



TATHASTU
Institute of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



27th MAY, 2024

53/1, Upper Ground Floor, Bada Bazar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi -110060

www.tathastuics.com

9560300770, 9560300554

enquiry@tathastuics.com



S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	THE SPECTRE OF NUCLEAR CONFLICT, ONCE AGAIN
2.	A DOOR TO A HOUSING SCHEME, TRIBALS FIND HARD TO OPEN
3.	JAPAN'S NEW WHALING MOTHERSHIP, THE KANGEI MARU

THE SPECTRE OF NUCLEAR CONFLICT, ONCE AGAIN

The spectre of nuclear conflict, once again

After every major war or conflict, questions tend to be raised as to whether the ruling elites at the time had failed to see the writing on the wall and, hence, did not prepare for the possibility of a major conflict, or face up to the threat that lay ahead. Today, as some nations engage in sabre rattling and hold out the threat not merely of war but also of using the 'ultimate weapon', it is important to raise this question yet again. The truth is, perhaps, hidden between layers of rhetoric that prominent leaders or their spokesmen indulge in from time to time. There is, yet, time for nations to sit-up and take notice as also discuss and discern hidden meanings behind the volley of rhetoric being seen.

What the leaders of France and Russia say
Many leaders, at least in the West, have taken due note of French President Emmanuel Macron's so-called 'apocalyptic vision' and what the future, hence, looks like. There is also more than a hint in Mr. Macron's remarks of the danger of nuclear 'annihilation', and unlike many previous outpourings of the French President, many Europeans this time are sitting-up and taking notice. Russia's so called 'mis-adventure' seems to be the starting point of the French President's 'doomsday' scenario, since he believes that the Ukraine war has changed Russia and that the Russian President Vladimir Putin's 'nuclear threats' should not be ignored. As these remarks emanate from one of Europe's most prominent leaders, the main thrust is on the impact that this would have on European security.

The French President is not inhibited on this occasion on his use of the term 'French Nuclear Deterrent' which has outgrown its previous 'force de frappe' metaphor. Today, France is in possession of what would be among the largest nuclear arsenals in the world, and hence, the French President's utterances carry considerable weight. Against this backdrop and evidence of increasing Russian belligerence in the Ukraine Theatre, a possible use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine is no longer in the realm of fantasy. It does give rise to the spectre of a potential nuclear exchange. The French President is said to be planning to put forward his case on the nuclear aspect at a meeting of the European Political Community to be held in July this year.

It is not for the first time since the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, that the spectre of a nuclear conflict is coming to haunt the globe. The absence of leaders of consequence across the world, essentially those who have significant influence on world affairs, is aggravating the situation, making it more frightening. As it is, most parts of the world are going through extreme economic turbulence, leading to widespread problems. The nuclear fuse, which earlier tended to be long, appears of late to have



M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Advisor, and a former Governor of West Bengal

shrunk. With a new array of weapons available to many nuclear weapon powers, this spells trouble. The absence of regular exchanges among nuclear weapon powers, notwithstanding the several protocols that are in place, is further cause for concern. Erstwhile nuclear guarantees, thus, appear to be fraying at the edges.

Aggravating this situation further are certain remarks attributed to Mr. Putin during the annual Victory Day Parade in Moscow on May 9 this year. In his address, the Russian President observed that 'his nuclear forces were always on alert and that Moscow would not tolerate any Western threats'. He also added that 'while Russia would do everything to prevent a global clash, at the same time we will not allow anyone to threaten us ... our strategic forces are always on alert'.

Well prior to this, in November 2023, Russia had revoked its ratification of a major international agreement, viz., the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) which is intended to prevent all forms of nuclear explosions, either for civilian or military purposes. The claim made by Russia, that revoking the ban was intended to balance the nuclear playing field with the United States, (which had never ratified it), is specious at best.

