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TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(13 November 2024)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- TOTO TRIBE
- POLLUTION IN SUTLEJ RIVER
- MCQs



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TOTO TRIBE



- The **Toto tribe** is an indigenous community that is **primarily found in the village of Totopara, located in Alipurduar district of West Bengal, India.**
- The **tribe has been facing significant challenges in preserving its unique culture, language, and way of life due to its small population size and external pressures.**

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION & HABITAT

- **Totopara Village:** The **Toto tribe** is concentrated in **Totopara village, situated in the Alipurduar district of West Bengal, near the Bhutanese border.**
- **Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary:** **Totopara** is located within the periphery of the **Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary, which is known for its rich biodiversity.**

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- **Torsa River:** The village is situated on the banks of the **Torsa River**, which flows between **India** and **Bhutan**, providing the community an ecologically rich environment.

ETHNIC & ANTHROPOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- **Tibetan-Mongoloid Ethnicity:** The **Toto tribe** belongs to the **Tibetan-Mongoloid ethnic group**, which ties them to the broader **Himalayan cultural** and **ethnic traditions**.
- **Population and Endangerment:** With just over **1,600 members**, the **Toto tribe** is considered **one of the most endangered tribes** in the world.
- This small population has made the **tribe vulnerable to extinction**, with many members struggling to preserve their traditional way of life.

Tribal Classification:

- **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG):** The **Toto tribe** is classified as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**.
- This classification **recognizes their vulnerable status due to their** small population size, cultural practices, and economic dependency on traditional activities.

CULTURAL & SOCIAL STRUCTURE

- **Endogamous and Exogamous Clans:** The **Toto tribe** is structured around **13 exogamous clans**, meaning that **individuals are encouraged to marry outside their clan**.

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- However, they practice **endogamy**, meaning **marriages within the broader tribe are common**.
- **Monogamy and Anti-Dowry**: The **Toto people** follow a unique practice of **having only one wife and do not engage in dowry practices**, setting them apart from many neighboring tribal communities.
- **Housing**: The traditional housing of the **Toto people** consists of **elevated bamboo huts** with thatched roofs, adapted to their environment and lifestyle.

Language:

- **Toto Language**: The language spoken by the **Toto people** is a **Sino-Tibetan language**, which is written in the **Bengali script**.
- This **language is integral to their identity** but is at risk of disappearing as fewer younger members speak it.

Beliefs and Religion:

- **Hinduism and Nature Worship**: The **Toto people** consider themselves **Hindus** and also worship **nature**.
- They have unique religious practices that integrate **animism** and **nature worship**, reflecting their deep connection to the natural world around them.

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ECONOMY & OCCUPATION

- **Traditional Occupation:** Historically, the **Toto tribe** was involved in **food gathering** and practiced a **slash-and-burn style of cultivation**.
- This method of farming was sustainable for their small community, but it posed challenges as the population grew and external factors changed the landscape.
- **Porter Services:** The **Toto people** historically earned money by acting as porters, carrying **oranges** from **Bhutanese orchards** to **Totopara**, which is a significant part of their economy.
- **Agriculture and Diversification:** Over time, the community has shifted to more **settled agriculture**, growing crops for sustenance and trade.
- The economic practices of the **Toto people** have diversified, but they still maintain traditional ways of living.

CHALLENGES & SURVIVAL

- **Risk of Extinction:** Due to their small population, isolation, and loss of cultural identity, the **Toto tribe** is at risk of disappearing. The tribe has been actively involved in efforts to preserve their culture, language, and way of life, but the odds remain stacked against them.

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- **External Pressures:** The tribe faces challenges from both **external development pressures (such as encroachment and modern agriculture)** and **internal challenges**, including a **declining birth rate** and the **younger generation moving away for better opportunities**.

WHO ARE PVTGs?

- PVTGs are **more vulnerable among the tribal groups** who are in need of greater support and development.
- Out of the 705 Scheduled Tribes in India, **75 have been identified as PVTGs** and are spread **across 17 states and one Union Territory**.
- Government of India follows the following **criteria for identification of PVTGs**
 - Pre-agricultural level of technology
 - Low level of literacy
 - Economic backwardness
 - A declining or stagnant population.
- In **1975, the Government of India initiated** to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs and declared 52 such groups.

