



Santali cinema

Santali cinema, also known as **Sollywood**, has its presence in the Indian states of Jharkhand and Orissa, and parts of Nepal (especially Jhapa District and Morang District), where Santals live. Santali films are made in the Santali language.

History

The history of Santali cinema seems to be little unknown or disputed. Before 2000, most of the Santali films were simultaneously or partially re-shot with Bengali films. Or many Bengali films were dubbed and released in Santali, which continue to this day. The chapter of Santali cinema began in the 1980s, when few Santali films were commercially successful at regional level. While Santali cinema may not have gained mainstream popularity compared to other regional film industries in India, it plays a significant role in representing and preserving the cultural diversity of the Santali community. The industry continues to evolve, and with increasing access to technology and platforms, Santali filmmakers have more opportunities to reach a wider audience and promote their unique stories and perspectives.

Santali cinema has not been able to create an identity as a film industry like most other cinemas in India. Every year about 8 to 10 films are made and released directly, on CDs only. None of them are released in cinema halls, due to low budget and minimal support from state government in development of the cinema. Music albums are preferred over video films, as the budget is very low and production cost is easily recovered. The number of these ranges from 10 to 20.

Santali cinema has a good scope in the states of Jharkhand and Odisha the majority of its viewers reside in these regions. Although some initiatives have been taken to support Santali cinema,^{[2][3]} allowing it to prosper, only three films managed to make it to the big screen as of 2013: *Chando Likhon*,^{[4][5][6][7]} which was released in 2001, was the first film to be made on 35 mm movie film; second in this series was *Sagun Ena*

Cinema of Jharkhand



| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| No. of screens | 2 (2007)^[1] |
| • Per capita | 0.1 per 100,000 (2007)^[1] |
| Produced feature films (2014) | |
| Total | 110 |
| Gross box office (2010) | |
| Total | ₹150 million |

Sohag Dular (2003),^[8] which was loosely based on the 1982 Bollywood film *Nadiya Ke Paar*; *Jewee Jurie (Life Partner)* (2009)^{[9][10]} was produced by SBT Movie Craft and released widely in the states of Jharkhand, Odisha, and others. *Bonodal (The Change)* (2016),^{[11][12][13][14][15][16][17][18]} Nepal's first historic Santali feature film, was produced and directed by Kiran Khatiwada.^{[19][20][21][22]}

In 2008, first international platform for Santali films was launched in Jamshedpur by Dashrath Hansda.^[23] On the same year, RASCA launched a website.^[24] As there is no film development corporation in Jharkhand, the Santali film industry is in an unremarkable position, and due to this, films and music albums are made less in number and distributed inefficiently, due to cost and other reasons. In Jharkhand, Dhanbad, Jamshedpur and their surroundings, don't have proper cinema halls and ticket prices are very low compared to multiplexes all over India. So releasing a film in cinema halls is not very profitable.

Actors and actresses

= Actors

- Ravi Hansda (Known as 'Prem da')
- Dasharath Hansda
- Prem Mardi
- Surendra Tudu
- Babun Mandi
- Lakhan Soren
- Rajuraj Biruli
- Somra Soren (Hero, Villain & Comedian. Known as 'Shankar Dada')
- Late Bikram Marandi (Comedy king of Santali film industry. Known as 'Thopong Tudu')
- Karunakar Soren
- Umesh Mardi
- Raj Dada
- Vimal Kumar Saha
- Lakhan Murmu
- Satyam Hansda
- Romeo Baskey
- Priyo Hembram

- Deepak Kumar Hembram
- Pankaj Murmu
- Rakesh
- Rajendra Soren
- Deepak Singh Bari
- Fulchand Baskey
- Sagun Singal Hansda
- Birsa Hansda
- Ramraj Hansda

Actress

- Dagar Tudu
 - Preeti Bala Soren
 - Mariyam Hembram
- Malho Mardi
 - Birbha Hansdah

