



Beneshwar Fair 2025

Why in News?

Beneshwar Fair was organised from **8 to 12 February 2025** at **Beneshwar Dham** in **Dungarpur** district of Rajasthan.

Key Points

- **About the fair:**
 - Beneshwar Fair is an **annual festival held in the months of January or February, dedicated to Baneshwar Mahadev (Lord Shiva)**.
 - On this holy occasion **Bhils** travel from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to take a dip at the **confluence of the Mahi and Som rivers**.
 - This fair showcases the rich tribal culture of the Bhils and is called the **“Kumbh Mela of Tribals”**.
- **Cultural programs and sports:**
 - During the Beneshwar fair, many **cultural and sports programs were organized** by the district administration, tourism department and tribal development department.
 - **Archery, volleyball, tug of war, women's matka race, bhajan group, turban tying competitions** were organised.

Bhil Community

- The Bhil are **one of the largest tribal groups**, living in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- The name is derived from the word 'billu', which means bow.
- The Bhil are known to be excellent archers coupled with **deep knowledge about their local geography**.
- Traditionally, experts in guerrilla warfare, most of them today are farmers and agricultural labourers. They are also skilled sculptors.
- Bhil **women wear traditional saris** while **men are dressed in long frocks and pyjamas**. The woman put on **heavy ornaments made of silver, brass** along with rosaries of beads and silver coins and earrings.