and a broad-based rebound in the second quarter, India is expected to achieve the 7% growth that the RBI has projected for this fiscal year.
- The IMF has forecasted 6.3% annual growth in the medium term, which would last until 2028–2029. India must adjust its growth plan going forward to account for the shifting global landscape.

**Deglobalization movement**

- There is a Deglobalization movement. Numerous current geopolitical conflicts, such the wars between Israel and Hamas and Russia and Ukraine, have produced a climate of sanctions that have disrupted international settlements and broken supply networks since the sanctioned countries are unable to access systems like SWIFT.
- Global demand for exports has decreased as a result of the decline in real GDP growth worldwide. India is among the many nations that wish to lessen their reliance on petroleum imports because of supply disruptions and fluctuating prices.
- In India's situation, the percentage of GDP attributable to exports increased significantly between 2003–2004 and 2008–09, 2013–14 had a peak of 25% for this. It was 18.7% in 2019–20 and 2020–21, and it reached a low of 22.8% in 2022–2023. India's access to the previously adopted export-led economic plan may have ended. It needs to adapt its own plan for future expansion.

**Medium-term investment rate: significance of savings**

- India's growth prospects will be largely dependent on its own domestic factors. In particular, domestic savings will be essential to reach and maintain a real growth rate of 7% or higher. We project that in 2022–2023, the nominal saving rate will be almost 29%.
- One worrying trend is the recently reported reduction in household sector savings in financial assets, which fell by 2.7% points to 5.1% of GDP in 2022–2023 from an average of 7.8% in the pre-COVID-19 period of 2015–16 to 2019–20.
- This decline was made up of a 0.5% drop in the change in gross household financial assets and a 2.2% increase in the change in gross household financial liabilities. These might be short-term post-COVID-19 adaptations.
- But if these patterns continue, there will be a serious risk to India's potential for growth because the government and business sector can use the excess household savings as a source of funding to meet their investment needs beyond their own savings.
- After subtracting changes in stocks, assets, and discrepancies, and adding net capital inflows, savings are transformed into gross fixed capital formation (GFCF). In 2022–2023 the estimated nominal investment rate, or GFCF in relation to GDP, was 29.2%.

**Developing a plan for more employment**

- Over the next three decades, India will be in a unique position due to a high number of potentially employable people looking for work in the face of more labor-saving discoveries and technology.
- The percentage of India's working-age population is expected to reach a peak of 68.9% in 2030, while the country's total dependency ratio is expected to reach its lowest point of 31.2%, according to UN

demographic forecasts. Given these trends, more funding should be set aside for skill development programs for India's expanding working-age population.

- Employment growth is closely linked to both GDP growth and output structure. The population of working age is expected to expand at a decreasing pace over time, from 1.2% in 2023–2024 to 0% in 2048–2049.

#### **Environment angle**

- In light of worries about climate change worldwide, India has committed to a number of carbon emission reduction targets. India pledged during the 2021 COP26 Summit to achieve net zero emissions by 2070 and to cut global carbon emissions by one billion tonnes between 2021 and 2030.
- One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) and the Green Grids Initiative (GGI) are two of India's own projects. Additionally, it is emphasizing the use of hydrogen and ethanol-based fuels as well as electric vehicles.
- Technological advancements that improve the climate could slow down potential growth. By highlighting the rise of the service sector, which is comparatively climate-friendly, this negative impact can be reduced.

#### **Fiscal accountability**

- In order to maintain growth at its potential, it is critical to guarantee that the total fiscal deficit and debt to GDP ratios are reduced to 6% and 60%, respectively, in order to maintain a manageable level of interest payment burden in relation to tax receipts.
- This would make it possible to achieve a balance or surplus on the federal and state governments' revenue accounts, which would lower government dissaving's and raise the economy's total saves rate.

#### **Way forward**

- It appears possible to grow at a 6.5% rate during the next two years. This might be seen as a partial comeback from the COVID-19 period's poor growth rate.
- Numerous internal and external issues will negatively impact India's growth prospects in the medium run.
- To attain a growth rate of 7% to 7.5%, the nation needs to concentrate on increasing savings and investment rates, enhancing the skill development of young workers, and implementing an employment-friendly technology mix.

### **PRELIM FACTS**

#### **1. KALIA SCHEME**

- The Odisha government launched the "Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation" (KALIA) plan to support farmers.
- The program's objectives are to decrease poverty in the agricultural sector and boost agricultural prosperity by increasing state subsidies to support farming and related activities.
- The program is thought to be a good substitute for exemptions of farm loans.
- Each landless agricultural household would receive financial assistance of Rs. 12,500 for agriculturally related enterprises such as mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, small goat raising units, mini-layer units, duckery units, and fisheries kits for fishermen.
- Each family will receive Rs 10,000 as farming support from all farmers. For five agricultural seasons between 2018–19 and 2021–2022, each family would receive Rs 5,000 separately in the Rabi and Kharif seasons. Gathering Crop loans up to Rs 50,000 are interest-free.

