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Topics Covered



- Summary:
 - What is the news?
 - Who are the Shompen Tribe?
 - Challenges Faced by the Shompen Tribe
 - Significance of the Shompen Voting
 - The Road Ahead
 - QuizTime:
 - Are you Ready!
- Read the Below Instructions Carefully:
 - Please Rate!
- Mains Questions:
 - Question 1:
 - Model Answer:
 - Question 2:
 - Model Answer:
 - Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:
 - Prelims:
 - Mains:

Summary:

- Shompen Tribe Votes: For the first time,

members of the Shompen tribe in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands participated in the Lok Sabha elections, marking a significant step in democratic inclusion.

- **Who are the Shompen?:** The Shompen are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) living in the Great Nicobar Islands, known for their semi-nomadic lifestyle and distinct language.
- **Challenges:** They face issues like displacement, disease vulnerability, and exploitation, which threaten their traditional way of life.
- **Significance & Road Ahead:** Their voting signifies empowerment and raises awareness of PVTGs' challenges, highlighting the need for sensitive governance and sustainable development.

What is the news?

- In a landmark moment for democracy and tribal inclusion, seven members of the Shompen tribe, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) residing in the Great Nicobar Islands, **cast their votes for the first time in the recent Lok Sabha elections for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands union territory.**
- This act of civic participation signifies a crucial step towards empowering a marginalized community and integrating them into the democratic

process.

Who are the Shompen Tribe?

- The Shompen are one of the indigenous inhabitants of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. With an estimated population of around 229 individuals as per the 2011 census, they are classified as a PVTG due to their extreme social and economic isolation. They primarily inhabit the interior rainforests of the Great Nicobar Island, practicing a semi-nomadic hunter-gatherer lifestyle. Their language, Shompen, belongs to the Austroasiatic language family and is distinct from the languages spoken by other Andamanese tribes.

Challenges Faced by the Shompen Tribe

The Shompen have faced numerous challenges throughout history, including:

- **Displacement:** Their traditional way of life has been threatened by encroachment on their lands for developmental projects and poaching activities.
- **Vulnerability to Diseases:** Limited exposure to the outside world makes them susceptible to diseases for which they lack immunity.
- **Exploitation:** There have been instances of

exploitation by outsiders, posing a threat to their cultural integrity and livelihood.

Significance of the Shompen Voting

The participation of the Shompen tribe in the voting process holds immense significance for several reasons:

- **Empowerment:** It signifies a step towards empowering the Shompen people and giving them a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.
- **Inclusion:** It reflects an effort to integrate them into the broader social and political fabric of India.
- **Raising Awareness:** It draws national attention to the unique challenges faced by PVTGs and the need for their protection and development.

The Road Ahead

While the Shompen tribe exercising their voting rights is a positive development, there's still much to be done to ensure their well-being and cultural preservation. This includes:

- **Sensitizing Officials:** Sensitizing government officials towards the specific needs and

vulnerabilities of PVTGs.

- **Sustainable Development:** Promoting sustainable development initiatives that respect their traditional way of life and involve their participation.
- **Healthcare Access:** Providing them with improved healthcare facilities and access to education.

By taking these steps, we can ensure that the Shompen tribe, and other PVTGs across India, are not only able to exercise their democratic rights but also thrive and contribute to the nation's progress.

