

# Harichand Thakur and the importance of Matua community

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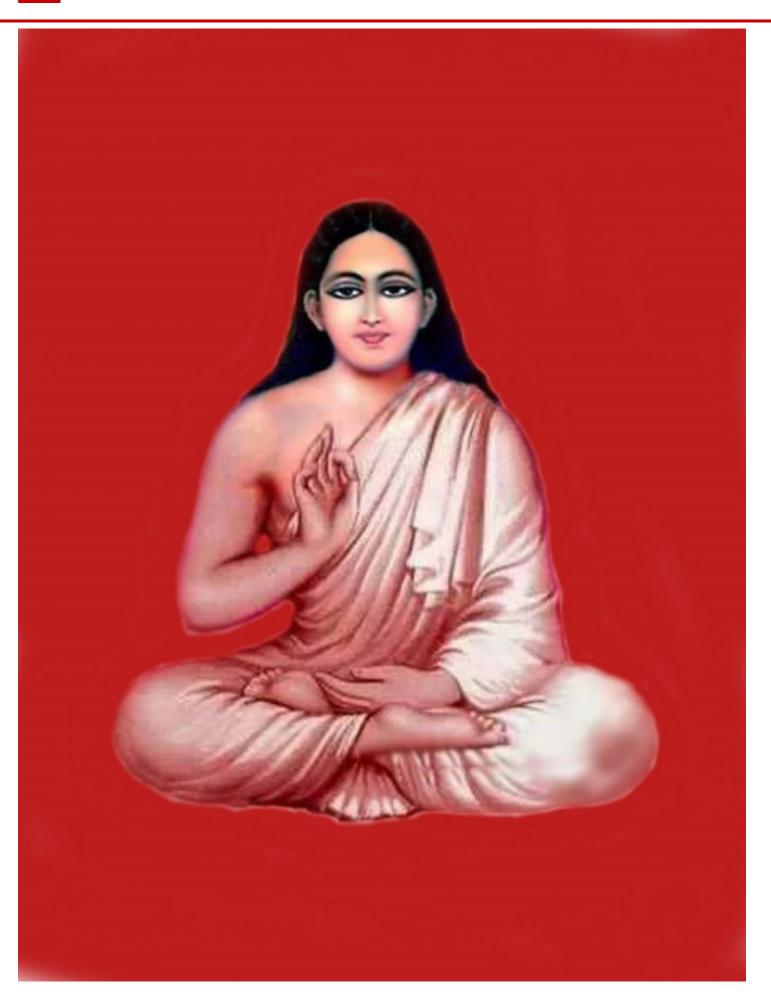
## Harichand Thakur and the importance of Matua community

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.