



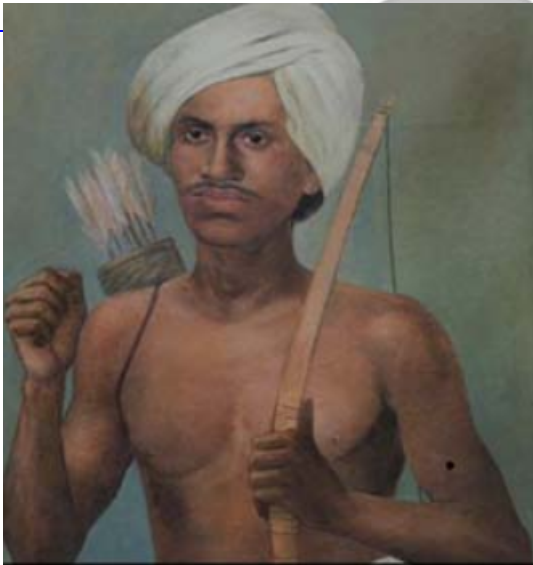
Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2024

Why in News?

Recently, The Prime Minister paid tributes to [Bhagwan Birsa Munda](#) on his **birth anniversary**, commemorated as [Janjatiya Gaurav Divas \(15th November\)](#).

Key Points

- **About Janjatiya Gaurav Divas:**
 - It is **celebrated every year to recognize the efforts of the tribals in the preservation of cultural heritage** and promotion of Indian values of national pride, valour, and hospitality.
 - **Tribals held several tribal movements** across different regions of India against the British colonial rule. These tribal communities include [Tamars](#), [Santhals](#), [Khasis](#), [Bhils](#), [Mizos](#), and Kols to name a few.
- **Birsa Munda:**



- Birsa Munda born on **15th November 1875** was a member of the [Munda Tribe of the Chhota Nagpur Plateau](#).
- He was an **Indian freedom fighter, religious leader**, and folk hero.
- He **spearheaded an Indian tribal religious Millenarian movement during British rule in the late 19th century** across the tribal belt of modern-day Jharkhand and Bihar.
 - Birsa was a **close observer of the Sardari Larai movement** in the region in the 1880s, which sought to restore tribal rights through nonviolent means such as petitioning the British government. These demands, however, were ignored by the harsh colonial authority.
- The tribals were **quickly demoted from landowners to labourers** under the zamindari system, which resulted in Birsa taking up the cause of the Adivasis.

- **Birsa Munda went on to form Birsait,** a new religion.
 - The **religion preached the belief in a single God** and urged people to return to their old religious convictions. People began to refer to him as a cost-effective religious healer, a miracle worker, and a preacher.
- People from Oraon and Munda became convinced Birsaites, and many began calling him '**Dharti Abba, meaning Father of the Earth.**' He brought a fresh perspective to the religious realm.
- Birsa Munda **led the rebellion that came to be known as Ulgulan (revolt) or the Munda rebellion** against the British government-imposed feudal state system.
- He awakened the masses and sowed the seeds of revolt in them against the landlords as well as the Britishers.
- His **struggle against the exploitation and discrimination against tribals led to the passing of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act in 1908** which restricted the passing of land from the tribal people to non-tribals.

