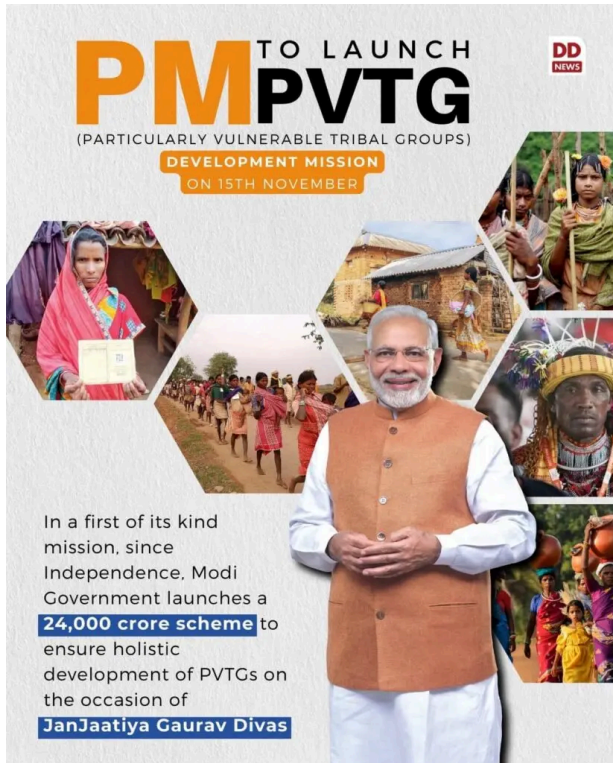




16 January 2023

National and International News

PM-JANMAN



Context

Prime Minister will release ₹540 crore — the first instalment of funding — for pucca homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) to one lakh Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) beneficiary families as part of the recently launched PM-JANMAN package for the overall development of PVTG habitations.

About

- PM JANMAN is a government scheme that aims to bring tribal communities into the mainstream.
- The scheme (comprising Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes) will be implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in collaboration with the State governments and the PVTG communities.
- The scheme will concentrate on 11 critical interventions overseen by 9 line Ministries, ensuring the implementation of existing schemes in villages inhabited by PVTGs.
- It encompasses various sectors, including safe housing under the PM-AWAS Scheme, access to clean drinking water, improved healthcare, education, nutrition, road and telecommunications connectivity, as well as opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.
- The plan also includes the establishment of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras for trading in forest produce, off-grid solar power systems for 1 lakh households, and solar street lights.

Panama Canal

Context

There is a shortage of water in the Panama Canal due to which the shipping sector is facing a lot of problems.

About

- The Panama Canal is an 82 km artificial waterway in Panama, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and dividing North and South America.
- It allows ships to avoid the lengthy and



# Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia



dangerous voyage around Cape Horn.

- **Panama itself forms an isthmus** (a narrow land strip connecting two larger landmasses) between North and South America.
- This differs from straits, which are narrow waterways joining larger bodies of water, like the Strait of Gibraltar.

## India, Saudi Arabia discuss defence ties

### Context

- India and Saudi Arabia discussed ways to enhance **navy-to-navy cooperation**, joint training, and opportunities for joint ventures in defence production
- Discussions were held on **issues of mutual strategic interests**, bilateral defence cooperation, opportunities for joint ventures in defence production and technology collaboration and joint military training, duly affirming stronger ties between both nations

## Akash missile



### Context

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight test of the new generation **Akash surface-to-air missile (SAM)** from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.

### About

- Akash is **India's first indigenously produced medium range SAM** that can engage multiple targets from multiple directions and it can be launched from mobile platforms like battle tanks or wheeled trucks.
- It has nearly 90% kill probability.
- The development of the Akash SAM was started by the DRDO in the late 1980s as part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.
- It is unique in the way that It can simultaneously engage multiple targets in group mode or autonomous mode.
- It has built-in **Electronic Counter-Counter Measures (ECCM)** features, which means that it has mechanisms on-board that can counter the electronic systems that deceive the




	<p>detection systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The missile is supported by the <b>indigenously developed radar called 'Rajendra'</b>.</li> </ul>
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**Kerala Regional News**

<p><b>National StartUp Day</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National Startup Day</b> is celebrated annually on <b>January 16th</b></li> <li>• It ignites the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship across the nation.</li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It commemorates the launch of the "Startup India" initiative in 2016, a landmark program aimed at fostering a vibrant ecosystem for young minds to thrive.</li> <li>• <b>PM Modi</b> announced <b>January 16</b>, the foundation day of Startup India, as <b>National Startup Day</b> in 2022</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kerala to hand over ivory, deer horns to Army establishments</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Kerala Government</b> has ordered the release of <b>wildlife articles, including elephant ivory and deer horns</b>, to three Indian Army establishments.</li> <li>• The <b>Station Commander of Pangode Military Station</b> and <b>Commandant of Grenadiers RC</b> will receive <b>10 pairs</b> each of elephant tusks, deer horns and mount/horn.</li> <li>• The <b>Second Battalion of Madras Regiment</b> will get <b>three pairs</b> each of elephant tusks and deer antlers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kerala University researchers develop nanopowder to purify water without electricity</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researchers of <b>Kerala University</b> have developed a <b>nanopowder with water purification</b> capability that uses only <b>sunlight</b> to power itself.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They adopted a 'green chemistry' approach to synthesize the material without producing any by-product that can be hazardous to the environment.</li> </ul>
<p>Kerala tops in money spent on National Highway development in last 5 years</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per the estimates released by the Union Government, Kerala has spent the most on National Highway development when compared to other states.</li> <li>• Over the past five years, the state has spent a whopping Rs 5580 crore towards land acquisition for the NH project.</li> <li>• Meanwhile Haryana comes second followed by Uttar Pradesh</li> </ul>
<p>ISRO chairman S Somanath wins Manorama Newsmaker 2023 Award</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman S Somanath was named the Manorama News Newsmaker 2023.</li> <li>• Somanath was chosen through an audience opinion poll organized by Manorama News in collaboration with KLM Axiva Finvest.</li> </ul>

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