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TODAY'S IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

UPSC PRELIMS

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TODAY'S DROPS OF NEWS:

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>IN NEWS</u>
POLITY	140 people of PVTGs, Nicobari tribe to join Andaman police.
ECONOMY	‘Bio-fortified potatoes to hit Indian market soon’.
GEOGRAPHY	---
HISTORY AND ART & CULTURE	---
ENVIRONMENT	---
SCIENCE & TECH	---
MISCELLANEOUS	---

ECONOMY

In news: ‘Bio-fortified potatoes to hit Indian market soon’.

Bio-fortification: In India, bio-fortification is done exclusively through selective breeding. The focus of bio-fortification research is iron, zinc and vitamin A deficiencies. These are the micro-nutrients whose deficiencies affect the most number of people worldwide.

It looks closer to the food-fortification. But they both differ in the area of fortification (i.e., food-fortification aims at addition of micro-nutrients after harvest, where as bio-fortification aims at addition of the same in growth by selective breeding or gene modification).

Nodal Authority:

In India, the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** acts as the nodal authority for biofortification. FSSAI is responsible for regulating and overseeing the fortification of food, While FSSAI is the primary authority, it works with various stakeholders, including the **Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)**, to promote biofortification and ensure its success.

Recent inclusions:

Following the vitamin-A bio-fortified sweet potato now Iron fortification in potatoes is done by Peru-based International Potato Center (CIP) in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Central Potato Institute in Shimla.

POLITY

In news: 140 people of PVTGs, Nicobari tribe to join Andaman police.

PVTG: 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 this context, in 1975, the Government of India declared 52 tribal groups as PVTGs on the recommendation of the Dhebar Commission, currently it is 75 in total.
- They spread across 18 States and 1 Union Territory across the Country, Odisha has the highest population of PVTG.

Characteristics of PVTGs:

- Population – stagnant/declining
- Technology – pre-agricultural
- Literacy Level – extremely low
- Economy – Subsistence level.

Development activities:

- The development is undertaken by Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the schemes

are Centrally sponsored (100% of the funds will be allocated by centre) for all 18 States and 1 UT.

- The scheme of Development of PVTGs aims at socio-economic development of PVTGs in a comprehensive manner, while retaining their culture and heritage.
- As a part of the scheme, State Governments undertakes projects that are tailored to cater to sectors like education, health and livelihood schemes for the PVTGs.

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