Parasnath Hill (Marang Buru)

***Prelims**: History of India| Social Geography of India*

Why in news?

Recently, The Jharkhand High Court directed the state government to enforce a pre-existing ban on the consumption and sale of meat, alcohol, and other intoxicants on the hill.

- **Parasnath Hill** – It is the highest peak (4,478 feet) in Jharkhand.
- **Location –** Giridih district, Jharkhand
- **Dual sacredness** – Parasnath hill is considered to be sacred by both the Santal Adivasi and Jain communities.
- **Jain significance** – Parasnath hill is considered one of the holy pilgrimage sites in Jainism.
- ***20 out of 24 Jain Tirthankaras*** are believed to have attained *moksha* (liberation) on this hill.
- The hill hosts more than *40 Jain temples and dhams,* making it a major site for both the Shwetambar and Digambar sects.
- **Santal Adivasi significance** – The hill is known as ***Marang Buru*** or "Great Mountain" in the Santal tradition.
- It has ***Jug Jaher Than***, the most sacred grove for the Santals—akin to Mecca in spiritual importance.
- It is also the ***seat of tribal justice***, where the ***Lo Bir Baisi***, a council of tribal leaders, meets to resolve major disputes.
- ***Sendra festival***, a *three-day ritual hunting festival*, is a key Santal tradition practiced on the hill and it is observed annually on the full moon of the Baisakh month (April–May).
- **Legal and cultural disputes** – The Hill witnessed the conflict between Jains and Santhal from 1911, primarily ***Jain's vegetarianism*** and Santhal's ***Sendra festival.***
- In 1978, the area was designated as a wildlife sanctuary, leading to restrictions on Adivasi rights and practices.
- In 2023, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change banned the sale and consumption of meat, alcohol, and other intoxicants within a 25-kilometer radius of the hill.
- The Jharkhand High Court upheld this ban in May 2025, directing the state government to enforce it and increase security to ensure compliance.

Reference

The Indian Express| Story of a sacred Jharkhand hill



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