#### **2. The Ghaggar River**

**Context:** Trans Ghaggar inhabitants recently organized a cleanliness drive at the river's Chatt Puja Ghat to raise public awareness about the dangers of disposing of rubbish in the Ghaggar River.

##### **About the River Ghaggar:**

The river barely flows occasionally during the monsoon season.

##### **Course:**

- It originates in the northwest region of Himachal Pradesh, in the Shivalik Range.
- It receives the Saraswati River in Haryana state, some 200 miles (320 km) to the southwest.
- In the end, the Thar Desert in Rajasthan dries up.
- Two irrigation canals that stretch into Rajasthan are nourished by this seasonal river. The Ghaggar River in India and the Hakra River, which runs through Pakistan, are jointly referred to as the Ghaggar-Hakra River.

##### **Historical Importance**

- Numerous historians associate the Vedic Saraswati River with Ghaggar.

- Numerous Indus Valley Civilization sites have been dug up along the banks of the Ghaggar River.
- Therefore, it is thought that the prehistoric communities on its banks were built by clever Vedic Aryans.
- The Sutlej and Yamuna rivers are thought to have formerly flowed into the Ghaggar-Hakra river bed.
- Main tributaries of the Ghaggar are the Sarsuti, Tangri, Markanda, Kaushalya River, and Chautang.

### **3. Pinna nobilis**

**Context:** In the waters near Croatia, a massive clam that was in danger of going extinct has reportedly made a resurgence, according to marine researchers.

#### **Regarding Pinna nobilis**

- It belongs to the Pinnidae family of marine bivalve molluscs and is a huge species of Mediterranean clam.
- With their 1.2 m-wide shells, the clams contribute significantly to the ecosystem by purifying saltwater and fostering the growth of other creatures.
- It uses a robust byssus made of several silk-like strands that were once used to make cloth to cling to rocks.
- These fibers, which can be as long as 6 cm (2.4 in) and are made of keratin and other proteins, are secreted by the animal from its byssus gland. The inside of the shell is lined with brilliant mother-of-pearl.
- Like other species, Pinna nobilis is home to symbiotic shrimp that reside inside its shell.
- It is thought that the shrimp alerts its host to potential threats by pinching or retracting its claws. After that, the clam shuts.
- It has been shown that the shrimp and its host have a similar diet of filter-feeding, suggesting that the relationship is probably mutualistic.
- **Distribution:** The Mediterranean Sea is the native habitat of this species.
- **Threats:** It is comparatively vulnerable to harm from shells and pollution. In the Mediterranean, the pinna nobilis, or noble pen shell, began to go extinct in 2016. This was due to a fatal disease that was spreading over the region.
- **State of conservation**  
IUCN: Extremely vulnerable

### **4. 2047-Vision**

**Why in news:** To create a plan for "Viksit Bharat @2047," NITI Aayog is now coordinating reports from sectoral group secretaries.

#### **Concerning Vision @2047:**

- The vision paper is quite ambitious, with the goal of turning India's \$30 trillion economy into a developed one by 2047.
- The goal of this initiative, launched by NITI Aayog, is to draft a development blueprint for India over the next 25 years.
- It seeks to establish India as a leader in innovation and technology on a worldwide scale, as well as a role model for social welfare and human development and an advocate for environmental sustainability.
- The vision is based on the assumption that, over the course of the next 25 years, India will have effectively addressed the majority of its post-independence issues and will need to move past a distinct set of difficulties, including a slowdown in economic growth and a middle-class trap, in which the nation's per capita income may stabilize between \$5,000 and \$6,000.
- The goal includes social advancement, environmental sustainability, economic prosperity, and good governance, among other facets of development.

### **5. Amrit Dharohar Scheme for Capacity Building**

#### **Why in the press:**

Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme 2023 is launched by the Ministry of Tourism in association with the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.

#### **Important information:**

- The Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme-2023 saw the creation of an Alternative Livelihood Program by the two ministries.
- In order to enhance nature tourism at various Ramsar sites and give the local community alternative means of subsistence, the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tourism, will work with the MoEFCC to strengthen local community capacity.



- The MoT and MoEFCC are working together to implement the initiative's "Nature-tourism and Wetcom" component, which aims to improve livelihood possibilities for local populations by utilizing the nation's Ramsar Sites' nature-tourism potential.

**Priority Ramsar locations under the program:**

- Bhitarkanika and Chilika in Odisha, Yashwant Sagar and Sirpur in Madhya Pradesh, and Sultanpur National Park in Uttar Pradesh

**Amrit Dharohar: What is it?**

- The MoEF&CC created the Amrit Dharohar program, which is a component of the 2023–24 budget announcement, to assist local livelihoods, create jobs, and promote the unique conservation values of the Ramsar Sites across the nation.
- This project will be carried out in tandem with a number of State Wetland Authorities, institutional and informal institutions, and ministries and agencies of the Central Government.

