



Kharchi Puja

Why in News?

Kharchi Puja, a significant festival celebrated in the state of [Tripura](#), has recently garnered attention in the news.

- The festival commenced on **June 26 this year and will continue until July 2.**

What is the Kharchi Puja?

▪ About:

- Also known as the '**Festival of 14 Gods**,' this traditional event **involves the worship of Chaturdasa Devata, (housed in the ancient Ujjayanta Palace), the ancestral deity of the Tripuri people.**
 - During the festival, the **Tripuri people also worship the earth along with their 14 deities.**
- An important ritual in this festival involves the **construction of the Chaturdasha Mandapa**, a structure that symbolizes the royal palace of the Tripuri kings.
- On the day of the Puja, the 14 gods are carried to **river "Saidra" by the members of "Chantai" (royal priests).** The gods are **bathed in the holy water and are brought back to the temple.**

▪ History:

- The word '**Kharchi**' is derived from **two Tripuri words- 'khar' or kharta meaning sin and 'chi' or si meaning cleaning.**
 - Although the festival has **tribal origins**, it is **celebrated by both tribal and non-tribal** people of Tripura.
- It is **believed that the Mother Goddess or Tripura Sundari**, the presiding deity of the land who protects the people of Tripura, **menstruates during the time of Ambubachi**, which is observed in **June.**
 - There is a **popular belief that the Earth becomes impure during the menstruation period of the Goddess.**
 - Hence, Kharchi Puja is observed to **ritualistically clean the Earth after her menstruation is over and wash away the sins of the people in the land.**



States and UTs	Major Festivals
Andhra Pradesh	Makar Sankranti, Ugadi
Arunachal Pradesh	Losar, Solang, Mopin, Monpa festival
Assam	Bihu
Bihar	Chhath Puja
Chhattisgarh	Maghi Purnima, Bastar Dussehra
Goa	Shigmo Mel
Gujarat	Navaratra, Uttarayan (International Kite Festival)
Haryana	Baisakhi, Gugga Naumi
Himachal Pradesh	Gochi, Kullu Dussehra
Jammu & Kashmir	Bahu Mela
Jharkhand	Sarhul, Karam/ Karma
Karnataka	Karaga
Kerala	Onam, Adoor Gajamela
Madhya Pradesh	Lokrang Festival
Maharashtra	Ganesh Chaturthi
Manipur	Yaosang, Cheiraoba, Heikru Hitongba
Meghalaya	Nongkrem Festival
Mizoram	Chapchar Kut,
Nagaland	Hornbill festival, Moatsu, Mimkut
Odisha	Rath Yatra
Punjab	Lohri, Baisakhi
Rajasthan	Gangaur, Teej
Sikkim	Sakewa, Tendong Lho Rum Faat
Tamil Nadu	Pongal

The Vision

Telangana	Bathukamma
Tripura	Kharchi Puja, Neermahal Festival
Uttar Pradesh	Ram Navmi, Kumbh Mela
Uttarakhand	Magh Mela
West Bengal	Durga Puja

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question:

Q. Consider the following pairs: (2018)

	Tradition	State
1.	Chapchar Kut festival	Mizoram
2.	Khongjom Parba ballad	Manipur
3.	Thang-Ta dance	Sikkim

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Ans: (b)

Q. Consider the following pairs: (2017)

	Traditions	Communities
1.	Chaliha Sahib Festival	Sindhis
2.	Nanda Raj Jaat Yatra	Gonds
3.	Wari-Warkari	Santhals

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Q. Every year, a month long ecologically important campaign/festival is held during which certain communities/tribes plant saplings of fruit-bearing trees. Which of the following are such communities/ tribes? (2014)

- (a) Bhutia and Lepcha
- (b) Gond and Korku
- (c) Irula and Toda
- (d) Sahariya and Agariya

Ans: (b)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/kharchi-puja>