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- An additional 23 groups were added to the category in 1993.
- **Some Examples:** Cholanaikayan (Kerala), Kathodi (Gujarat), Jarawas (Andaman & Nicobar Islands), Koraga (Karnataka)

KEY GOVT SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

- **Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana:** Launched to improve infrastructure in tribal villages by integrating **DAPST** funds.
- The aim is to uplift the living standards of **tribal communities** through better access to resources and amenities.
- **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyaan (PM-JANMAN):** Launched on **15th November 2023**, with a **Rs 24,104 crore** budget, the scheme focuses on **75 PVTG communities** (11 lakh families) in **18 states** and **1 UT**.
- The initiative involves relaxing norms for **road construction**, setting up **Anganwadis**, providing **electricity**, and ensuring **water supply**.

Infrastructure Relaxations:

- **Road construction**, **Anganwadi centers**, and **health facilities** in tribal areas have relaxed norms under the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** and **Jal Jeevan Mission** to improve accessibility and essential services in tribal regions.

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- Special provisions have also been made for **solar power** to provide **electricity** to un-electrified households in remote tribal areas.

Educational Initiatives:

- **Scholarship Schemes:** The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** implements **5 scholarship schemes** benefiting over **35 lakh students** annually, with an increased budget of **Rs 2500 crore** in **2023-24**.
- The integration of **State** and **Tribal portals** with **DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer)** has streamlined the scholarship distribution process.
- **Establishment of EMRS (Eklavya Model Residential Schools):** A new **Central Sector Scheme** aims to establish **440 new schools** in **tribal blocks** by **2026**. These schools will offer education on par with **Navodaya Vidyalayas**. Over **728 schools** (including **288 already sanctioned**) will be established, with a significant budget for infrastructure development, including **sports centers** and **teacher recruitment**.

Livelihood and Economic Empowerment:

- **Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM):** Focuses on livelihood-driven development through the creation of **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras** and **Van Dhan Producer**

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Enterprises, which link **tribal communities** to market linkages for **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)**. **Rs 1612 crore** has been allocated to this mission for **5 years**.

- **Van Dhan Karyakram**: Started in **2019**, this program has sanctioned over **3800 Dhan Vikas Kendras** covering **10 lakh people** across **28 states** and **UTs**. **87 MFPs** have been added to the list of products eligible for **Minimum Support Price (MSP)**, benefiting tribal communities engaged in forest produce collection.

Health and Nutrition:

- **Sickle Cell Disease Mission**: Aiming for the eradication of **sickle cell disease** by **2047**, the government has initiated a mission to test **7 crore people** and implement treatment and preventive measures.
- **Mobile Medical Units and PVTG Hostels**: Under **PM-JANMAN**, provisions have been made for **mobile medical units**, **multipurpose centers**, and **PVTG hostels** to improve health and nutrition in tribal areas.

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POLLUTION IN RIVER SUTLEJ

WHY IN NEWS?

- **Protests erupted in Sri Ganganagar, a district in Rajasthan, against the alleged pollution of the Sutlej River, which residents blame on industrial effluent discharges from factories in neighboring Punjab.**
- Local leaders and farmers have raised concerns over the **health impacts** of pollution in the river, which flows through both states.
- Protests **included a shutdown of markets and schools in several towns, with demonstrators accusing Punjab's industrial activities, particularly in cities like Ludhiana, for contaminating the water.**

ABOUT SUTLEJ RIVER

- **Geography:**
 - The **Sutlej River** is the **longest** of the **5 tributaries of the Indus River system.**
 - It originates in **Lake Rakshastal** in Tibet and flows through **Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and into Pakistan** before merging with the **Chenab River.**

