Lambada Tribe

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Indian Heritage and Culture*

Why in News?

The long-standing controversy over whether the Lambada community should be treated as a Scheduled Tribe (ST) in Telangana has once again reached the Supreme Court.

- The Lambadas, also known as Banjaras, are a ***Scheduled Tribe community*** mainly found in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- They are one of India's largest tribal groups.
- **Origin and Identity -** Traditionally ***nomadic traders*** and transporters of goods
- Played a major role in moving grain, salt, and commodities during medieval times
- Known for their distinctive dress, jewellery, and folk culture.
- **Language -** Speak **Gor Boli (Lambadi)**, an Indo-Aryan language, written in **Devanagari or Telugu script.**
- **Settlement -** Live in exclusive hamlets called **"Tandas"**
- Tandas are socially and administratively distinct from nearby villages.
- **Social Structure -** Headed by a Naik (village chief).
- Assisted by Karbhari (administrative officer) and Bhagat (religious head).
- **Livelihood -** Traditionally traders and carriers.
- Now engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, wage labour and crafts.
- **Famous dances -** Lambadi Dance, Fire dance.
- **Festivals** - Teej, Diwali, Holi.
- **Constitutional Status -** Recognised as a Scheduled Tribe in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and several other states.
- In some states, they are classified as *Other Backward Classes (OBCs).*

Reference

[Down To Earth | Lambada Tribe]