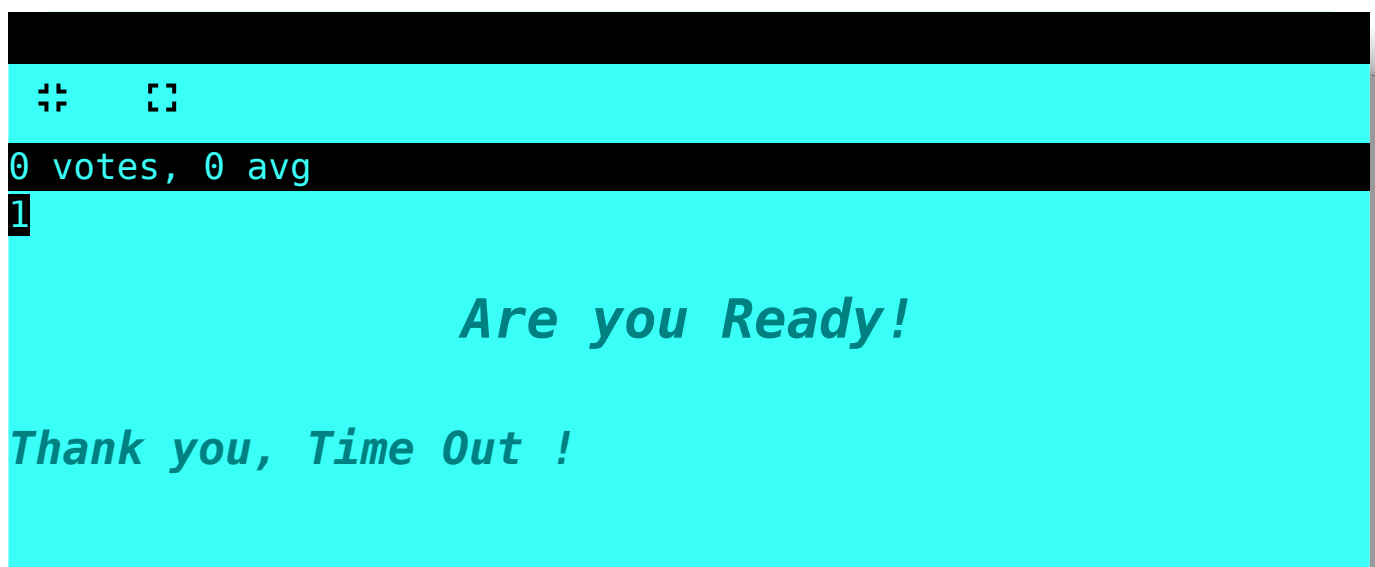


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QuizTime:



The interface is displayed on a black background with a cyan overlay. It shows a question number '1', the text 'Are you Ready!', and 'Thank you, Time Out !'. At the top, there are icons for a flag and a square, and a status bar showing '0 votes, 0 avg'.

0 votes, 0 avg

1

Are you Ready!

Thank you, Time Out !

Read the Below Instructions Carefully:

- Click on - Start Quiz
 - Attempt all questions (You can attempt or leave)
 - After Attempting Last Question.
 - Enter Name & Email
 - Click on - Check Result
 - Scroll down - Check out Solutions too.
- Thank you.

Loading ...

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Category: General Studies

Which of the following initiatives by the government can help in promoting political participation of PVTGs?

- Setting up special polling booths in tribal areas.
- Providing voter education in local languages.
- Encouraging tribal representatives to stand for elections.
- All of the above

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Category: General Studies

The inclusion of the Shompen tribe in the electoral process raises concerns about:

- Dilution of their cultural identity.
- Their potential exploitation by political parties.
- Both (a) and (b)
- Neither (a) nor (b)

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Finish

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Category: General Studies

The participation of the Shompen tribe in the Lok Sabha elections in Andaman and Nicobar Islands signifies:

- A decline in their cultural isolation.
- Increased government focus on integrating them into the mainstream.
- Growing political awareness among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- All of the above

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Category: General Studies

Consider the following statements about the Shompen tribe:

- (a) They are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) residing

in the Great Nicobar Islands.

(b) This is the first time they have exercised their voting rights in the Lok Sabha elections.

(c) The Shompen tribe is the largest indigenous group in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- Only a
- (b) and (c) only
- (a) and (b) only
- All

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Category: General Studies

What are the potential challenges in ensuring full political participation of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) like the Shompen tribe?

- Lack of awareness about the electoral process.
- Language barriers and difficulty accessing polling stations.
- Influence of external groups in tribal politics.
- All of the above

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Finish

Check Rank, Result Now and enter correct email as you will get Solutions in the email as well for future use!

Check the Result

Your score is

0%

Restart quiz

Please Rate!

