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National Conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums Opens at Mysuru

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SOCIAL ISSUES

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National Conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums Opens at Mysuru

25 August 2026 · 6 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

*The **National Conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums** ran at Mysuru, Karnataka from **August 24 to 26, 2026**, opening with a major upgrade to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs **Adi Vaani** platform. A **Mysuru Declaration** on tribal languages was scheduled for adoption and signing on **August 25**, and the conclave also held sessions on **Tribal Freedom Fighter Museums**.*

Ujjiyari could confirm from multiple sources that the Declaration was scheduled for adoption on August 25, but could not locate any post-event report confirming that the adoption took place. We therefore report it as scheduled rather than as completed, and will update this article once confirmation is available.

THE CONCLAVE

The conclave was organised by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** together with the **Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL)** and the **Karnataka State Tribal Research Institute**, and drew **over 150 participants**.

DAY	OUTCOME
August 24	Inaugurated by Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey; release of Karnataka Primers in tribal languages; MoU between the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and CIIL for language documentation and corpus building; launch of the Jago AI bot; major Adi Vaani upgrade
August 25	Mysuru Declaration scheduled for adoption and signing; sessions on Tribal Freedom Fighter Museums

The Adi Vaani Upgrade

Adi Vaani is the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' AI-based translation and preservation platform for tribal languages. It was developed in collaboration with **IIT Delhi**, **IIIT Naya Raipur**, **IIIT Hyderabad**, **IIIT Dharwad** and **Bhashini**.

- **Initial languages:** Santali, Bhili, Mundari and Gondi

- **August 2026 upgrade:** a new **iOS application**, **five new languages**, a new logo and the **Jago** AI bot

THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

INDICATOR	FIGURE
Notified Scheduled Tribes in India	705
ST population (Census 2011)	10.43 crore, or 8.6 per cent
Languages identified by the People's Linguistic Survey of India (2010)	Approximately 780
Indian languages listed as endangered by UNESCO	197, the highest for any country
Languages in the Eighth Schedule	22

The gap between roughly 780 languages spoken and 22 in the Eighth Schedule is the structural heart of the issue. Constitutional recognition, official use and educational infrastructure follow scheduling, and the overwhelming majority of tribal languages sit outside it.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Language Rights

PROVISION	CONTENT
Article 29	Protection of the interests of minorities, including the right to conserve a distinct language, script or culture
Article 350A	Facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage
Article 350B	Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities
Eighth Schedule	Lists 22 recognised languages

Tribal Governance

PROVISION	CONTENT
Article 342	Presidential notification of Scheduled Tribes
Article 244 with the Fifth and Sixth Schedules	Administration of Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas
Article 275(1)	Grants-in-aid to States for tribal welfare; funds Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

CIIL

The **Central Institute of Indian Languages** is located at **Mysuru**, was established in **1969**, and functions under the **Ministry of Education**. It runs the **Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages (SPPEL)**, which makes it the natural institutional partner for this conclave.

TRIBAL FREEDOM FIGHTER MUSEUMS

The Tribal Freedom Fighter Museums programme flows from the wider effort to recover tribal contributions to the freedom struggle. Its anchoring observance is **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**, observed on **November 15**, the birth anniversary of **Birsa Munda**, instituted in **2021**. **2025 was declared Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh**, marking Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary.

The histories these museums address include:

MOVEMENT OR FIGURE	PERIOD
Tilka Manjhi's resistance	1780s
Santhal Hul	1855-56
Birsa Munda's Ulgulan	1899-1900
Alluri Sitarama Raju's Rampa Rebellion	1922-24
Rani Gaidinliu's Heraka movement	1930s

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Language loss is a development problem, not a cultural footnote. Children taught in a language they do not speak at home account for a substantial share of tribal dropout and learning poverty. This is the operational reason the Mysuru Declaration matters: multilingual education at the primary stage is the

mechanism that converts language preservation into measurable educational outcomes. **NEP 2020** mandates mother-tongue or local-language medium at least until Grade 5, and preferably until Grade 8.

Technology documents, but it does not transmit. Adi Vaani, Bhashini and chatbot interfaces can scale documentation, translation and corpus building enormously. What they cannot create is **intergenerational transmission**. A language with a complete digital corpus and no children speaking it is preserved as a record, not sustained as a language. The decisive variable is whether a child learns it from a parent, and no platform supplies that.

Museums carry a representational risk. Tribal Freedom Fighter Museums can either recover genuinely suppressed histories of resistance, or freeze living communities into exhibits, presenting tribal identity as historical rather than contemporary. **Community curation**, meaning that the represented community controls the narrative, is the safeguard that distinguishes the two outcomes.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 1 (Indian Society): Salient features of Indian society; diversity of India; effects of globalisation on Indian society.

GS Paper 2 (Governance): Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections; mechanisms, laws and institutions for the protection of Scheduled Tribes.

Prelims focus: CIIL's location, founding year and parent ministry; Articles 29, 350A, 350B, 342 and 275(1); number of notified STs and ST population share; Adi Vaani's initial four languages; Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.

Mains angle: The strongest framing is that **language policy is education policy**. Argue that the Mysuru Declaration's value depends entirely on whether it translates into trained tribal-language teachers in primary classrooms, and note the limits of a technology-led preservation strategy.

Way forward: Implement NEP 2020's mother-tongue **mandate** with a trained cadre of tribal-language teachers; expand SPPEL funding; standardise scripts for unwritten languages with community consent; ensure community curation of museums; and consider a dedicated statutory framework for endangered language protection.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

THE CONCLAVE:

National Conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums, Mysuru, Karnataka, August 24 to 26, 2026

Inaugurated by Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey

Mysuru Declaration scheduled for adoption: August 25, 2026 (adoption not independently confirmed at the time of writing)

Organisers: Ministry of Tribal Affairs, CIIL, Karnataka State Tribal Research Institute

Over 150 participants

ADI VAANI:

AI-based tribal language translation and preservation platform of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Partners: IIT Delhi, IIIT Naya Raipur, IIIT Hyderabad, IIIT Dharwad, Bhashini

Initial languages: Santali, Bhili, Mundari, Gondi

August 2026 upgrade: iOS app, five new languages, new logo, Jago AI bot

CIIL:

Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru; established 1969

Under the Ministry of Education; runs the Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages (SPPEL)

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS:

Article 29: conservation of distinct language, script, culture

Article 350A: mother-tongue instruction at primary stage

Article 350B: Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities

Article 342: notification of Scheduled Tribes

Article 275(1): grants-in-aid; funds Eklavya Model Residential Schools

Eighth Schedule: 22 languages

DATA:

705 notified Scheduled Tribes

ST population: 10.43 crore, 8.6 per cent (Census 2011)

People's Linguistic Survey of India (2010): approximately 780 languages

UNESCO: 197 endangered Indian languages, the highest of any country

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas: November 15, birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, instituted 2021

2025 declared Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh, Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary

NEP 2020: mother-tongue or local-language medium at least till Grade 5, preferably till Grade 8

Sources: Ministry of Tribal Affairs, PIB, CIIL

Source: National Conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums Opens at Mysuru — Ujjayi.com | Free UPSC & State
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KEY TERM

Anganwadi

A government-run village-level child care and mother care centre under...



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