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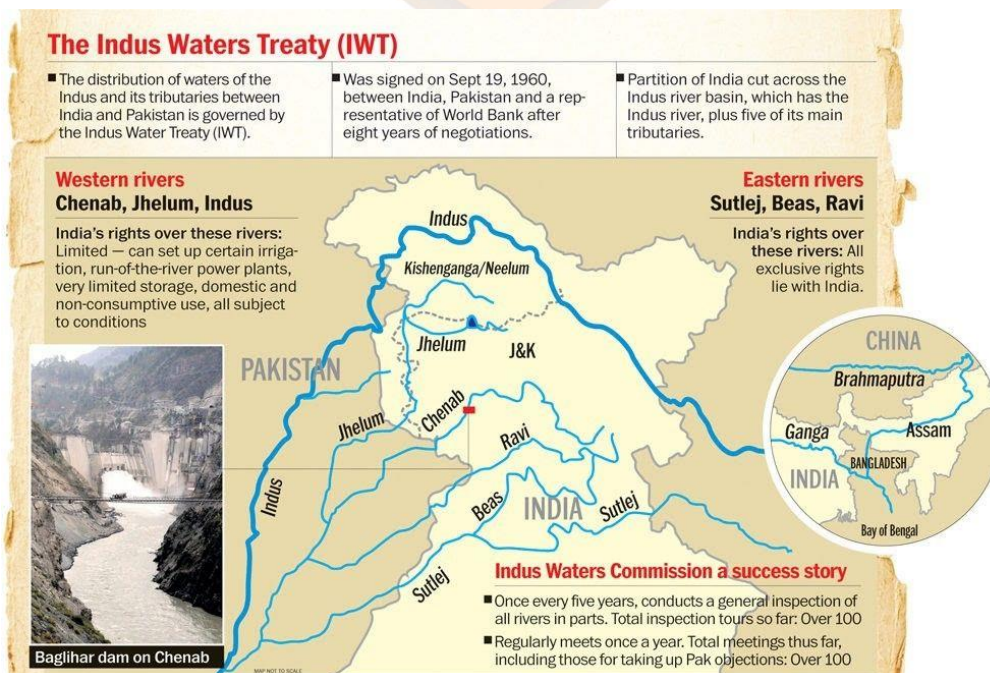


- **Hydrological Significance:**

- The river's course is shaped by **snowmelt** from the **Himalayas** and the **monsoon** rains.
- The river supports **major hydroelectric projects** such as the **Bhakra Dam**, **Karcham Wangtoo Plant**, and **Nathpa Jhakri Dam**.
- The **Sutlej** and **Chenab Rivers** together form the **Panjnad**, which eventually merges with the **Indus River** in Pakistan.

- **Indus Waters Treaty of 1960:**

- The **Indus Waters Treaty** governs water use between **India** and **Pakistan**.
- Under this treaty, the **Sutlej**, along with the **Beas** and **Ravi** rivers, is allocated to **India**.
- These waters play a vital role in India's agriculture and energy sectors.



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THE PROBLEM

- **Buddha Nala:**

- **Buddha Nala** is a seasonal stream originating from the **Malwa region** of Punjab.
- It passes through **Ludhiana**, an industrial hub, and eventually drains into the **Sutlej River**.
- This nala carries **industrial effluents**, including **chemicals, dyes, and leather waste** from Punjab's factories, significantly affecting water quality

- **Pollution in Sutlej:**

- Protestors claim that the pollution is caused by **untreated industrial effluents**, primarily from **chemical, cloth, and leather** industries in **Ludhiana** and other parts of Punjab.
- **Ravinder Singh**, an organizer of the protest, stated that despite the establishment of **sewage treatment plants (STPs)** in Punjab, the **impact** has been minimal.
- He pointed out that the polluted water causes **health problems**, including skin diseases and gastrointestinal issues.

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- **Government Response:**

- **Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar District Collector, Manju**, acknowledged receiving complaints regarding the presence of **heavy metals** in the water, **but lab tests have not confirmed these claims.**
- The local authorities are **monitoring the issue** and hope for a resolution from both **Punjab** and **Rajasthan** state governments.

- **Political and Public Outcry:**

- **Farmer leaders** and local political parties, including **Rupinder Singh**, an MLA from Karanpur (Sri Ganganagar district), have been vocal about the issue.
- Singh stated that despite **petitions** being filed against Punjab in the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**, no effective action had been taken.
- The **National Green Tribunal** had previously fined the **Punjab government ₹50 crore** in 2018 for **uncontrolled industrial discharge** into the **Sutlej** and **Beas** rivers.
- The tribunal had also directed both **Rajasthan** and **Punjab** to submit **quarterly compliance reports** on measures to address industrial pollution.

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KEY CONCERNS

- **Environmental and Health Impact:**

- The pollution of the **Sutlej River** poses a **serious environmental threat**.
- The river serves as a source of water for **irrigation, drinking, and hydropower**.
- Contaminated water affects **not only human health but also agricultural productivity in the region**.
- Reports of **heavy metals** and industrial chemicals in the river, if true, could lead to **long-term damage to the ecosystem and public health in both states**.

- **Impact on Local Communities:**

- The pollution is affecting the **farming communities** around **Sri Ganganagar** district, where **agriculture** is the main livelihood.
- Poor water quality is leading to crop damage and is increasing the use of costly **water treatment** methods.
- **Public protests** and the closure of **markets** and **schools** reflect the growing anger and discontent within the community.

