



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 18-12-2025

GS-1

1. Chenchu Tribe

GS-2

2. PM Vishwakarma Scheme
3. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

GS-3

4. Supernova
5. Bar-headed Goose

Chenchu Tribe

Syllabus – GS-1; Society & Tribal Issues

Context

NSU organised an exhibition on **Ahobila Paruveta Utsavam**, highlighting the Chenchu tribe's traditional association with the **Ahobilam shrine** and **Lord Narasimha**.



About Chenchu Tribe

- **Location:**
 - Primarily in **Nallamalai forests (Andhra Pradesh)**
 - Also found in Telangana, Karnataka, and Odisha
- **Status:** Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (**PVTG**) in Andhra Pradesh
- **Language:** Variants of **Telugu** (Dravidian language)
- **Habitat:**
 - Village called **“Penta”**
 - Huts grouped by kinship patterns
- **Social organisation:**
 - Village elder called **“Peddamanishi”**
- **Gender norms:**
 - Small conjugal families
 - Women enjoy **equal status**
- **Rituals:** Simple rituals; minimal religious and political specialisation

- **Livelihood:**
 - Forest-based food gathering and hunting
 - Use of bow, arrow, and small knife
- **Forest produce:** Roots, fruits, tubers, beedi leaves, honey, gum, tamarind, etc.
- **Religion:** Worship multiple deities; influenced by Hindu practices
- **Temple association:**
 - Strong historical link with **Srisailam Temple**
 - Enjoy special temple privileges

PM Vishwakarma Scheme

Syllabus – GS-2; Government Schemes & Welfare

Context

The National Steering Committee approved measures to improve **loan sanctions and disbursements** under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

About PM Vishwakarma Scheme

- **Launch:** September 2023
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)
- **Nature:** Central Sector Scheme
- **Objective:**
 - Support traditional artisans and craftspeople
 - Strengthen **Guru-Shishya Parampara**
- **Duration & Outlay:**
 - ₹13,000 crore
 - FY 2023–24 to FY 2027–28
- **Coverage:**
 - 5 lakh families in first year
 - 30 lakh families over five years

Key Features

- **Recognition:** PM Vishwakarma Certificate & ID Card
- **Skill Training:**
 - Basic: 5–7 days

- Advanced: 15+ days
- Stipend: ₹500/day
- **Toolkit Incentive:** Up to ₹15,000 via e-vouchers
- **Credit Support:**
 - Collateral-free loans up to ₹3 lakh
 - Interest rate: 5%

Eligibility

- Rural and urban artisans
- Covers **18 traditional crafts**
- Age 18+, engaged in traditional trade
- No similar loan in last 5 years
- One beneficiary per family

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Syllabus – GS-2; International Organisations

Context

The Government of India showcased its achievements in rural development at the **IFAD-India Day event in Rome**.



About IFAD

- **Nature:** International financial institution and **specialized UN agency**
- **Established:** 1977 (UN General Assembly Resolution)

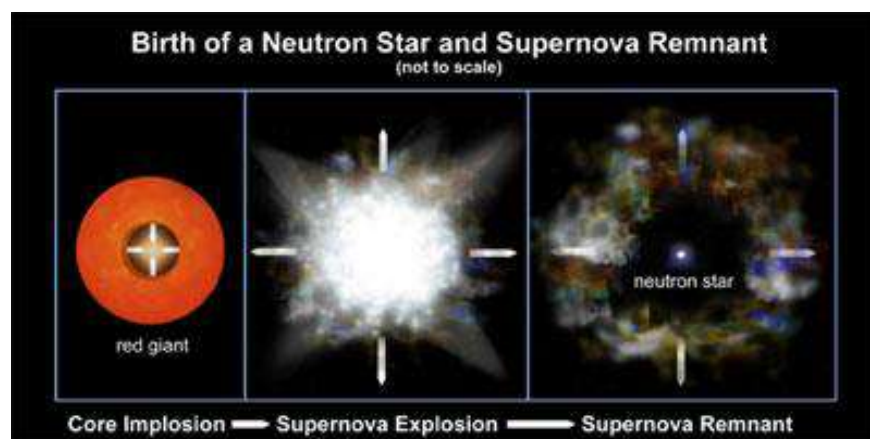
- **Objective:**
 - Eradicate poverty and hunger in rural areas
 - Improve food security and nutrition
 - Empower rural populations
- **UN Association:** Member of the **UN Development Group (UNDG)**
- **Membership:** 180 Member States; **India is a founding member**
- **Governance:** Governing Council (highest decision-making body), meets every **three years**
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy
- **Focus Areas:**
 - Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
 - Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
 - Remote and environmentally fragile regions
- **Support:** Research, innovation, institutional change, and **pro-poor technologies**
- **Grants:**
 - Global/Regional grants
 - Country-specific grants

Supernova

Syllabus – GS-3; Science & Technology

Context

A rare supernova dating back to **730 million years after the Big Bang** was observed by the **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)**.



About Supernova

- **Definition:** Massive stellar explosion marking the **end of a star's life cycle**
- **Uniqueness:** Largest explosions in the universe
- **Cause:** Breakdown of **hydrostatic equilibrium** between gravity and nuclear fusion
- **Remnants:** Neutron star or black hole (depending on mass)
- **Energy:** Emits more energy in seconds than the Sun emits in its entire lifetime

Types

- **Type II (Core-Collapse):**
 - Massive single stars (8–10× Sun's mass)
 - Core collapses, triggering shockwave
- **Type Ia (Thermonuclear):**
 - Binary system with a white dwarf
 - Exceeds **Chandrasekhar limit**, leading to complete destruction

Significance

- **Element formation:** Source of elements heavier than iron (gold, uranium, silver)
- **Cosmic recycling:** Enriches interstellar medium
- **Distance measurement:** Type Ia supernovae act as **standard candles**

Bar-headed Goose

Syllabus – GS-3; Environment & Ecology

Context

In a first-of-its-kind study in eastern India, a Bar-headed Goose fitted with a GSM-GPS transmitter has revealed its migration route and flying pattern.

About Bar-headed Goose

- **Nature:** Migratory bird; among the highest-flying birds in the world
- **Uniqueness:**
 - Can fly at altitudes up to **25,000 feet** while crossing the Himalayas
 - Capable of covering **over 1,600 km in a single day**

- **Distribution:**
 - Native to **Central Asia** (breeding grounds)
 - Found in **India, Pakistan, Nepal, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Japan**, and nearby regions
- **Geographical spread in India:** From **North-East India** to southern regions
- **Wintering sites in India:**
 - Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)
 - Pong Dam Lake (Himachal Pradesh)
 - East Calcutta Wetlands
- **Habitat:**
 - High-altitude lakes during breeding season
 - Freshwater lakes, rivers, and streams during winter
- **Ecological significance:** Indicator of **healthy wetland ecosystems**
- **Appearance:** Grey and white body with **two horseshoe-shaped brownish-black bars** on the white head
- **Breeding pattern:** Monogamous and seasonal breeders
- **Conservation status:** **Least Concern (IUCN Red List)**

