Jharkhand marked its 26th Foundation Day on 15 November

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News

Jharkhand celebrated its 26th Foundation Day ('Jharkhand Sthapna Diwas') on 15 November 2026. Carved out of southern Bihar under the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000 (Act 30 of 2000), Jharkhand came into being on 15 November 2000 as India's 28th State. Just after midnight that day, Prabhat Kumar was sworn in as the first Governor and Babulal Marandi as the first Chief Minister in Ranchi. 15 November, the birth anniversary of tribal leader Birsa Munda, was chosen as the State's formation day; the same date is also observed nationally as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas'. In 2025 the State marked its silver jubilee (25 years) in Ranchi with the launch of development projects. Santosh Kumar Gangwar is the present Governor and Hemant Soren the Chief Minister. Three new States were formed in November 2000: Chhattisgarh (1 Nov), Uttarakhand (9 Nov) and Jharkhand (15 Nov).

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Formed on	15 November 2000 – India's 28th State
Law	Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000 (Act No. 30 of 2000)
Constitutional basis	Articles 2, 3, 4 – Parliament's power to form new States
Capital	Ranchi (seat of the High Court too)
First office-holders	Governor Prabhat Kumar; CM Babulal Marandi

Point	Details
Present office-holders	Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar; CM Hemant Soren
Legislature	81 members (unicameral)
Highest peak	Parasnath Hill (Giridih) – Jain pilgrim site 'Sammed Shikhar'
Formed the same year	Chhattisgarh (1 Nov 2000), Uttarakhand (9 Nov 2000)

Background

- Statehood movement: Tribal demands for a separate State for Chota Nagpur and Santhal Parganas go back to the early 20th century (the Chhotanagpur Unnati Samaj placed it before the Simon Commission in 1928; the Adivasi Mahasabha was formed in 1938); in 1949–50 Jaipal Singh Munda founded the 'Jharkhand Party', and in 1972 Shibu Soren and others founded the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM). In 1994 the Bihar Legislature passed the Jharkhand Area Autonomous Council (JAAC) Act, and in 2000 Parliament finally passed the statehood law. 'Jharkhand' means 'land of forests'.
- Polity: Under Article 3, Parliament can form a new State by a simple majority; the Bill needs the President's recommendation, and the State Legislature's views must be sought but are not binding. The proviso to Article 164(1) requires a separate Minister for tribal welfare in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha (94th Amendment, 2006, which dropped Bihar). The State also has Fifth Schedule areas.
- Geography: Most of the State lies on the Chota Nagpur Plateau. The Damodar, Subarnarekha, Koel and Barakar are major rivers; Hundru and Dassam are well-known falls. Parasnath Hill in Giridih is the State's highest peak – 'Sammed Shikharji', revered by Jains as the place where 20 of the 24 Tirthankaras attained liberation. It borders Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and West Bengal.
- Economy–history: A mineral-rich State – coal (Jharia, Bokaro), iron ore, mica (Koderma) and uranium (Jaduguda – UCIL). The Santhal 'Hul' of 1855–56, begun at Bhognadih village under the brothers Sido and Kanhu Murmu, was one of the earliest organised tribal revolts against the British, zamindars and moneylenders; 30 June is observed as 'Hul Diwas'.

Tamil Nadu link: C.P. Radhakrishnan – born in Tiruppur and twice elected Lok Sabha MP from Coimbatore (1998, 1999) – was Governor of Jharkhand from 18 February 2023 to 30 July 2024 (also holding additional charge of Telangana and Puducherry for a time). He later became Governor of Maharashtra and on 9 September 2025 was elected India's 15th Vice-President.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Formed on: 15 November 2000 – India's 28th State; Law: Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000 (Act No. 30 of 2000); Constitutional basis: Articles 2, 3, 4 – Parliament's power to form new States; Capital: Ranchi (seat of the High Court too).

What is the background to this news?

Statehood movement: Tribal demands for a separate State for Chota Nagpur and Santhal Parganas go back to the early 20th century (the Chhotanagpur Unnati Samaj placed it before the Simon Commission in 1928; the Adivasi Mahasabha was formed in 1938); in 1949–50 Jaipal Singh Munda founded the 'Jharkhand Party', and in 1972 Shibu Soren and others founded the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM).

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Under which law was Jharkhand carved out of Bihar?

A) States Reorg. Act, 1956

B) JAAC Act, 1994

C) Bihar–WB Transfer Act, 1956

D) Bihar Reorg. Act, 2000

Answer: D – Explanation: Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000 – passed by Parliament under Article 3. The 1994 JAAC Act, a Bihar law, only set up an autonomous council.

2. Under the proviso to Article 164(1), a tribal welfare Minister is mandatory in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, MP and which other State?

A) Bihar

B) Assam

C) Odisha

D) West Bengal

Answer: C – Explanation: Odisha. The 94th Amendment (2006) removed Bihar from the proviso and added Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

3. Which is the highest peak of Jharkhand, home to the Jain pilgrim centre 'Sammed Shikharji'?

A) Netarhat

B) Dalma Hill

C) Parasnath Hill

D) Trikut Hill

Answer: C – Explanation: Parasnath (Giridih), named after the 23rd Tirthankara Parshvanatha; Jains believe 20 Tirthankaras attained liberation there.

4. Who led the Santhal 'Hul' of 1855–56 that began at Bhognadih village in present-day Jharkhand?

A) Sido and Kanhu Murmu

B) Tilka Manjhi

C) Budhu Bhagat

D) Jatra Bhagat

Answer: A – Explanation: Brothers Sido and Kanhu; 30 June is 'Hul Diwas'. Budhu Bhagat led the Kol rising (1831–32); Jatra Bhagat the Tana Bhagat movement (1914).

5. Tiruppur-born C.P. Radhakrishnan, Governor of Jharkhand in 2023–24, was elected to which post in 2025?

A) Vice-President of India

B) Lok Sabha Speaker

C) RS Deputy Chairman

D) Governor of Keralam

Answer: A – Explanation: 15th Vice-President (9 Sep 2025); he is ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Article 64). He was earlier a Coimbatore MP.

Sources: ANI (15 Nov 2026); PTI / ThePrint (15 Nov 2026); The Tribune (15 Nov 2000 – State formation); India Code – Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000 (indiacode.nic.in); Outlook / PTI (30 Jun 2026 – Hul Diwas); Giridih district website (Parasnath). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.