

ECHOES OF JHARKHAND

THE LAND OF FORESTS

Jharkhand is a state in eastern India and the 14th largest by population. It is bordered by the states of Bihar to the north, West Bengal to the east, Odisha to the south, Chhattisgarh to the west, and Uttar Pradesh to the northwest. Its capital is Ranchi and Dumka as sub-capital. It is known for its waterfalls, hills and holy places; Baidyanath Dham, Parasnath, Dewri and Rajrappa are major religious sites. The word "Jhar" means 'forest' and "Khand" means 'land' Thus, "Jharkhand" means 'the land of forests'.



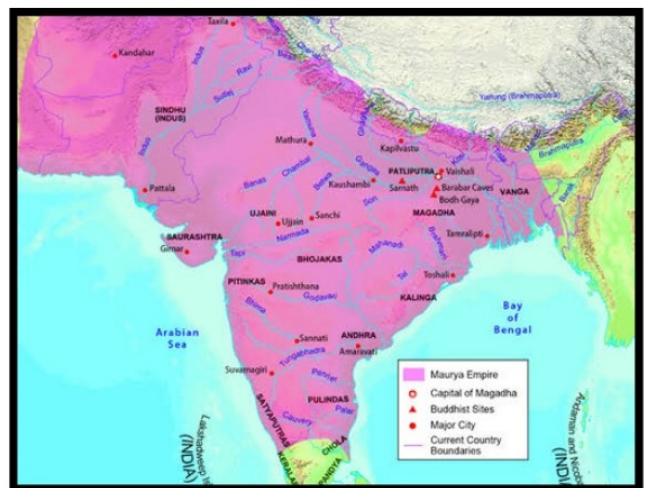
FROM MAGADHA TO STATEHOOD- 5000 YEARS IN THE MAKING!

Long before it was called Jharkhand, this land was part of great empires. During the age of Mahajanpadas around 500 BC, India saw the emergence of 16 large states that controlled the entire Indian subcontinent. In those days the northern portion of Jharkhand state was a tributary to Magadha (ancient Bihar) Empire and southern part was a tributary to Kalinga (ancient Orissa) Empire. During the medieval period, the region was governed by Nagvanshi, Pala, Khayaravala, Ramgarh Raj and Chero rulers. Then came the mughals and british, and with them, the conflict. The tribal people of Jharkhand fiercely resisted colonial rule. Heroes like Birsa Munda led massive revolts to protect their lands, forests and way of life.

DID YOU KNOW?

“The Chhottanagpur Plateau has been home to human beings for over 1,00,000 years—some of the earliest inhabitants of the Indian subcontinent.”

Jharkhand, a land of majestic mountains, lush forests, and cascading waterfalls, offers an unparalleled opportunity to connect with unspoiled nature. But Jharkhand is not just about its breathtaking scenery, it is also home to some of the prominent museums, temples, and wildlife sanctuaries. As a state that emerged from Bihar nearly two decades ago, Jharkhand has forged its own path, marked by a fascinating history, diverse culture, and the cherished simplicity of its tribal communities. This unique blend of elements makes Jharkhand an enticing destination for explorers and nature enthusiasts alike.





TRIBAL HERITAGE



MEET THE TRIBES

FESTIVALS THAT MAKE FOREST DANCE!

Jharkhand's festivals are deeply rooted in nature, harvest cycles, and tribal traditions. Celebrated with music, dance, and rituals, they reflect the strong bond between community life and the natural world. Some of the most important festivals in Jharkhand include- Sarhul Festival which celebrates the



arrival of spring and honours the sacred Sal tree; Karma Festival which symbolises prosperity and unity around the Karma tree; Tusu Festival which is a popular harvest festival, especially among the festivals in Dhanbad and nearby regions and finally the Baha Festival which is the flower festival of the Santhal tribe, celebrating renewal and harmony. The state of Jharkhand celebrates many festivals, marking harmony and prosperity throughout the year.

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BREAKING NEWS

Resort politics begins in Jharkhand

With just two days left for voting for the Rajya Sabha elections in Jharkhand, the battle for the second upper house seat has entered a crucial phase, with the BJP-led NDA moving its legislators to a Ranchi-based hotel and the Congress claiming that some of them are in touch. The ruling alliance, however, continues to insist that all its legislators remain united behind its candidates.

UPDATE

Jharkhand's rich cultural heritage has received a major boost with 11 traditional products from the state being granted Geographical Indication, or GI, tags. It recently got 4 more GI tags product. Various GI tag products include Bhoya Saree and Fabric, Kuchai Silk Saree, Kesaria Kalakand, Dokra Craft, Tumka Chadar, Baroni Paintings, Munda Jewellery, Jharkhand Bamboo Craft, Tussar Silk and Sarees, Jadopatia Painting, and Pancho Saree and Fabric.