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- **Role of NGT and Legal Interventions:**

- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has been actively involved in this issue, but there is a growing concern about the **lack of implementation** of its orders.
- The tribunal's **finances** and **directives have not been effective** in curbing the discharge of **industrial waste** into the rivers.

POTENTIAL SOLUTION

- **Improved Effluent Treatment:**

- Both **Punjab** and **Rajasthan** need to strengthen the enforcement of **environmental laws** and ensure that **sewage treatment plants (STPs)** are functioning effectively.
- The state governments should also encourage **upgradation** of existing treatment infrastructure to handle industrial effluents.

- **Enhanced Monitoring and Transparency:**

- A **joint monitoring mechanism** involving both state governments and the **NGT** could improve **transparency** and ensure compliance with environmental standards.
- Regular **independent audits** of industrial plants could ensure that they meet **pollution control norms**.

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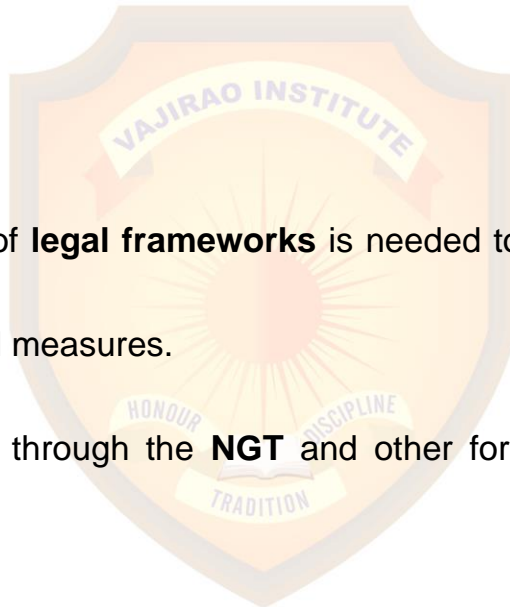
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- **Community Engagement and Awareness:**

- Local communities need to be engaged in the process of **environmental protection**, and their concerns must be **heard** and addressed effectively.
- This could include organizing **awareness campaigns** on pollution and its effects on health.

- **Legal Action:**

- Stronger enforcement of **legal frameworks** is needed to ensure that industries do not bypass pollution control measures.
- Continued legal action through the **NGT** and other forums may be required to hold violators accountable.



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MCQs

1. Consider the following statements wrt Toto tribe & mark the correct one:

1. Toto tribes live alongside the Indo-Bhutan border.
2. Toto tribes live on the banks of Mahananda river.

- (A) Only 1
(B) Only 2
(C) Both 1 & 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (A)

2. Which of these threats are being faced by the Toto tribes?

1. Low Birth Rate
2. Out Migration
3. Excessive pollution in their habitat

- (A) Only 1
(B) Only 1 & 2
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) All of the above

Ans. (B)

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3. Consider the following statements about PVTGs and mark the correct one:

1. There are 75 tribal groups classified as PVTG currently.

2. Low level of literacy & economic backwardness are criterias to classify tribals as PVTGs.

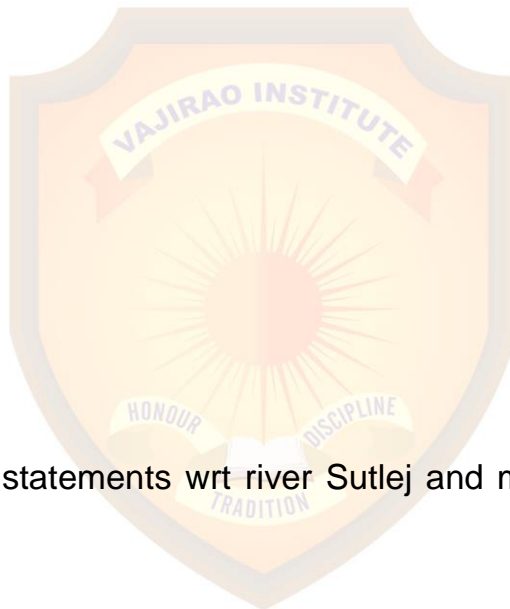
(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Both 1 & 2

(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (C)



4. Consider the following statements wrt river Sutlej and mark how many of them is/are correct?

1. River Sutlej originates in China and merges with the Ravi river in India.

2. Bhakra Nangal Dam is built on Sutlej river.

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Both 1 & 2

(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (B)

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5. Which of these rivers is classified as Western river according to Indus Water Treaty

(A) Jhelum

(B) Ravi

(C) Beas

(D) Sutle

Ans. (A)



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