**ANSWER WRITING**

**Q. What does this quotation convey to you in the present context?**

“The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer”. – Mahatma Gandhi

The quotation from Mahatma Gandhi implies that when it comes to promoting good change in the world, kindness is more effective than ceremonial prayer. It emphasizes that being nice to others is an active act of empathy and compassion rather than just a passive feeling.

**This phrase speaks to the value of practical kindness and societal influence in the current environment.**

- **Real-World Impact of Philanthropy:** Millions of impoverished children have benefited from the substantial sum of money that Wipro founder Azim Premji has donated to education through the Azim Premji Foundation.
- **Community-Based Initiatives:** Through a range of social and economic programs, the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India gives low-income women a voice.
- **Empowerment Through Microfinance:** Thanks to Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus's groundbreaking work in microfinance through Grameen Bank, disadvantaged people can now obtain microloans that help them overcome their circumstances and establish sustainable means of subsistence.
- **Social Entrepreneurs' Impact:** Social entrepreneurs like Arunachalam Muruganatham, known as the "Padman" of India, have made substantial contributions by addressing critical social issues. His low-cost sanitary pad-making machines have improved menstrual hygiene and women's health in rural areas.
- **Kindness in Education:** Institutions like the Akshaya Patra Foundation exemplify the transformative potential of kindness by providing mid-day meals to school children, they not only address hunger but also incentivize education

**Conclusion:**

Thus, the quote serves as a helpful reminder of the value and effectiveness of kindness in our lives. It exhorts us to cultivate kindness in our words, deeds, and thoughts, and to be nice to both ourselves and other people.

**MCQs**

1. Consider the following statements regarding Territorial Army (TA).
  1. The Indian Army receives support services from the Territorial Army (TA), a volunteer military reserve made up of part-timers.
  2. Ministries and state governments ask them to perform a variety of tasks, such as oil exploration, petroleum supply, plantation drives, and safeguarding vital infrastructure.
  3. Ever since India gained its freedom, they have taken part in every conflict.
 How many of the above statements is/are correct?  
 a) Only one                      b) Only two                      c) All three                      d) None
2. Consider the following statements regarding Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
  1. In India, PVTGs are a subset of Scheduled Tribes and are regarded as more vulnerable than other Scheduled Tribes.
  2. The only factor used to describe PVTGs is population decline or stagnation.
  3. The PVTGs category was established by the Dhebar Commission.
 How many of the above statements is/are correct?  
 a) Only one                      b) Only two                      c) All three                      d) None

3. Consider the following statements about Adopt a Heritage 2.0 Program
1. The Archaeological Survey of India, the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Tourism are all involved in this endeavor.
  2. The project's goal is to persuade public and private organizations to take on the role of "Monument Mitras" and expand and improve the site's essential facilities.
  3. Funds allocated for corporate social responsibility (CSR) cannot be used by the corporate sector to maintain the website.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- a) Only one      **b) Only two**      c) All three      d) None
4. Regarding the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) program consider the following statements:
1. The government of Rajasthan launched it.
  2. It seeks to lessen poverty in the State payments to promote farming and related enterprises while accelerating agricultural development.
- 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
5. Regarding the Sabarimala Temple, consider the following statements:
1. It is an ancient Ayyappan temple.
  2. It is located in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- 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
6. Examine the following claims regarding the Financial Stability Board (FSB):
1. It is the Financial Stability Forum's replacement.
  2. It is an international organization that keeps an eye on the world financial system and offers advice.
  3. It aims to improve the stability of global financial markets and fortify financial systems.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) Only one      b) Only two      **c) All three**      d) None
7. Consider the following statements
1. It is an intermittent river that flows only during the monsoon season.
  2. It eventually dries up in the Thar Desert in Rajasthan.
  3. The main tributaries of this river are the Kaushalya River, Marianna, Sarsuti, Tangri, and Chautang.
  4. The river has historical significance in India.
- The above-mentioned statements refer to which one of the following rivers?
- a) Saraswati River      **b) Ghaggar River**      c) Luni River      d) Sabi River
8. Consider the following statements
1. It is situated in the Gondia and Shandara Districts of Maharashtra.
  2. It was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1970.
  3. The topography is undulating, and the highest point, viz. 'Zenda Pahad' is around 702 m above mean sea level.
  4. Recently, the two tigresses have been translocated to low-density zones in this tiger reserve.
- The above-mentioned statements refer to which one of the following tiger reserves?
- a) Melghat Tiger Reserve  
b) Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve  
**c) Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve**  
d) Pench Tiger Reserve
9. Recently, 'Pinna nobilis' was in the news. It is a species of
- a) Bivalve mollusc**      b) Fern      c) Echinoderm      d) Algae
10. With reference to the Down syndrome, consider the following statements:
1. It is a genetic disorder.
  2. There are three types of Down syndrome.
- 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