

Harichand Thakur and the importance of Matua community

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Prime Minister virtually addressed the Matua community during the opening of 'Matua Dharma Maha Mela 2022'.



[Ref-Journals of India]

Harichand Thakur



[Ref-Matua Photo]

- He was born in 1812 in **Orakandi in Bangladesh** in a peasant farmer family of the **Thakur community (SC community)**.
- He founded a sect of **Vaishnavite Hinduism called Matua**.
- **His followers consider him God** (hence called him Thakur) and an **avatar of Vishnu or Krishna**.
- Thus, he came to be known as **Sri Sri Harichand Thakur**.
- He devoted his life to the **cause of betterment of the oppressed, downtrodden, and deprived people** in undivided Bengal during the pre-independence era.
- He died in Faridpur district in **Bangladesh in 1878**.

Matuas

- It is a sect of **depressed class (Schedule Class)** Hindus who are **Namasudras**, a Scheduled Caste group.
 - They were then also known by the common **pejorative name of Chandalas and considered untouchable**.
- They **migrated to India during Partition** and after the **creation of Bangladesh**.
- There is **no official data** about their population.

Matua Mahasangha

- It was a **religious reformation movement** that originated, around 1860 AD, in modern-day.
- It was launched as a reformation by the followers of **Harichand Thakur**.
- It believes in **Swayam-Dikshiti ("Self-Realisation")** through the chanting of Harinaam.