



as to bring in positive energy in the society to handle its various problems. The need of the hour is to bury the attitudinal problems and

pool together and share the resources for the common goal and benefit.

## Unraveling Indian Census Data on Santals (Religion)

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I am yet to come across with any reference, where a civilized, developed human society does not have any well structured, established, developed, documented religion to follow for the community people. The propositions put forward by some protagonists that religion should be separated from human development process, looks an annulled philosophy with lot of void, so far as the available present human history is concerned.

### District wise RELIGION profile of Santals in JHARKHAND

Sl. No.	District	All religions	Hindus	Hindu %age	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Budhists	Jains	Other religions & persuasions	Religion not stated	
1	Dumka	629,338	414,468	65.86%	880	50,233	168	56	16	161,052	25.59%	2,465
2	Purbi Singhbhum	293,013	23,350	7.97%	157	2,083	54	123	7	266,836	91.07%	403
3	Pakaur	266,066	130,936	49.21%	541	29,533	61	38	60	103,944	39.07%	953
4	Sahibganj	205,209	118,490	57.74%	602	34,655	31	12	7	51,001	24.85%	411
5	Godda	196,774	136,597	69.42%	386	16,496	86	11	6	42,477	21.59%	715
6	Giridih	167,448	129,830	77.53%	266	7,746	46	22	7	29,322	17.51%	209
7	Dhanbad	166,591	125,160	75.13%	469	2,611	49	19	16	37,845	22.72%	422
8	Bokaro	153,612	113,816	74.09%	215	1,273	83	12	12	37,815	24.62%	386
9	Pashchimi Singhbhum	126,048	15,534	12.32%	56	899	113	48	19	109,090	86.55%	289
10	Deoghar	116,227	88,923	76.51%	264	2,468	38	6	2	24,019	20.67%	507
11	Hazaribag	78,111	60,379	77.30%	30	2,416	12	1	-	15,222	19.49%	51
12	Ranchi	8,384	4,495	53.61%	48	950	1	2	-	2,868	34.21%	20
13	Kodarma	2,271	2,242	98.72%	1	19	-	-	-	9	0.40%	-
14	Gumla	447	260	58.17%	-	113	-	-	-	74	16.55%	-
15	Garhwa	436	415	95.18%	1	8	-	-	-	12	2.75%	-
16	Palamu	419	352	84.01%	8	41	-	-	-	16	3.82%	2
17	Lohardaga	82	31	37.80%	0	14	0	0	0	37	45.12%	0
18	Chatra	33	15	45.45%	-	14	-	-	-	4	12.12%	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,410,509</b>	<b>1,365,293</b>	<b>56.64%</b>	<b>3,924</b>	<b>151,572</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>881,643</b>	<b>36.57%</b>	<b>6,833</b>

In the state of Jharkhand, the district wise Santal population with their religion recorded as per Census 2001 is

shown in the table above. It may be noted that out of total 24,10,509 Santals in Jharkhand, 13,65,293 (56.64%) have mentioned their religion as Hindu. Only 8,36,175 Santals in Jharkhand, which are clubbed under other religions & persuasions in the table above, have recorded their religion as “Sarna”. Santals of Purbi Singhbhum district in Jharkhand state have recorded highest percentage of their religion as “Sarna” as per 2001 Census.

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## **Report on celebration of Birth Anniversary of Saonta Guru Shyam Sundar Hembram (Year 2013)**

**Like every year, this year too Adivasi Socio Renaissance Association (ASRA) (Registered)** celebrated 105<sup>th</sup> Birth anniversary of Saonta Guru Shyam Sundar Hembram and organised a grass root level one day Conference (Saonta Midun) on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at village Khadisolet Jamuna, Badsahi block in Mayurbhanj district, Odisha.