Directors

- Dashrath Hansda
 - Seral Murmu
 - Mansingh Baskey
-

Films

- *Sondhayni* (2019)
 - *Chando Likhon* (2001)
 - *Sabarnaka Surubuli* (2013)
 - *Godom Hadam Cycle* (2019)
 - *Dare oka ko seno kan?* (*Where do the trees go?* (2025)
- *Jewrie Jewrie* (2009)
 - *Suluk* (2013)
 - *Arjun* (2019)

Santali films

- *Sondhayni* (2019) – directed by Seral Murmu
- *Raawah* (2017) – directed by Seral Murmu
- *Godom Hadam Cycle* (2019) – directed by Mansingh Baskey
- *Dare oka ko seno kan?* (where do the trees go?) (2025) directed by Mansingh Baskey
- *Chando Likhon* (*The Script Of God*) (2001) – first film to be made on 35 mm film^{[25][26]}
- *Hai Re Aree Chali* (*Alas! Our Customs*) (2004)^{[5][27]}
- *Jewee Jurie* (2009)
- *Sita Nala Re Sagun Supari* – screened at the second edition of Nepal International Indigenous Film Festival, 2008^{[28][29][30]}
- *Poran Porayni*^[31]
- *Bir Manani*^[32]
- *Sabarnaka Surubali* (2018)
- *Karo Kuili* (2018)
- *Mogod Dulaar* (Love Unexpressed) (2009)
- *Aamge Sari Dulariya* (2012)
- *Bardu* (2014)
- *Sagai* (2014) – directed by Raj Lakhan
- *Suluk* (2013)^[33]
- *Arjun* (2019) – directed by Reema Noopur
- *Sona Miru* (2022)^[34]
- *Bonodal* (*The Change*) (2016) – directed and produced by Kiran Khatiwada;^{[19][35][36][22]} Nepal's first historic Santali feature film
- *Kiryo* (2012) – directed by Sibaji Baskey ^[37]

References

1. "Table 8: Cinema Infrastructure - Capacity" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20181224225516/data.uis.unesco.org/?ReportId=5542>). UNESCO Institute for Statistics. Archived from the original (<http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=5542>) on 24 December 2018. Retrieved 5 November 2013.
2. "Santali films not getting government help: AISFA - PTI" (http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/wire-news/santali-films-not-getting-government-help-aisfa_667637.html). moneycontrol.com. 14 February 2012. Retrieved September 27, 2013.
3. "Santali films not getting government help: AISFA - Itvnewsindia.com" (<http://www.itvnewsindia.com/santali-films-not-getting-government-help-aisfa>). itvnewsindia.com. Retrieved September 27, 2013.
4. "Chando Likhon (2001)" (<http://www.nthwall.com/sa/8432100002>). nthwall.com. Retrieved September 27, 2013.
5. "'Santhals set for film debut'" (https://web.archive.org/web/20040326020213/http://www.telegraphindia.com/1031229/asp/siliguri/story_2728539.asp). *The Telegraph (Calcutta)*. December 29, 2003. Archived from the original (http://www.telegraphindia.com/1031229/asp/siliguri/story_2728539.asp) on March 26, 2004. Retrieved 28 September 2013. "...The 30-something Marandi, who played the role of director, producer and cinematographer of the first full-fledged Santhali feature film Haire Aricheli (alas! our customs), could barely contain his excitement while speaking about his dream project at a press conference today. ...An ardent Amitabh Bachhan admirer and a die-hard Mahesh Bhatt fan, Marandi already has a band of loyal followers among Santhals. His first offering, Chando Likhon (the script of god) was a huge success in Santhal-dominated areas in eastern India."
6. "'Bigger Santhali film fest'" (https://web.archive.org/web/20131227030412/http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120318/jsp/jharkhand/story_15262778.jsp). *The Telegraph (Calcutta)*. March 18, 2012. Archived from the original (http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120318/jsp/jharkhand/story_15262778.jsp) on December 27, 2013. Retrieved September 28, 2013. "The AISFA special award will be given jointly to Bengali filmmaker Umesh Mardi and late actress Malho Mardi, who earned acclaim for her performance in Chando Likhon (first Santhali film made in 35mm). Malho, a resident of Baridih, died recently after sustaining burn injuries at her residence."
7. "'Santhali film stars feted'" (https://web.archive.org/web/20140309020014/http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120416/jsp/jharkhand/story_15376752.jsp). *The Telegraph (Calcutta)*. April 16, 2012. Archived from the original (http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120416/jsp/jharkhand/story_15376752.jsp) on March 9, 2014. Retrieved September 28, 2013. "Bengali film-maker Umesh Mardi and late actress Malho Mardi, who earned acclaim for her performance in Chando Likhon (first Santhali film made in 35mm), were jointly honoured with the AISFA special award."
8. "'Soren's celluloid party'" (https://web.archive.org/web/20150712105343/http://www.telegraphindia.com/1031103/asp/jamshedpur/story_2528403.asp). *The Telegraph (Calcutta)*. November 3, 2003. Archived from the original (http://www.telegraphindia.com/1031103/asp/jamshedpur/story_2528403.asp) on July 12, 2015. Retrieved September 28, 2013. "The premier of the Santhali film, "Saguna Ena Suhag Dulare (The victory of true love)" at Rajendra Auditorium today was star-studded event with JMM chief Sibu Soren among the audience."

