

Jharkhand Statehood Day (November 15)

Celebrating Culture, Nature and Development

November 15, 2023

Jharkhand Statehood Day is celebrated annually on November 15. The date marks the day when the state of Jharkhand was officially carved out of Bihar in the year 2000 and became the 28th state of India. This significant occasion commemorates the fulfilment of the long-standing aspirations of the tribal communities and other residents of the region for a separate state.

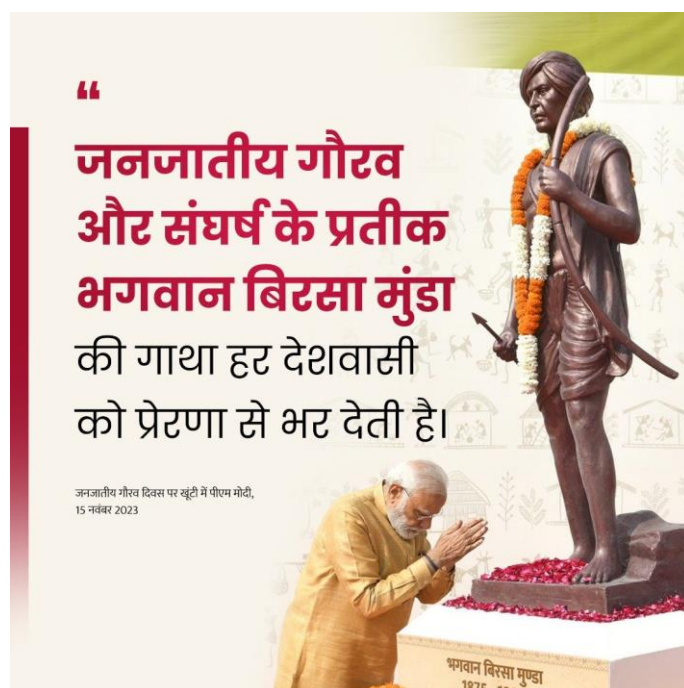
Jharkhand shares its border with the states of Bihar to the north, Uttar Pradesh to the northwest, Chhattisgarh to the west, Odisha to the south, and West Bengal to the east. The state comprises 24 districts and is home to a population of approximately 33 million people (Census 2011).

Jharkhand State Symbols



Jharkhand is also the birthplace of one of the great Freedom Fighters, Bhagwan Birsa Munda, who fought against British colonial rule and ignited the spark in the minds of the masses. As a tribute to him and other tribal freedom fighters, the Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to observe November 15, the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, as **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**. For the first time in the country after Independence, the art and culture of the tribal society and their contribution to the freedom

movement and nation-building are being remembered with pride, and they are being honoured on such a grand scale. This declaration acknowledges the glorious history of tribal communities and recognizes their efforts towards the preservation of cultural heritage.



Jharkhand, known for its rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and abundant mineral resources, has since made remarkable strides in various fields, contributing to the nation's progress. On their Statehood Day, the people of Jharkhand come together to reflect on their journey, celebrate their identity, and envision a future of growth and development for their state.

A Treasure Trove of Natural Resources

Jharkhand stands as a region of unparalleled natural abundance, bestowed with vast mineral potential and a plethora of other natural resources. The state occupies a prominent position on the mineral map of India and boasts of potential deposits across a spectrum of categories, encompassing energy, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, fertilizers, industrial minerals, refractories, atomic minerals, strategic minerals, as well as precious and semi-precious resources.

Encompassing a sprawling geographical expanse of **79,714 square km**, Jharkhand claims ownership of approximately **40% of India's total mineral reservoirs**.

At present Jharkhand secures the **top position in coal reserves, second in iron, third in copper ore reserves, and seventh in bauxite reserves, while also being the exclusive producer of prime coking coal**. The state presently contributes significantly to the nation, annually extracting around 160 million tonnes of diverse minerals valued at Rs 15,000 crore, and generating mineral revenue amounting to approximately Rs 3,500 crore. Jharkhand's mineral wealth spans coal, iron ore, bauxite, uranium, limestone, dolomite, pyroxenite, quartz, and quartzite, all available in substantial quantities. Moreover, the region boasts abundant reserves of *China clay, fireclay, magnetite, graphite, kyanite, feldspar, mica, and decorative stones*. Additionally, deposits of andalusite, manganese, chromite, beryl, talc, gold, and bentonite, though in smaller quantities, further contribute to the state's diverse mineral profile.