The international community's response to this, not unexpectedly, has been extremely hostile, with several countries expressing concern that this step reversed the shift towards greater confidence in the nuclear arms regime. Meantime across the world, countries such as China are going ahead with enhancing their nuclear profile. China has very recently completed sea trials for its aircraft supercarrier fitted with electromagnetic catapults for launching aircraft. It is well on its way to complete building a fourth aircraft carrier.

The discussion at Hoover

Even as Europe and parts of the world seem to be haunted by the spectre of a possible nuclear armageddon, totally unconnected with this was an academic discussion on nuclear matters at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, U.S., which was attended by delegates from the U.S. and India (this writer was a delegate). The discussions centered around the U.S.-India civil nuclear Deal (2005-08) and how it had brought about a fundamental change in attitude, not only on nuclear matters but also on the entire gamut of relations between the U.S. and India. What the discussions seemed to imply was that there are many more things available in heaven than we are aware of. There were no references in the meeting to the nuclear stand-off in Europe, but the message emanating from the discussions seemed to imply that the methodology employed during the nuclear deal negotiations had relevance to many current disputes.

When India and the U.S. undertook to

negotiate a nuclear deal, they stood at opposite poles of the nuclear order. India had not signed on to the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a foundational treaty governing global nuclear rules. It had also refused to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). India had carried out five nuclear tests in 1998, leading to the imposition of sanctions on India's nuclear programme.

Consequent on the U.S.-India nuclear deal, most of the roadblocks that prevented India from joining the global nuclear regime were lifted. In the process, both sides made significant concessions. India agreed to separate its nuclear programme into civilian and military nuclear programmes, in return for linking permanent safeguards for permanent fuel supplies. India agreed to adhere to certain of the export control regulations. It accepted a voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing. The U.S., in turn, amended its domestic laws, and the U.S. Congress made possible the passage of legislative provision through enactment of the Hyde Act and the I23 Agreements. The U.S. also took the lead in approaching the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) to ease nuclear restrictions on India. The U.S. and India thereafter coordinated their efforts to obtain an India Specific Safeguards Agreement from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This gave India a status similar to that of a nuclear weapon-state under the Non Proliferation Treaty.

The key to improving ties

The message from the discussions at the Hoover Institution seemed to be that the deal had even more significance than being merely an arrangement about revising India's nuclear status. Over the years since the deal was finalised in 2008, India-U.S. relations had attained new heights.

From technology denial, India had become a major technology partner of the U.S. Many of the mental cobwebs that previously existed had been removed and India and the U.S. had achieved a new plateau as far as economic and defence relations were concerned. India had also become an essential partner of the U.S. on many regional and global issues.

The discussions unambiguously seemed to reinforce the view that overcoming the psychological divide was critical to improving relations and relationships between countries. Breaching the impregnable wall of disbelief, leading to a subsequent transformation would inevitably have a beneficial impact. From India's standpoint, given that the India-U.S. nuclear deal originated from India's desire to obtain high grade uranium from outside to complement its energy requirements, the deal confirms that nuclear energy could be a major resource for peaceful purposes.

The absence of leaders of consequence, essentially those who have significant influence on world affairs, is aggravating the situation



Points To note Down

Context

Cuban Missile Crisis 1962

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

NPT

Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Cuban Revolution:

- ❖ In 1959, Fidel Castro and a group of revolutionaries seized power in Havana (city capital of Cuba). They overthrew the US-backed government of Fulgencio Batista.
- ❖ After the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro's government began nationalizing American-owned properties, imposed economic penalties on trade with the US and increased its trade with the Soviet Union.

Cuban Missile Crisis:

- ❖ Aftermath of events following Cuban revolution, the United States severed diplomatic ties with Cuba and began pursuing covert operations to overthrow the Fidel Castro regime in 1961.
- ❖ This followed an attempt by the US agencies to topple Cuban Government, known as the Bay of Pigs invasion.
- ❖ In response, Cuba allowed the Soviet Union to secretly install nuclear missiles on the island.
- ❖ This brought the US and Soviet Union on the brink of Nuclear war. In the end, Soviet Union agreed to withdraw the missiles in exchange for a pledge from the US not to invade Cuba and to remove the US nuclear missiles from Turkey.