9. " 'Santali film to be released soon' " (<https://web.archive.org/web/20091009002553/http://www.hindu.com/2009/03/03/stories/2009030350370200.htm>). *The Hindu*. Mar 3, 2009. Archived from the original (<http://www.hindu.com/2009/03/03/stories/2009030350370200.htm>) on October 9, 2009. Retrieved 28 September 2013. "...Much to the cheer and excitement of the large Santali tribal population of the State, Orissa will have its first full-length feature film in Santali language soon."
10. " 'Orissa celluloid salute to Santhali' " (https://web.archive.org/web/20150712044018/http://www.telegraphindia.com/1090309/jsp/nation/story_10645878.jsp). *The Telegraph (Calcutta)*. March 9, 2009. Archived from the original (http://www.telegraphindia.com/1090309/jsp/nation/story_10645878.jsp) on July 12, 2015. Retrieved 28 September 2013. "...Jewee Jurie, a love story written by Pratima Hota, is scheduled for release sometime in October."
11. Naaiky (2019-08-02). "BONODAL Officially Selected in Everest International Film Festival 2019" (<https://www.inspiremediaph.com/bonodal-officially-selected-in-everest-international-film-festival-2019/>). *Inspire Media Production House*. Retrieved 2021-01-07.
12. Naaiky (2020-01-31). "Best Debut Director Award Won By Mr. Kiran Khatiwada" (<https://www.inspiremediaph.com/best-debut-director-award-won-by-mr-kiran-khatiwada/>). *Inspire Media Production House*. Retrieved 2021-01-07.
13. पाठ, नागरिक १५ चैत्र २०७३ १ मिनेट. "झारखण्ड फेस्टिवलमा 'बोनोदल' " (<https://nagariknews.nagariknetwork.com/arts/119081-1490667960.html>). *nagariknews.nagariknetwork.com* (in Nepali). Retrieved 2021-01-08.
14. "यस्तो छ सतार जातीमाथि बनेको पहिलो चलचित्र" (<https://www.onlinekhabar.com/2016/11/504843>). *Online Khabar*. Retrieved 2021-01-08.
15. "अति सीमान्तकृत आदिवासी सन्थालको कथामा बन्यो 'बोनोदल', ट्रेलर सार्वजनिक" (<https://pahilopost.com/content/-23563.html>). *pahilopost.com*. Retrieved 2021-01-08.
16. " 'बोनोदल' मा सन्थालको कथा" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210108143051/https://www.cinekhabar.com/archives/6706>). *Cine Khabar*. 2016-11-23. Archived from the original (<https://www.cinekhabar.com/archives/6706>) on 2021-01-08. Retrieved 2021-01-08.
17. खबर, ब्लाष्ट. "सन्थाल भाषामा चलचित्र बन्ने" (<https://www.blastkhabar.com/news/2016/05/01/1340.html>). *Blast Khabar* (in Nepali). Retrieved 2021-01-08.
18. "नेपालमा पहिलो पटक सन्थाल जातिको चलचित्र 'बोनोदल' निर्माण हुने" (<https://www.kochilanews.com/?p=663>). *KochilaNews*. 2016-05-01. Retrieved 2021-01-08.
19. "Khatiwada to direct Bollywood film" (<https://kathmandupost.com/entertainment/2018/06/14/khatiwada-to-direct-bollywood-film>). *kathmandupost.com*. Retrieved 2021-01-08.
20. "Nepali director Khatiwada set to make first Hindi feature film" (<http://s://nepalireporter.com/2018/05/245960>). *Reporters Nepal*. 2018-05-24. Retrieved 2021-01-08.
21. Naaiky (2019-12-19). "Kiran Khatiwada was honored with 'SUBHAKAMANA PATRA' " (<https://www.inspiremediaph.com/kiran-khatiwada-was-honored-with-subhakamana-patra/>). *Inspire Media Production House*. Retrieved 2021-01-08.
22. "सन्थाली भाषाको 'बोनोदल' देखि हिन्दी फिल्मसम्म" (<http://archive.nayapatrika.com/2018/07/26/75718/>). *Naya Patrika*. 2018-07-26. Retrieved 2021-01-08.
23. "First international platform for Santhali film - Dashrath Hansdah's award-winning work to be screened at Nepal festival for indigenous movies - Telegraph India" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20221003184202/https://www.telegraphindia.com/jharkhand/first-international-platform-for-santhali-film-dashrath-hansdah-s-award-winning-work-to-be-screened-at-nepal-festival-for-indigenous-movies/cid/582742>). Archived from the original (<https://www.telegraphindia.com/jharkhand/first-international-platform-for-santhali-film-dashrath-hansdah-s-award-winning-work-to-be-screened-at-nepal-festival-for-indigenous-movies/cid/582742>) on 2022-10-03. Retrieved 2025-01-16.
24. "Santhali film site, awards on cards - Telegraph India" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20240603135453/https://www.telegraphindia.com/jharkhand/santhali-film-site-awards-on-cards/cid/593837>). Archived from the original (<https://www.telegraphindia.com/jharkhand/santhali-film-site-awards-on-cards/cid/593837>) on 2024-06-03. Retrieved 2025-01-16.

