



Medaram Jathara Festival

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned Rs 2.26 Crores for various activities pertaining to **Medaram Jathara 2022**.

- Medaram Jathara is the **second-largest fair of India, after the [Kumbh Mela](#)**, celebrated by the **second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana- the Koya tribe** for four days.

What are the Key Points?

- Medaram Jathara is **also known as Sammakka Saralamma Jatara**.
- It is a tribal festival honoring the **fight of a mother and daughter, Sammakka and Saralamma, with the reigning rulers against an unjust law**.
- It is celebrated **in the state of Telangana**. The Jatra begins at Medaram in Tadvai Mandal in Warangal district.
 - Medaram is a remote place in the **Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, a part of Dandakaranya**, the largest surviving forest belt in the region.
- It is celebrated once in two years in the month of **“Magha” (February)** on the full moon day.
- People offer bangaram/gold (jaggery) of a quantity equal to their weight to the goddesses and take holy bath in Jampanna Vagu, a tributary to River Godavari.
- It was declared a **State Festival in 1996**.

What are the Important things about the Koya Tribe?

▪ About:

- Koya tribe is the **largest adivasi tribe of Telangana** and listed as [Scheduled Tribe in Telangana](#).
- The community is **spread across Telugu speaking states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh**.
- Koyas popularly call themselves as **Dorala Sattam (Lords group) and Putta Dora (original lords)**. Koyas call themselves “Koitur” in their dialect, like Gonds.

▪ Habitat and livelihood:

- The Godavari and Sabari rivers which are flowing through their area of habitation exercise profound influence on Koyas’ economic, social and cultural life.
- The Koyas are **mainly settled cultivators**. They grow Jowar, Ragi, Bajra and other millets.

▪ Language:

- Many koya People have forgotten their Koya Dialect and adopted Telugu as their mother tongue but some in other parts still speak Koya dialect.

▪ Religion and festival:

- Lord Bhima, Korra Rajulu, Mamili and Potaraju are the important deities to Koyas.
- Their main festivals are Vijji Pandum (seeds charming festival) and Kondala Kolupu (festival

- to appease Hill deities).
- Koyas perform a robust colourful **dance called Permakok ata** (Bison horn dance) during festivals and marriage ceremonies.

[Source: PIB](#)

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