Send feedback

Mains Questions:

Below Mains Question

Write in Comment Section



Question 1:

The recent participation of the Shompen tribe in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Lok Sabha elections marks a significant step towards their inclusion in the democratic process. Discuss the challenges faced by Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India and suggest measures to ensure their empowerment and participation in governance. (250 words)

Model Answer:

The Shompen tribe's participation in voting highlights the ongoing efforts to integrate PVTGs into the mainstream. However, PVTGs across India face numerous challenges:

- **Social and Geographical Isolation:** Many PVTGs reside in remote areas with limited access to education, healthcare, and infrastructure. This isolation hinders their awareness of their rights and participation in governance.
 - **Exploitation and Displacement:** PVTGs are vulnerable to exploitation by outsiders due to their limited exposure to the outside world.
 - **Additionally, development projects sometimes lead to displacement from their ancestral lands, impacting their cultural identity and livelihood.**
- Language Barrier:** Communication with government officials often presents a hurdle due to language barriers. This can lead to difficulties in accessing government schemes and voicing their concerns.

Measures for Empowerment and Participation:

- **Sensitization Programs:** Sensitizing government officials towards PVTG needs and cultural specificities can promote better communication and service delivery.
- **Sustainable Development Initiatives:** Development projects should involve PVTGs in decision-making and ensure minimal disruption to their traditional lifestyles.
- **Tribal Welfare Schemes:** Effective implementation of existing schemes for education, healthcare, and livelihood development tailored to PVTG needs is

crucial.

- Promoting Tribal Languages: Efforts to promote tribal languages in education and administration can bridge the communication gap and empower their communities.

By addressing these challenges and implementing these measures, we can create an environment where PVTGs can actively participate in governance and enjoy the benefits of development.

Question 2:

The Shompen tribe's exercise of voting rights is a positive development, but challenges remain in ensuring their well-being. Discuss the threats faced by Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India and suggest strategies for their cultural preservation and socio-economic development. (250 words)

Model Answer:

Threats Faced by Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs):

- Loss of Traditional Knowledge: Rapid modernization and exposure to outside influences threaten the erosion of PVTG knowledge systems related to sustainable resource management and traditional practices.
- Exploitation of Resources: PVTG lands are often

rich in natural resources, leading to exploitation by outsiders for mining or deforestation. This disrupts their traditional way of life and ecological balance.

- **Diseases and Encroachment:** Limited immunity and encroachment on their lands expose PVTGs to new diseases and threaten their traditional food sources.

Strategies for Cultural Preservation and Development:

- **Documentation and Promotion of Tribal Culture:** Documenting traditional knowledge, languages, and art forms can preserve their cultural heritage for future generations. Promoting tribal art and crafts can also provide sustainable livelihoods.
- **Community-Based Conservation:** Involving PVTGs in conservation efforts can ensure the sustainable management of their natural resources and traditional ecological knowledge.
- **Tribal Self-Governance:** Promoting self-governance models can empower PVTGs to manage their resources and make decisions concerning their development.

By adopting these strategies, we can ensure the cultural preservation and socio-economic development of PVTGs, allowing them to thrive while maintaining their unique identities.

Remember: These are just sample answers. It's important to further research and refine your responses based on your own understanding and perspective. Read entire UPSC Current Affairs.

Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and

Mains syllabus under the following topics:



Prelims:

- **GS Paper I:** Indian Polity and Governance: (indirect link) – Functions and responsibilities of the Union government, Panchayati Raj

Mains:

- **Social Justice:** Issues related to deprivation, protection, and development of vulnerable sections of the society (focus on PVTGs)
Governance: Challenges in governance and evolving institutions (link to challenges faced by PVTGs in accessing governance structures)
- **Tribal and Backward Classes Welfare:** Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; the problems of administration and implementation (analysis of existing schemes for PVTGs)
- **Optional Courses (where applicable):**

Anthropology: Social structure, kinship, marriage systems (understanding the social structure of PVTGs)



*Click here to read in
Hindi.*

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Quiz Time


The profit triples with a doubling of the selling price. Determine the profit percentage.

- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3



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