US Sanctions:

- ❖ After Cuban Missile Crisis, the US instituted a ban on nearly all its exports to Cuba, which US President John F. Kennedy expanded into a full economic embargo that included stringent travel restrictions.
- ❖ These economic sanctions continue till today.
- ❖ US President Barack Obama took several steps to normalize bilateral relations, including restoring diplomatic ties and expanding travel and trade.
- ❖ However, the Trump administration reversed aspects of the past agreements by reimposing restrictions on tourism and other commerce.

About Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT):

- ❖ The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty prohibits "any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion" anywhere in the world.
- ❖ The treaty was opened for signature in September 1996.
- ❖ The treaty cannot formally enter into force until it is ratified by 44 specific nations, eight of which have yet to do so: India, China, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel, Iran, Egypt, and the United States. (Now Russia has also revoked it in Nov 2023)



NPT:

- ❖ The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT, is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.
- ❖ Between 1965 and 1968, the treaty was negotiated by the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament, a United Nations-sponsored organization based in Geneva, Switzerland
 - ☛ But, the treaty entered into force in 1970.
- ❖ More countries are parties to the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the treaty's significance
- ❖ Four UN member states have never accepted the NPT, three of which possess or are thought to possess nuclear weapons: India, Israel, and Pakistan. In addition, South Sudan, founded in 2011, has not joined.

NPT Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) -

- ❖ It is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment, and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.
- ❖ NSG consists of 48 members which include the five nuclear weapon states US, UK, France, China, and Russia. It is not a formal organization, and its guidelines are not binding.
- ❖ Decisions, including on membership, are made by consensus.
- ❖ India is not a part of the group.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):

- ❖ It is widely known as the world's "Atoms for Peace and Development" organization within the United Nations family.
- ❖ Mandate: It is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field. It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.
- ❖ History: Though established as an autonomous organisation, independently of the United Nations through its own international treaty, the IAEA Statute, the IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.
- ❖ Headquarters: Vienna, Austria.
- ❖ Functions:
 - ☛ The Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.
 - ☛ It applies nuclear safeguards – consisting of monitoring, inspection, information analysis, and other activities – to verify that nuclear activities remain peaceful and detect and deter their diversion, including to weapons-related purposes.
 - ☛ In particular, the IAEA implements comprehensive safeguards agreements mandated by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which serve as a first line of defense against nuclear weapons proliferation.
 - ☛ IAEA assists its Member States and promotes the exchange of scientific and technical information between them.



- IAEA enhances national, regional, and international capacities to respond to nuclear and radiological incidents, which is essential to minimizing their impact.

Questions:

Q.1 What is/are the consequence/consequences of a country becoming the member of the 'Nuclear Suppliers Group'?

- 1 It will have access to the latest and most efficient nuclear technologies.
- 2 It automatically becomes a member of "The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)".

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Nuclear Suppliers Group(NSG)

- ❖ The Nuclear Suppliers Group(NSG) is a multilateral export control regime and a group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment, and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.
- ❖ The getting of NSG membership means access to technology for a range of uses from medicine to building nuclear power plants for India from the NSG which is essentially a traders' cartel.
- ❖ India has its own indigenously developed technology but to get its hands on state of the art technology that countries within the NSG possess, it has to become part of the group.

NPT

- ❖ The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT, is an international treaty having three objectives of non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
- ❖ It was opened for signature in 1968, the treaty entered into force in 1970.
- ❖ The treaty institutionalized the non-proliferation norm by de-legitimizing 'proliferation' (production and transfer) of nuclear weapons, fissile materials, and related technology by the non-nuclearweapon states (NNWS) while the recognized five nuclear-weapon states (NWS) — namely the US, Russia, the UK, France, and China, can continue to possess nuclear weapons.
- ❖ India always considered the NPT as discriminatory and had refused to sign it.
- ❖ India has opposed the international treaties aimed at non-proliferation since they were selectively applicable to the non-nuclear powers and legitimized the monopoly of the five nuclear weapons powers.



