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SUB-DOMAIN: 8. LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND COGNITION

PANEL TITLE: SANTAL CULTURE AND SOCIETY AS REFLECTED IN LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

Santal is the 3rd largest tribal group in India. It has its own language and culture. Its language is Santali and is recognised as under the 8th schedule of the constitution of India. Santals have enriched cultural and linguistic tradition and closely knit social system. There is a vast body of literature on the community that provides glimpses into its historicity, journey, and struggles. Initially, the Santali literature was written by missionaries around 1850. Their mandate was to propagate their faith, but when they come close to the Santali community, they found that the community had a rich repository of cultural traditions and well-knit social system, and a prolific language. It was then that they focused on writing about Santali folklore, songs, and the livelihood practises of the community. This subsequently resulted in vast body of texts on santal culture, rituals, worship, festival, folktale, and folksong and many more aspects by both Santali and non-Santal writers. This panel proposes to collate this knowledge and invites veteran and young anthropologists to share their understanding of rich Santal traditions.

Keywords: Santal, Society, Culture, Literature, Santali authors.

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