The following were felicitated during the occasion: Mrs. Bulbuli Hembram (outstanding contribution to Santali Music) and Ms. Paro (determination to learn and spread Santali music surpassing limitations) were conferred with **Shyam Sundar Hembram Award**, Ms. Lukhi Hansdah (contribution to popularizing Santali Music) with **Jagannath Hembram Award**, Mrs. Basati Hembram (outstanding contribution to Santali Drama in the Leading role) with **Raghunath Soren Award**, Ms. Sulochana Devi (path-breaking contribution to Santali Drama in the Leading role) with **Dharanidhar Hembram Award** and Ms. Durgi Devi (path-breaking contribution to Santali Drama in the Leading role) with **Jogendranath Hembram Award**. **The awards are named after the notable personalities of the village.** The recipients of the Awards for the year 2012 namely **Mr. Narendra Hembram, Editor, Sandhayni** (outstanding contribution to Santali Literature and Social organizer) **and Mr. Kaluram Murmu** (contribution to spread Ol Chiki and Santali Literature) were also felicitated with a shawl, a certificate and a memento.

A panel of local social leaders and members of “Kherwal Jumid Gaonta, Bisoi” led by Mr. Surai Hansdah took part in a passionate discussion relating to the emerging issues which have a direct impact on the society and social affairs. The views emerged that as part of sincere beginning, everyone should work together for timely celebration of various Santal festivals.

The Awardees shared their experiences and Senior Citizens also spoke about their expectations. The unanimous opinion was to remain united as well as progressive to face the changing social life and emerging challenges. The speakers expected high level of indulgence and participation from the new generation, expressed their happiness and thanked the organizers for such an event.

The Guests and other speakers reminisced the contribution of Shyam Sundar Hembram in Social affairs and his invaluable contribution to Santali literature as a Writer.

Mr. Sadashiba Soren, Secretary read out the Annual Report of the Association and Mr. Suratha Murmu, President thanked the Awardees, media, other associates and the audience for their whole hearted participation for making the event a success. He expressed that people of the locality are participating in such social gathering and are also enjoying cultural activities. He also solicited their continued support in this effort of organizing a grass root level event. The Bhanj Koel Orchestra of Mr. Mangal Hansdah and other artists mesmerized the audience throughout the night.

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## OPINION

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The inclusion of Santali language is merely a humble milestone in growth of the language, in my opinion.  
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**Pre-schedule status** of Santali language in so far as recognition of language is concerned is as follows:

### A. For use in Administration:

1. The official recognition of Santali language started way back in late 19th century, took a peak after Simon Commission's report was submitted. Consequently, Charan Murmu committee was constituted in 1944-45. The committee was to look into the scope of amendments in Santhal Parganas Regulation, 1872. It was mostly on revenue and land related matters but the appeals and petitions were allowed in Santali language in the courts established under Santal Parganas Justice Regulation, 1893 in Santal Parganas. These are courts of Deputy Commissioner, Sub-divisional Officer, Sub Deputy Collectors, etc. That was the first step.
2. In the very next year, in 1946, judicial department of Government of Bihar ordered for an inquiry into the state of affairs in Santhal Parganas. In the report, W.G. Archer, who was Member Secretary of the committee submitted a report known as Santal Civil Rules, which was subsequently accepted. It was brought into force in 1946 as a Government order. He wrote a book titled Civil Laws in Santals. It was pertaining to the justice administration in Santal Parganas but in it lies the provision of petition, both verbal and written, in Santali language. The

Santali language found the official place in judiciary. There were three duly registered translators in court so constituted. This is the first step of Santali language being admitted in judiciary. WE ARE IGNORING IT.

3. The few executive orders by which the officials including the IAS officers posted had to pass a competence of Santali language.

### B. In Education:

4. The teaching of Santali language in the school level started in colonial period. The Bihar School Education Board used to take the examination till matric level from mid fifties of the last century.
5. In West Bengal in a place called Bhimpur, in Midnapore district, there was a high school which started teaching Santali from 1925 up to the matric level. After Independence in 1948 when state education board was re-constituted, for the reason better known to the then Government of West Bengal, the facility for conducting examination in Santali language in that school was withdrawn. We are not aware of it.
6. The commencement of teaching in Santali language in Vishwa Bharti in 1977, Bhagalpur University, then in Ranchi University in 1983, then, Sido-Kanhu University all are milestones of growth and recognition of Santali language.

*(To be continued...)*

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