Q.2 Consider the following statements related to IAEA.

1. It is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.
2. It reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- ❖ The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. The IAEA was established as an autonomous organization on 29 July 1957. Though established independently of the United Nations through its own international treaty, the IAEA Statute, the IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

Q.3 With reference to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) consider the following statements:

1. The CTBT allows for low-level nuclear explosions or experiments that produce nuclear yield among the five nuclear weapons states.
2. As per the treaty, any country that violates the CTBT will be subject to economic sanctions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

Answer: D

Notes:

Explanation –

- ❖ Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. The CTBT prohibits all nuclear test explosions, regardless of their yield. As of September 2023, out of 44 Annex II states five of the Annex II states have signed but not ratified the CTBT, including China, Egypt, Iran, Israel, and the United States. Violating the CTBT has political repercussions, but the treaty doesn't outline specific economic sanctions, i.e., violation will lead to economic sanctions has not been outlined in any of the articles of the treaty.



A DOOR TO A HOUSING SCHEME, TRIBALS FIND HARD TO OPEN

A door to a housing scheme, tribals find hard to open

Context

India is home to numerous Adivasi groups, with 75 identified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) across States. According to official data, they comprise around 14.6 lakh households. These tribes reside in scattered, remote, and often inaccessible areas, characterised by their reliance on methods and tools for their livelihood that predate the advent of agriculture, low literacy rates, economic backwardness, and stagnant populations.

Recognising their backwardness, the Government of India announced the Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission in 2023-24 to improve the socio-economic conditions of PVTGs. In line with this initiative, the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) was launched in November 2023, with a budget of ₹24,000 crore.

The PM JANMAN seeks to provide essential services to PVTGs, which includes safe housing, clean drinking water, and sanitation through its critical interventions. The PVTGs and frontline officials face challenges in using a mobile application to register for the 'Housing scheme', the biggest Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme in the PM JANMAN which aims to reach 4.90 lakh PVTG households by 2026. Its objective is to ensure that every PVTG household has access to secure and habitable housing, safeguarding them from environmental challenges and providing them with a sense of security. Households under the scheme are entitled to receive ₹2.39 lakh each in three instalments.

The fallout of data mismatch

Data collection (registration) in DBTs is a key factor that dictates the delivery of entitlements to citizens. This is evident in instances such as the widespread wrongful deletions of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) workers and the suspension of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN) entitlements, often due to mismatches between the details entered during registration and Aadhaar records.

We recorded the registration process and interviewed community members and frontline



Chakradhar Badtha

is affiliated to 'UitTech India', a centre based in Collaborative Research and Dissemination (CORD)



Rahul Mukhera

is affiliated to 'UitTech India', a centre based in Collaborative Research and Dissemination (CORD)

If set right, the PM JANMAN will be yet another opportunity to transform the lives of India's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

officials involved in implementing the scheme in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Odisha. The findings show that PM JANMAN Housing encounters inclusivity and accessibility challenges for PVTGs and frontline officials.

App use and confusion

The Government of India has provided an 'Awasas' mobile app to block/panchayat-level officials to register PVTG households for the PM JANMAN Housing scheme. The app gathers beneficiaries data in three primary areas – it records the geographical location of households, noting their block, panchayat, and village; it captures household profiles, incorporating geo-tagging for planned construction locations, and then collects bank account details for cash transfers.

Having a jobcard is mandatory for PM JANMAN Housing registration. However, the widespread deletion of over eight crore MGNREGA workers in the past two years – some are from PVTGs – has led to their ineligibility to register for the scheme. Additionally, numerous beneficiaries have reported cases of someone else registering with their jobcards, further exacerbating the issue.

A notable aspect of the mobile app provided for registration is the pre-populated list of villages. However, we found discrepancies in the number of villages populated in the app and MGNREGA jobcards, leading to confusion among beneficiaries and officials. For instance, the app's dropdown has 22 villages while the MGNREGA Management Information System (MIS) has 31 villages for 'Vanjari' Panchayat in Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) district in Andhra Pradesh.

