



National Word Power Championship | Jharkhand | 15 Apr 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **National Word Power Championship** was held in **Mumbai**. In this nationwide contest, **participants from eight states** showcased exceptional skills. Among them, four students from Jharkhand excelled in classes 2, 3, 4, and 5, earning the prestigious title of overall champions.

Key Points

- **Eight states that participated in the competition were** Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh.
- Jharkhand secured the **top spot in the Class 2 category**, came **fifth in Class 3**, took the **fourth spot in Class 4**, and clinched **second place in Class 5**.
- The state won the competition by a margin of **0.23% against Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra**, who secured second and third places respectively.
- The Word Power Championship competition is organized on the lines of America's popular '**Spelling Bee Competition**'.
 - It is the **only English competition in India** conducted exclusively for students of regional linguistic schools.
 - The objective of which is to provide an exclusive platform to regional language school students to showcase their newly acquired English talent after participating in a highly rigorous 'English Literacy Programme'.
 - This develops a sense of enthusiasm and purpose for the English language among teachers and students alike.
 - This competition is **organized every year** by an organization called **Leap for Word and Mariko**.

Manda Festival in Jharkhand | Jharkhand | 15 Apr 2024

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On the last day of the week-long '**Manda festival**' in Jharkhand, a large number of devotees gathered on the streets to take part in the celebrations.

- A special person known as a '**Bhokta**' stood at a height of 25 feet and showered flower petals on the crowd below.

Key Points

- **Tribals** celebrated Manda Puja, an age-old **annual ritual to appease gods** for good rainfall and bumper crops.

- It typically occurs during the spring season and marks the culmination of the agricultural cycle.
- In Chutia region of Ranchi, the **Manda Puja Samiti** held the festival at the **Shiv temple** which was attended by **Ranchi Municipal Corporation deputy mayor**.
 - During the celebration, **followers participate in walking on fire and suspending themselves upside down** from a bamboo structure connected to their backs after observing a fast for seven to nine days.
 - A distinctive aspect of the Manda festival is the role of the 'Bhokta,' typically male devotees who observe strict fasts throughout the festival.
 - These Bhoktas hold a revered position within the community and play a central role in the festival's ceremonies.
- After Chutia, the festival is observed across the state in **500 locations including in Rajaulatu, Sidroll, Tetri and Hundru Basti**.

Tribes of Jharkhand

- **The Scheduled Tribe (ST) population of Jharkhand State is 7,087,068** as per the 2001 census, constituting **26.3%** of the total population (26,945,829) of the State.
- The Scheduled Tribes are primarily rural as **91.7%** of them reside in villages.
- District wise distribution of ST population shows that Gumla district has the highest proportion of **STs (68.4%)**.
- The STs constitute more than half of the total population in Lohardaga and Pashchimi Singhbhum districts whereas Ranchi and Pakaur districts have 41.8 - 44.6% tribal population.
- Kodarma district (0.8%) preceded by Chatra (3.8%) has the lowest proportion of the STs Population.
- **Jharkhand has 32 tribal groups:**
 - Munda
 - Santhal
 - Oraon
 - Kharia
 - Gond
 - Kol
 - Kanwar
 - Savar
 - Asur
 - Baiga
 - Banjara
 - Bathudi
 - Bedia
 - Binjhia
 - Birhor
 - Birjiali
 - Chero
 - Chick-Baraik
 - Gorait
 - Ho
 - Karmali
 - Kharwar
 - Khond
 - Kisan
 - Kora
 - Korwa
 - Lohra
 - Mahli
 - Mal-Paharia
 - Parhaiya
 - Sauria-Paharia
 - Bhumij



