



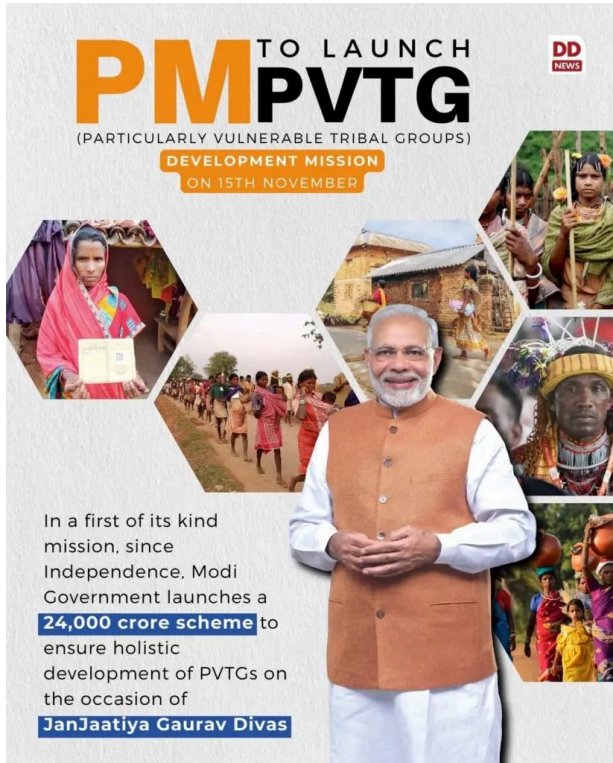
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16 January 2024

National & 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



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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



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detection systems.

- The missile is supported by the **indigenously developed radar called 'Rajendra'**.

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