The app requires the names of the family members as in Aadhaar but does not provide guidance on what name should be provided in the absence of Aadhaar. Moreover, the app does not capture any explicit information about PVTGs, including in the social category field which has a default 'ST' [Scheduled Tribe] option. This results in non-PVTGs registrations as well. These ineligible registrations have prompted local officials asking PVTGs to submit certification from sarpanches/mukhtiyas in some areas. In

villages where PVTGs and non-PVTGs coexist, we have come across instances of non-PVTG sarpanches/mukhtiyas acting against the interests of PVTGs in providing certification. We also discovered that the geo-tagging option is causing chaos due to network issues.

The app prompts the enumerator to choose from three options – Cooperative Bank, Commercial Bank, or Regional Rural Bank. Upon selection, a dropdown list of banks corresponding to the chosen category appears. For example, selecting 'Commercial Bank' presents over 300 options. Additionally, upon choosing a specific option, such as 'State Bank of India', for registration in Andhra Pradesh, the dropdown shows over 500 options for its branches. This cumbersome process introduces unnecessary complexity for both PVTGs and officials.

Leaving out a key bank

Despite the Government of India's initiative to establish an India Post Payments Bank (IPIB) to improve banking services, especially in areas with limited banking infrastructure, the app does not include the IPIB in the list of banks. This omission is puzzling, since the Union Government has repeatedly emphasised the role of IPIB in facilitating financial inclusion.

Streamlining the registration process, updating the mobile app, and incorporating the IPIB as an option are essential steps to facilitate a greater participation of PVTGs in the scheme. Proactive measures to reinstate deleted jobcards and also community engagement initiatives such as involving gram sabhas, can improve the effectiveness of the scheme.

Despite numerous initiatives aimed at addressing their vulnerabilities, the narrative of PVTGs in independent India persistently echoes the words of Adivasi rights activist B.D. Sharma, who described the plight of Adivasis as an "unbroken history of broken promises". If set right, the PM JANMAN presents yet another opportunity to transform the lives of PVTGs, albeit a small step, in enabling them to access the benefits from India's growth story.

Conclusion

Points To Note - (Pre+Main - Paper I)

context

PVTGs

PM-JANMAN - Benefits
challenges

solution

conclusion



Who are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)?

Specifications	Details
Who are they	PVTGs are the more vulnerable groups among tribal communities
Origin	In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, which are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs.
Criteria for Identifying PVTGs	1)Pre-agricultural level of technology 2)Low level of literacy 3)Economic backwardness 4)A declining or stagnant population.
PVTGs in India	1) Currently, there are 75 PVTGs in India. Of these, the highest number of PVTGs are found in Odisha (13), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12). 2) The largest PVTG is Odisha's Saura community.

What is the PM JANMAN Scheme?

Specifications	Details
Full Form	Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan
Announced in	Budget 2023-24
Aim	To improve the socio economic conditions of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
Type	It comprises both Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
Implementation	The scheme will be implemented by Nine Ministries which also includes the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
Features	The scheme comprises of 11 critical interventions which are part of existing schemes. These are: Pucca housing, road connectivity, piped water supply, mobile medical units, hostel construction, Anganwadi Centers, skill development centers, electricity connections, solar street lighting, Van Dhan Vikas Kendra, and mobile towers.
Other key Interventions	1) The Ministry of Ayush will provide Ayush facilities to PVTG habitations through Mobile Medical Units. 2) The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will facilitate skill and vocational training in PVTG habitations.



