



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivam Kamarajar"

Birth anniversary of Shri Harichand Thakur

Published On: 02-04-2025

Context

The Prime Minister paid tribute to **Shree Harichand Thakur (1812-1878)** on his **214th birth anniversary** and extended best wishes for the **Matua Dharma Maha Mela 2025**

Harichand Thakur:

A **Bengal-based social reformer**, he **founded the Namasudras (Matuas) sect**, a **reformist Vaishnavite movement opposing caste oppression**, attracting marginalized communities like Namasudras, Malis, and Telis

Born in **Orakandi, Bangladesh**, into a **Scheduled Caste (SC) peasant family**, he was **revered as an avatar of Vishnu/Krishna**

His son **Guruchand Thakur** later worked with missionary **Cecil Silas Mead** to **reclassify Chandalas (lower caste) as Namasudras**

Matuas:

An **socio-religious group** originally from **East Pakistan (now Bangladesh)**, many **migrated to India** after the **Bangladesh Liberation War 1971** due to religious persecution

The Matuas make up **17.4% of West Bengal's SC population**, second to **Rajbanshis**.

The **Matua Dharma Maha Mela** celebrates their heritage.

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477** / Whatsapp : **09710729833**