The presence of these minerals provides immense opportunity for the development of industries in Jharkhand thus strengthening the state's economy.

Culture

Jharkhand showcases a diverse array of festivals and events that embody the state's cultural vibrancy and deep-rooted connection to nature. These celebrations, featuring rustic village fairs and religious gatherings, exude a harmonious blend of music and folk songs like *orjapi*, *jhumar*, *fagua*, *philsanjha*, *adhratiya* or *bhinsariya*, *doad*, *asadi*, *jhumti*. Jharkhand is also home to multiple dance forms like *Paika*, *Santhal*, and *Chau*. Each sub-caste and tribal grouping in Jharkhand possesses a unique tradition to uphold like *Turi*, *Kurmi*, *Oraon comb-cut paintings*, and *Manjhi Santhal*. They encapsulate the essence of Jharkhand's cultural richness and highlight the recurring theme of reverence for nature that permeates these grand occasions.

The cultural blend of Jharkhand is intricately woven by its 32 distinct tribes, shaping the state into a captivating mosaic of diverse cultures and traditions. Constituting 26.3% of the total population, as per the 2001 census, these tribes significantly contribute to the social fabric and cultural ethos of Jharkhand.



Festivals in Jharkhand epitomize its unique traditions and vibrant history, deeply rooted in customs and rituals that mirror the tribal communities' profound connection to nature and their communal bonds. *Sarhul*, a vibrant ode to nature during the arrival of spring, is celebrated with Sal leaves and Mahua flowers. *Karma/Karam*, another pivotal festival, honours nature's abundance through colourful rituals, dances, and melodious songs, fostering communal rejoicing. *Dasãe* commemorates bravery and resilience, observed through the annual

Dasāedaran trek, symbolizing the pursuit of lost warriors. *Bhokta Parab*, dedicated to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, involves rigorous rituals, including a nine-day fast and a bare-bodied walk as a mark of reverence. *Vandana Kartik* observed on Kartik Amavasya, strengthens the bond between tribal communities and their domesticated animals through heartfelt songs called '*Ohiras*.' These festivals serve as poignant reflections of Jharkhand's cultural richness, preserving age-old traditions while embracing communal harmony and respect for nature.

Jharkhand: Tourist Attractions and Adventure's Playground

Jharkhand, with more than 29% forest cover, presents vast opportunities for ecotourism. Its verdant jungles, perennial waterfalls, varied terrain, moderate climate, and diverse wildlife create an ideal setting for the development of ecotourism activities such as forest trails, nature walks, jungle safaris, trekking, and rock climbing. The breathtaking scenic beauty of Jharkhand justifies its title as the '**Land of the Forest**'. Beyond the lush forests, the region boasts of magnificent water bodies, cascading falls, and dams that serve as perfect havens for peaceful picnics amidst nature's embrace. The warm sunlight, tranquil waters, and architecturally stunning dams add value to every visit.



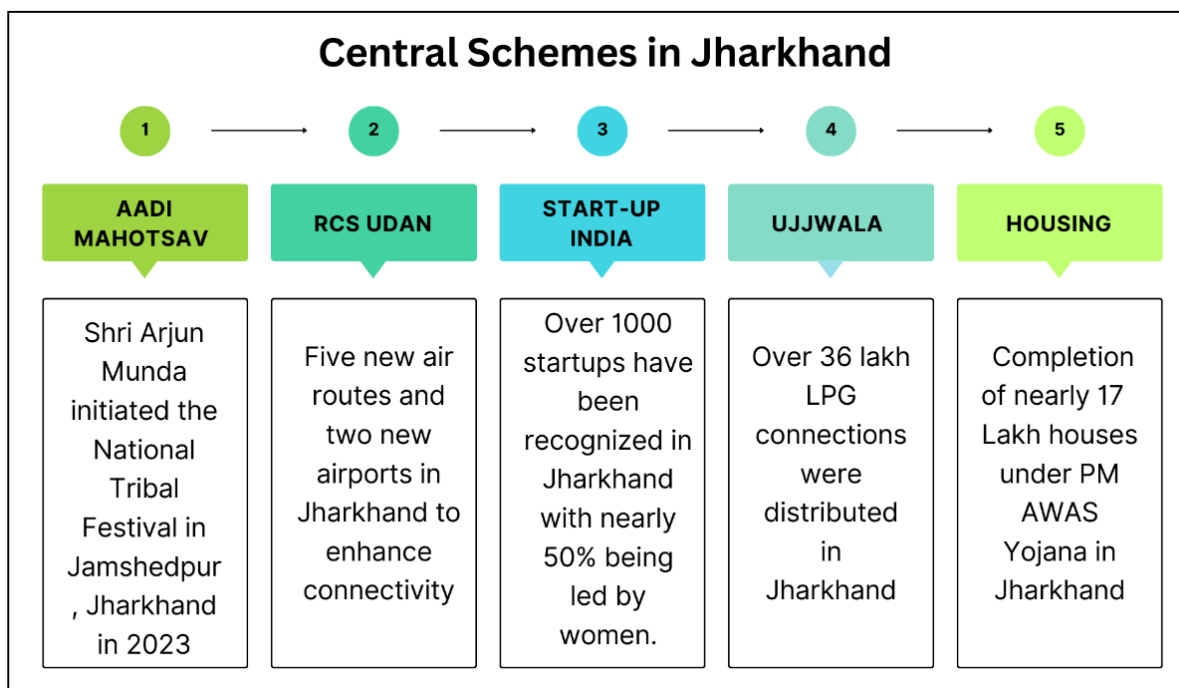
Jharkhand stands as a sanctuary for nature enthusiasts and adventurers as well as for those seeking serenity amidst nature's magnificence. It offers an ideal escape from the hustling life of concrete jungles. The majestic waterfalls of Jharkhand not only inspire awe with their beauty but also present opportunities for adventurous sports like parasailing, rock climbing, kayaking, banana rides, and jet skiing.