Mains:

Q. Write a detailed note on PVTGs in India and evaluate the recently launched PMJANMAN Scheme for their welfare.

Questions:

Q. Consider the following Statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups:

- 1 Economic Backwardness is one of the criteria that's considered for identifying PVTGs.
- 2 Dhebar Commission was the First to coin the term Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.
- 3 According to the 2011 Census, Odisha has the largest population of PVTGs, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
- 4 Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) is a Central Sector Scheme to Uplift Socio-Economic Conditions of PVTGs.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) Only One
- (b) Only Two
- (c) Only Three
- (d) All

Explanation

- ❖ Statement 1 is correct
 - Criteria followed for identification of PVTGs are:
 - Pre-agricultural level of technology
 - Low level of literacy
 - Economic backwardness
 - A declining or stagnant population
- ❖ Statement 2 is incorrect
 - In 1973, the Dhebar Commission set up a separate category for Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs).
 - In 1975, the Centre identified 52 tribal groups as PTGs. In 1993, 23 more groups were added to the list.
 - In 2006, these groups were named Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- ❖ Statement 3 is correct
 - Currently, 2.8 million PVTGs belong to 75 tribes across 18 states and UTs in India.
 - According to the 2011 Census, Odisha has the largest population of PVTGs, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana).
 - The largest PVTG is Odisha's Saura community, numbering 535,000. Habitat Rights of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group(PVTGs)
- ❖ Statement 4 is incorrect
 - Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)
 - To uplift the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
 - It's a Centrally sponsored scheme where funding will be shared between Centre and States in the ratio of 64:36.



- The scheme is in line with PM-PVTG Development Mission to improve the socio-economic conditions of the PVTGs.
- ❖ The scheme focuses on 11 Critical Interventions through 9 Ministries:
 - Housing
 - Drinking water and sanitation: Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G)
 - Education
 - Health and nutrition
 - Road connectivity
 - Telecom connectivity
 - Livelihood opportunities
 - Land rights
 - Social security
 - Cultural preservation
 - Institutional support





JAPAN'S NEW WHALING MOTHERSHIP, THE KANGEI MARU

BIG SHOT



Japan's new whaling mothership, the Kangei Maru, arrives at Ariake pier in Tokyo. The nearly 9,300-tonne ship, which is the country's first domestically built whaling ship, set sail on its maiden hunting voyage on May 21, heralding a new era for the controversial practice defended by the government as an integral part of national culture. AFP

Komagata Maru Incident:

- ❖ In 1914, the Japanese steamship "Komagata Maru" carrying 376 passengers from Punjab, a region of British India, sailed from Hong Kong, a component of the British Empire, to Vancouver, British Columbia in Canada, stopping in Shanghai, China, before continuing to Yokohama, Japan. Because only 24 of the passengers were permitted entry into Canada, the incident attracted notice. The remaining 352 passengers were refused entry, and the ship was forcibly sent back to India.
- ❖ The ship made its way back to Calcutta, where British troops were waiting for it. Guards were put in position for the passengers, and the ship was given permission to dock in Budge, Calcutta. The British believed the passengers to be criminals and political agitators. Attempts by the authorities to apprehend those they believed to be the group's leaders were met with resistance, and a riot ensued.
- ❖ Komagata Maru Incident, 1914

What was the Komagata Maru?

- ❖ The Komagata Maru was a coal-transport steamship that had been converted into a passenger ship by Hong Kong-based businessman Gurdit Singh
- ❖ It set off from Hong Kong in April 1914, reaching Vancouver's harbour a month later with 376 people on board, most of them Sikhs



Why was the ship turned away from Canada?

- ❖ Canada's increasingly strict immigration policies stated that immigrants must "come from the country of their birth, or citizenship, by a continuous journey" and using tickets "purchased before leaving the country of their birth or citizenship."
- ❖ That means if you were born in India, went to China, and then continued on to Canada, you were illegal.
- ❖ The policies were specifically designed to curb the flow of Indian immigrants in the early 20th century, who were coming to Canada seeking work.
- ❖ As a result of which the Canadian officials disagreed, and the ship was denied docking by the authorities
- ❖ To fight for the rights of the passengers, a 'Shore Committee' was formed in Vancouver led by Hussain Rahim, Sohan Lal Pathak, and Balwant Singh
- ❖ A powerful campaign was carried out in the USA led by Barkatullah, Bhagwan Singh, Ram Chandra, and Sohan Singh Bhakna. Yet, Komagata Maru was forced out of Canadian waters.

