

ᱛᱟ ᱵᱟᱫᱽ script

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In news— Recently, a professor in the Santali language at the Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University in Purulia, West Bengal, translated the Constitution of India for the first time in Santali in the ᱛᱟ ᱵᱟᱫᱽ script.

What is the ᱛᱟ ᱵᱟᱫᱽ script?

- This script is also known as *ᱛᱟ ᱵᱟᱫᱽ*, *ᱛᱟ script*, *ᱛᱟ ᱵᱟᱫᱽ Script* and also ᱛᱟ.
- In Santali, ᱛᱟ means writing and *ᱵᱟᱫᱽ* means learning.
- *ᱛᱟ ᱵᱟᱫᱽ* is the title of the book, **written by Pandit Raghunath Murmu** for teaching the ᱛᱟ ᱵᱟᱫᱽ to the beginners(primer).
- ᱛᱟ ᱵᱟᱫᱽ is alphabetic, and **does not share any of the syllabic properties of the other Indic scripts.**
- **It is used for writing Santali which belongs to the Munda group languages of the Austro-Asiatic family.**
- One of the interesting features of the ᱛᱟ ᱵᱟᱫᱽ script is that **it makes use of signs and symbols long familiar to the Santals.**
- A large number of words in the Santali language are **derived from natural sounds.**
- **Letters of ᱛᱟ ᱵᱟᱫᱽ script are also derived from the physical environment** and what surrounds the people – hills, rivers, trees, birds, bees, plough, sickle etc..
- It contains **30 letters and five basic diacritics and has 6 basic vowels and additional three vowels** are generated using Gahla Tudag.
- The **Norwegian-born missionary Paul Olaf Bodding wrote the first grammar for the Santhal community in the early 20th century.**

About Santal People-

- The Santal or Santhal, are a **Munda ethnic group native to India**.
- **They are the largest adivasi (indigenous) community in the Indian subcontinent** with a population of more than 10 million, and they reside **mostly in the Indian states of Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Assam and Bihar, and sparsely in Bangladesh and Nepal**.
- Santals entered the historical record in 1795 when they were recorded as "Soontars."
- In the Santal religion, **the majority of reverence falls on a court of spirits (*bonga*)**, who handle different aspects of the world and who are placated with prayers and offerings.
- **There are seven kinds of marriage recognized in the Santal community**, each with its own degree of social acceptance.
- **The most elaborate kind of marriage is the *hapramko bapla*, or ancestor's marriage**, but the most widely practiced is *kesimek'*.
- **Sohrai is the principal festival of Santal community**. Besides that Baha, Karam, Dansai, Sakrat, Mahmore, Rundo and Magsim are important festivals.
- They traditionally accompany many of their dances during these festivals with two drums: the Tamak' and the Tumdak'.
- **Chadar Badar, a form of puppetry known also as Santal puppetry**, is a folk show involving wooden puppets placed in a small cage which acts as the stage.

Santali language-

- **It is the most widely spoken language of the Munda subfamily of the Austroasiatic languages, related to Ho and Mundari, spoken** mainly in the Indian states of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Odisha, Tripura and West Bengal.
- In 2003, the **92nd Constitutional Amendment Act**

added Santali to Schedule VIII to the Constitution of India, which lists the official languages of India, along with the Bodo, Dogri and Maithili languages.

- This addition meant that the Indian government was obligated to undertake the development of the Santali language and to allow students appearing for school-level examinations and entrance examinations for public service jobs to use the language.
- **Santali was a mainly oral language until the development of Ol Chiki by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1925.**
- According to the 2011 Census of India, there are over 70 lakh (seven million) people who speak Santali across the country.