Exploring historical sites like The Punkri Barwadih megalith site of Hazaribagh, Tanginath Dham, and Navratangarh fort. These architectural wonders from past eras provide a visual treat, showcasing the grandeur of our ancestors. Jharkhand provides a revitalizing experience for all: mind, body, and soul!



Flagship Schemes: Progress in Jharkhand

Jharkhand stands as a testament to progress, with recent initiatives and developments fostering growth across various sectors. Government of India through its policies, flagship schemes, and other initiatives has provided the needed catalyst in the development of Jharkhand. A few of these are mentioned below:



Aadi Mahotsav Inauguration: Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda initiated the [National Tribal Festival in Jamshedpur](#), Jharkhand. The festival was organised from the 7th to the 16th of October 2023 and highlighted the talent of 336 tribal artisans and artists, including Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) beneficiaries.

North Koel Reservoir Project: The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sanctioned the completion of the [North Koel Reservoir Project](#) at a revised cost of Rs. 2,430.76

crore. It aims to enhance irrigation, providing additional annual water supply to over 42,301 hectares across drought-prone districts in Jharkhand and Bihar.

Quality Education for All: Over **16.39 lakh tribal students** have availed scholarships and fellowships worth **Rs. 480 crores**, aiming to enhance educational standards and broaden accessibility. Moreover, **7 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** have commenced operations in Jharkhand, prioritizing the holistic development of enrolled students.

National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission: The mission was inaugurated by the Prime Minister to extend affordable and accessible care to all patients affected by Sickle Cell Anaemia. Under this initiative, individuals grappling with Sickle Cell Disease are provided with various services and facilities aimed at enhancing their quality of life.

PM-Kisan Yojana: Over **26 lakh farmers** in Jharkhand benefited from the release of **over 4850 crores** under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme.

Enhanced Connectivity: Government initiatives under the Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) scheme resulted in the operationalization of **five new air routes and two airports in Jharkhand**, promoting enhanced connectivity in the region. Moreover, **3 Vande Bharat trains** are operational in the state and **57 railway stations** are being modernised under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

Entrepreneurship Development: Over **1000 startups** have been recognized in Jharkhand under the Start-Up India scheme, with **nearly 50% being led by women entrepreneurs**, showcasing a significant stride in inclusive entrepreneurship.

Housing Development: Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban & Rural) facilitated the completion of **over 16.88 lakh** houses in Jharkhand, aiming to provide shelter to its residents.

Clean Energy Access: Through the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, **over 36 lakh** LPG connections were distributed in Jharkhand, significantly enhancing clean energy accessibility across the state.

From its abundant natural wealth to the diverse cultural festivities and forward-looking programs, Jharkhand embodies a harmonious blend of tradition, innovation, and resilience. As Jharkhand celebrates its statehood day, it remains committed to honouring its heritage, embracing diversity, and forging a path toward a future defined by prosperity, inclusivity, and sustainable development.

(*Data of schemes is till September 30, 2023)

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