What happened to everyone else?

- ❖ Eventually, after a two-month standoff in the waters just off Vancouver, the ship was escorted back out to sea
- ❖ The steamship eventually ended up back in India on 27th Sep 1914 at Budge Budge, Calcutta
 - Upon entry into the harbour, the ship was stopped by a British gunboat, and the passengers were placed under guard.
 - The government of the British Raj saw the men on Komagata Maru not only as self-confessed lawbreakers, but also as dangerous political agitators
 - On arrival, the harassed passengers resisted the hostile attitude of the police
 - However, it escalated into a clash resulting in the death of 18 passengers due to gunfire upon disembarking. While others were imprisoned.
- ❖ This created widespread discontentment in Punjab and political dacoities erupted in the districts of Jalandhar, Amritsar, and Ludhiana

Significance of the Incident:

- ❖ The Komagata Maru incident was widely cited at the time by Indian groups to highlight discrepancies in Canadian immigration laws
- ❖ Further, the inflamed passions in the wake of the incident were widely cultivated by the Indian revolutionary organization, the Ghadar Party, to rally support for its aims
- ❖ Prominent Ghadarites including Barkatullah, Tarak Nath Das, and Sohan Singh used the incident as a rallying point to recruit members for the Ghadar movement, most notably in support of promulgating plans to coordinate a massive uprising in India
- ❖ They encouraged fighters to travel to India. Raghubar Dayal Gupta and Kartar Singh Saraba left for India.
- ❖ Rashbehari Bose and Sachin Sanyal, both Bengal revolutionaries, were contacted and asked to lead the movement.



- ❖ Political dacoits were determined to raise funds. The Punjab political squabbles of January–February 1915 featured some novel social content
- ❖ Further, Human rights violations such as arbitrary detention aided Indian independence fighters in exposing the true face of the British administration

The legacy of the Komagata Maru:

- ❖ The Canadian Prime Minister delivered a formal statement of apology in the House of Commons for the Komagata Maru incident, in 2016
- ❖ The 1914 voyage is also reflected in today's anti-terrorism laws, in which men of colour – Muslims, Sikhs and others – continue to be arrested and imprisoned, often without charge.
- ❖ Canada's decision to turn away the Komagata Maru passengers initiated a racial regime of border control, which continues to be justified through fears of terrorism and insurgency, even today Thus, the Komagata Maru incident is an important landmark in the history of India, as it catalysed the up surging stage of Nationalist struggle, by igniting the masses and providing them a plank to carry out attacks against Britishers.

Q. Consider the following statements about the Komagata Maru incident in September 1914:

1. Thousands of Indians were killed by the Canadian authorities when they tried to enter into the national boundaries of Canada.
2. This incident was one of the reasons for the fuelling of the Ghadr Movement.
3. The incident evoked a sharp response from the Indian revolutionaries because people from almost all parts of India were onboard the Komagata Maru ship.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only One
- (b) Only Two
- (c) All Three
- (d) None

Explanation:

Only 2nd statements is correct:

- ❖ The Komagata Maru incident involved the Japanese steamship Komagata Maru on which a group of citizens of the British Raj attempted to emigrate to Canada in 1914 but were denied entry. Komagata Maru sailed from British Hong Kong, via Shanghai, China, and Yokohama, Japan, to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, in 1914, carrying 376 passengers from Punjab, British India. Of them, 24 were admitted to Canada, but the other 352 passengers were not allowed to disembark in Canada, and the ship was forced to return to India. The passengers comprised 340 Sikhs, 24 Muslims, and 12 Hindus, all British subjects. This was one of several incidents in the early 20th century in which exclusion laws in Canada and the United States were used to exclude immigrants of Asian origin.
- ❖ There were only 22 casualties and that too were in India, not in Canada. The ship was simply returned from Canada without letting it enter their premises.
- ❖ It fuelled Ghadr movement as it involved mainly the Punjabi Sikh and Muslim population. The Ghadr leaders could sympathize with the victims.