



Manda Festival in Jharkhand

Why in News?

On the last day of the week-long **'Manda' festival** in Jharkhand, a large number of devotees gathered on the streets to take part in the celebrations.

- A special person known as a **'Bhokta'** stood at a height of 25 feet and showered flower petals on the crowd below.

Key Points

- **Tribals** celebrated Manda Puja, an age-old **annual ritual to appease gods** for good rainfall and bumper crops.
 - It typically occurs during the spring season and marks the culmination of the agricultural cycle.
- In Chutia region of Ranchi, the **Manda Puja Samiti** held the festival at the **Shiv temple** which was attended by **Ranchi Municipal Corporation deputy mayor**.
 - During the celebration, **followers participate in walking on fire and suspending themselves upside down** from a bamboo structure connected to their backs after observing a fast for seven to nine days.
 - A distinctive aspect of the Manda festival is the role of the 'Bhokta,' typically male devotees who observe strict fasts throughout the festival.
 - These Bhoktas hold a revered position within the community and play a central role in the festival's ceremonies.
- After Chutia, the festival is observed across the state in **500 locations including in Rajaulatu, Sidroll, Tetri and Hundru Basti**.

Tribes of Jharkhand

- **The Scheduled Tribe (ST) population of Jharkhand State is 7,087,068** as per the 2001 census, constituting **26.3%** of the total population (26,945,829) of the State.
- The Scheduled Tribes are primarily rural as **91.7%** of them reside in villages.
- District wise distribution of ST population shows that Gumla district has the highest proportion of **STs (68.4%)**.
- The STs constitute more than half of the total population in Lohardaga and Pashchimi Singhbhum districts whereas Ranchi and Pakaur districts have 41.8 - 44.6% tribal population.
- Kodarma district (0.8%) preceded by Chatra (3.8%) has the lowest proportion of the STs Population.
- **Jharkhand has 32 tribal groups:**
 - Munda
 - Santhal
 - Oraon
 - Kharia
 - Gond
 - Kol
 - Kanwar
 - Savar

- Asur
- Baiga
- Banjara
- Bathudi
- Bedia
- Binjhia
- Birhor
- Birjiali
- Chero
- Chick-Baraik
- Gorait
- Ho
- Karmali
- Kharwar
- Khond
- Kisan
- Kora
- Korwa
- Lohra
- Mahli
- Mal-Paharia
- Parhaiya
- Sauria-Paharia
- Bhumij



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