TRIBAL HERITAGE



MEET THE TRIBES

Jharkhand is a home to 32 scheduled tribes of India. Each has their own language, music, dance, dress, and traditions. Together, they form one of the richest concentrations of tribal culture of India. These tribes are Asur, Baiga, Banjar, Bathudi, Bedia, Bhumij, Binjha, Birhor, Birjia, Chero, Chik Baraik, Gond, Gorait, Ho, Kanwar, Karmali, Kharia, Kharwar, Khond, Kisan, Kora Kol, Korwa, Lohra, Mahli, Mal Paharia, Munda, Oraon, Pahria, Santhal, Sauria Paharia, and Sabar. These tribes are primarily concentrated in South Chotanagpur, Kolhan and Santal parganas division.

FOOD OF THE FOREST

The cuisine of Jharkhand is truly exquisite and consists of a different cooking style which makes it completely unique. Agriculture is well flourished in the state as cultivable land resources have given a lot of potential for horticulture and forest by-product. Dhuska, Koinar Sag, Dubki, Udad Dal, Kurthi Dal, Litti-Chokha, Sattu Paratha, Pitha, Khapada, Roti, Arsa, Mitha Pitha, and Kudurum Ki Chatni are the famous recipe of the state which are preferred by the local peoples.

HERO SPOTLIGHT: BIRSA MUNDA

Born in 1875 in a small Munda village, Birsa Munda became one of India's greatest freedom fighters – before the age of 25! He led the Ulgulan (Great Revolt of 1899–1900) demanding that tribal lands be returned and foreign missionaries leave their communities. He was arrested and died in British custody in 1900. He is now remembered as a god-like figure by tribal communities across India, and his birthday – 15 November – is Jharkhand's Foundation Day.



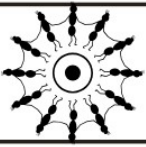
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HERITAGE CRISIS



SPECIAL REPORT: JHARKHAND'S HERITAGE UNDER THREAT



STONES ARE CRYING – IS ANYONE LISTENING!

SPECIAL REPORT

THE MALUTI TEMPLES: A CLUSTER DYING IN SILENCE

Once, the village of Maluti in Dumka district had 108 terracotta temples. Today, only 72 remain and those that survive are in serious disrepair. Roofs have collapsed. Intricate carvings are crumbling. The Global Heritage Fund has declared them one of the 12 most endangered cultural heritage sites in the world. The temples were built between the 17th and 19th centuries during the rule of the Pala dynasty's Baj Basanta. Their terracotta panels show scenes from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and everyday life, an irreplaceable visual history of Bengal-Jharkhand culture. But there is no permanent conservation team, no protection wall, and limited government funding for restoration.



SPECIAL REPORT



MEGALITHS OF CHOKAHATU: ANCIENT STONES, NO PROTECTION
In Ranchi's Sonahatu block, there are ancient megalithic stone structures – dolmens, menhirs and burial sites that are thousands of years old. They were built by the ancestors of Jharkhand's tribal communities. Local social organisations have been fighting for UNESCO World Heritage Site status for years. The government has visited and made promises. But concrete protection, boundary walls, archaeological surveys remains incomplete.

SPECIAL REPORT

KHOVAR & SOHRAI PAINTINGS: ART ON THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION

Khoavar (wedding art) and Sohrai (harvest art) are sacred wall-painting traditions practiced exclusively by married women of the Hazaribagh region using rice paste, natural pigments, and their own fingers. These traditions are at least 10,000 years old – the same motifs appear in prehistoric cave art found in Jharkhand! But as modern cement replaces mud



walls, these paintings have nowhere to go. Younger women are migrating to cities. The number of active Khoavar-Sohrai artists is falling every year. Without documentation and support, this living art will vanish within a generation.

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING ?

Mining & Industry – Rapid industrialisation destroys landscapes around sacred and archaeological sites
Climate & Neglect – Monsoon damage on unprotected structures with no restoration funding
Urban Sprawl – Encroachment on buffer zones around heritage structures
No Documentation – Thousands of tribal songs, medicines, and art forms lost because no one recorded them.
Limited Funding – Government archaeological protection lags far behind richer states.

QUICK QUIZ- HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?



Q1. Which day is Jharkhand's Foundation Day?

- a) 26 January b) 15 November
c) 2 October d) 1 September

Q2. What does "Jharkhand" mean in Hindi?

- a) Land of Rivers b) Land of Forests
c) Land of Stones d) Land of Tribes

Q3. The Maluti temples are made of which material?

- a) Marble b) Teracotta
c) Sandstone d) Granite

Q4. Which Jharkhand tribe invented Ol Chiki script?

- a) Munda b) Santhal
c) Oraon d) Ho

Q5. How many new GI tags products did the Jharkhand got recently?

- a) 10 b) 04
c) 09 d) 20

Q6. Which one of these is called 'Harvest Art of Jharkhand'?

- a) Sorhai b) Khovar
c) Warli d) Madhubani

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ANS: Q1- B; Q2- B;
Q3- C; Q4- C; Q5- B;
Q6- A

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