



drishti

Promotion and Protection of Maithili

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The Ministry of Human Resource Development has decided to apply some of the recommendations of a committee constituted in 2018 for the **promotion and protection of Maithili language and its scripts**.

The accepted recommendations include:

- **Establishment of a script and manuscript centre in Darbhanga** either at Kameshwar Singh Sanskrit University or Lalit Narayan Mithila University,
- Early **completion of work pertaining to Unicode scripts of Mithilakshar** by the Technology Development of Indian Languages and
- Preparation of **audio-visual materials for teaching the Mithilakshar scripts**.

Mithilakshar Script of Maithili Language

- **Mithilakshar** or **Tirhuta** is the script of broader cultural Mithila.
- **Mithilakshar, Bangla, Assamese, Nebari, Odia** and **Tibetan** are a part of the same family of scripts.
- It is an **ancient script** and is one of the scripts of the broader North Eastern India.
- Mithilakshar script emerged during 10th Century AD as its oldest form was found in **Sahodara stone inscriptions of 950 AD**.
- The script has been used throughout Mithila from **Champanan to Deoghar**.
- The use of this **script has been declining since the last 100 years**, which is the primary reason for the cultural decline.

Maithili Language

- Maithili is a language spoken in **Bihar** belonging to the **eastern sub-group of the Indo-Aryan branch**. **Bhojpuri** and **Magadhi** are closely related to the language.
- The language is claimed to have developed from the **Magadhan Prakrit**.
- It was the literary language of all of eastern India during the medieval period.
- This language was popularised in fourteenth century by poet **Vidyapati** and solidified

the importance of the language in literature.

- Maithili language has been accorded Constitutional status in 2003 and it became **one of the 22 languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.**