2nd National Tribal Literary Festival opens

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News

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Jual Oram inaugurated the second National Tribal Literary Festival at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, on 12 Nov 2026 (12–13 Nov), organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as part of the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Pakhwada. The inaugural session was also attended by MoS Durgadas Uikey, NITI Aayog member Dr Joram Aniya, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti chairman Chamu Krishna Shastri and Secretary Ranjana Chopra.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Festival	2nd edition; tribal literature, poetry, folklore, storytelling
Venue	India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
Organiser	Ministry of Tribal Affairs; part of the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Pakhwada
Sessions	Folklore, ritual songs, riddles, proverbs, oral epics; oral traditions in multilingual education

Background

- The Minister said the Ministry will work with the Sahitya Akademi and other bodies, and the festival will be held every year during the Pakhwada.

- Tribal literature is largely oral; the festival encourages young tribal writers to put oral traditions into writing. The Eighth Schedule includes tribal languages such as Santali (Ol Chiki script) and Bodo, added by the 92nd Constitutional Amendment (2003).
- Article 29(1) of the Constitution: any section of citizens with a distinct language, script or culture has the right to conserve it.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's six PVTGs are Toda, Kota, Kurumba, Irular, Paniyan and Kattunayakan; most groups are in the Nilgiris, while the Irular are also widespread in the northern districts (Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram).

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Festival: 2nd edition; tribal literature, poetry, folklore, storytelling; Venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi; Organiser: Ministry of Tribal Affairs; part of the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Pakhwada; Sessions: Folklore, ritual songs, riddles, proverbs, oral epics; oral traditions in multilingual education.

What is the background to this news?

The Minister said the Ministry will work with the Sahitya Akademi and other bodies, and the festival will be held every year during the Pakhwada.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which Union Minister inaugurated the 2nd National Tribal Literary Festival in New Delhi?

A) Arjun Munda

B) Jual Oram

C) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

D) Kiren Rijiju

Answer: B – Explanation: Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram opened it on 12 Nov 2026 at India Habitat Centre (12–13 Nov), as part of the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Pakhwada.

2. Santali was added to the Eighth Schedule by which Constitutional Amendment?

A) 71st

B) 92nd

C) 86th

D) 100th

Answer: B – Explanation: The 92nd Constitutional Amendment (2003) added four languages – Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santali – to the Eighth Schedule. Santali is written in the Ol Chiki script (Pandit Raghunath Murmu, 1925).

3. Which Article of the Constitution gives any section of citizens with a distinct language, script or culture the right to conserve it?

A) Article 29(1)

B) Article 30(1)

C) Article 350A

D) Article 46

Answer: A – Explanation: Article 29(1) protects the right to conserve a distinct language, script or culture; it covers tribal languages and scripts too. Art. 30(1) – right of minorities to set up and run educational institutions; Art. 350A – mother-tongue instruction at the primary stage; Art. 46 – promotion of the educational and economic interests of SCs, STs and other weaker sections.

4. At the 2nd National Tribal Literary Festival, the Union Minister said the Ministry of Tribal Affairs will work with which body?

A) NCERT

B) National Book Trust

C) Sahitya Akademi

D) ICHR

Answer: C – Explanation: The Ministry will work with the Sahitya Akademi (India's National Academy of Letters, 1954) and other bodies; the festival will be held every year during the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Pakhwada.

5. Which of these is NOT a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) of Tamil Nadu?

A) Toda

B) Kota

C) Bhil

D) Irular

Answer: C – Explanation: Tamil Nadu's 6 PVTGs: Toda, Kota, Kurumba, Irular, Paniyan, Kattunayakan. The Bhils live in Rajasthan, MP and Gujarat.

Sources: IANS via The Hans India (12 Nov 2026); Outlook Traveller (venue). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.