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News: Odisha may prove to be first mover on PVTG Development Mission

- As Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman 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.

Pradhan Mantri Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) Development Mission

- Pradhan Mantri Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) Development Mission was **announced in the Union Budget 2023**.
- A corpus of **15,000 crore has been set back** for the implementation of the project.
- The funds will be used for the improvement of **Sanitation, Safe Housing, Access to Health, Access to education, Connectivity, Socio-Economic conditions, clean drinking water, Awareness of nutritious food and Sustainable livelihood**.

- The scheme will bring in changes and will **benefit more than 3.5 lakh tribes** in the country.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- **Tribal communities are often identified by some specific signs such as primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness to contact** with the community at large and backwardness.
- PVTGs are **more vulnerable** among the tribal groups. Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds, because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.
- In India, the tribal population makes up for 8.6% of the total population. Tribal people live in about 15% of the geographical area of the country.
- In 1973, the **Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)** as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- PVTGs have some basic characteristics **-they are mostly homogenous, with a small population, relatively physically isolated, social institutes cast in a simple**

mold, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a slower rate of change etc.

- The Ministry of Tribal affairs further clarifies the scope and extent of the definition of habitat rights in the context of PVTG in a FAQ released in the year 2012 – The right to community tenures of habitat and habitation may be recognized over customary territories used by the PVTG for habitation, livelihoods, social, economic, spiritual, cultural and other purposes.
- In some cases, the habitats of PTGs may overlap with forest and other rights of other people/communities.