



Poet Sarala Das

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Why in News

The Vice President addressed **Odia Adikabi Sarala Das's** 600th birth anniversary function in Cuttack.

Sarala Das was one of the great scholars of **Odia literature**.

Key Points

- He was the **first scholar who wrote his works in Odia in 15th century A.D.**
- Best known for three Odia books, **Mahabharata, Vilanka Ramayana and Chandi Purana.**
- He also wrote the book **Laxmi Narayana Vachanika.**
- He started writing his Mahabharata in the **reign of Kapileswar, otherwise known as Kapilendra, the famous Gajapati king of Odisha (AD 1435–67).**

Odia Language

- Oldest of the eastern group of the **Indo-Aryan family**, Odia is derived from **Ardhamagadhi Prakrit.**
- Odia is one of the six languages that got **Classical Status in India.**
- A language officially **“scheduled,”** in the **Indian constitution.**
- It is also the **main official language of the Indian state of Odisha.**

Source: PIB