

# Adivasi languages translation app to be launched tomorrow

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The beta version of Aadi Vaani, a translation model based on artificial intelligence for Adivasi languages, will be released on Monday, officials said.

The application will be tested by the Tribal Affairs Ministry as part of the Adi Karmayogi initiative for capacity-building in tribal districts across India.

Under development by the Ministry for a little over a year now, the app will be launched with capabilities to translate Bhili (Bhil language), Mundari (Munda), Gondi (Gond), Santali (Santal), Kui (Kandha), and Garo (Garo), officials said. It will help translate speech and text in Hindi and English to these languages and vice versa.

Officials said the Ministry had been building a database of sentences in each of these languages with the help of experts. Each language had a database of over one lakh sentences.

Resource persons from tribal research institutes across the country, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, and the Indian Institutes of Information Technology in Hyderabad and Naya Raipur, have developed the app.

The database has been built by identifying experts who read, speak, and write these languages. They include school teachers, professors, researchers, and community leaders from the regions where these languages are spoken.



The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will test the app across the country.

Among the six languages, Bhili (or Bhilodi) is the most commonly spoken, according to the 2011 Census, which recorded over

1.04 crore speakers of it in India, most of them in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.

This is followed by Santali, which is spoken by about 73.68 lakh people mostly in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, and Assam; Gondi, spoken by 29.84 lakh largely in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra; and Mundari by about 11.28 lakh concentrated in Jharkhand and Odisha. Kui is spoken by around 9.41 lakh mostly in Odisha; and Garo by about 11.45 lakh people mostly in Meghalaya and Assam.

Ministry officials said that to begin with, the app had used publicly available content to train the model. Content included Adivasi folklore and traditional songs and speeches of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Senior officials in the Ministry said the Adi Karmayogi initiative would be the ideal testing ground for the app. "Through the wide use during the workshops and training exercises part of Adi Karmayogi, the corpus of each language will increase and the large language model's performance will improve," an official said.

The beta version will be made available on Google's Play Store and Apple's App Store. "The nature of LLMs is such that it will only get better with more use as more data is fed into it," the official said.

Officials who worked on the app's development said that a major challenge was to find an adequate number of experts as the task of

recording audio and writing the language's script for the app's database was "time-consuming".

A Ministry official said the application had been put through "international standards for testing accuracy of translations", and that it had "more than met the requirements for accuracy" so far. The government intended to use the app widely during the Adi Karmayogi initiative, through which the Ministry is targeting capacity-building of about 20 lakh volunteers, village officials, and community leaders across one lakh tribal villages.

"There will also be a specific feedback mechanism on Adi Karmayogi portals to report on the usage of the Aadi Vaani app, and the app, of course, will also have one," the official said.