25. " 'Bigger Santhali film fest' " (https://web.archive.org/web/20131227030412/http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120318/jsp/jharkhand/story_15262778.jsp). *The Telegraph (Calcutta)*. March 18, 2012. Archived from the original (http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120318/jsp/jharkhand/story_15262778.jsp) on December 27, 2013. Retrieved September 28, 2013. "The AISFA special award will be given jointly to Bengali filmmaker Umesh Mardi and late actress Malho Mardi, who earned acclaim for her performance in Chando Likhon (first Santhali film made in 35mm). Malho, a resident of Baridih, died recently after sustaining burn injuries at her residence."
26. " 'Santhali film stars feted ' " (https://web.archive.org/web/20140309020014/http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120416/jsp/jharkhand/story_15376752.jsp). *The Telegraph (Calcutta)*. April 16, 2012. Archived from the original (http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120416/jsp/jharkhand/story_15376752.jsp) on March 9, 2014. Retrieved September 28, 2013. "Bengali film-maker Umesh Mardi and late actress Malho Mardi, who earned acclaim for her performance in Chando Likhon (first Santhali film made in 35mm), were jointly honoured with the AISFA special award."
27. " 'Creative leap for steel city actor' " (https://web.archive.org/web/20131227030517/http://www.telegraphindia.com/1121211/jsp/jharkhand/story_16301366.jsp). *The Telegraph (Calcutta)*. December 11, 2012. Archived from the original (http://www.telegraphindia.com/1121211/jsp/jharkhand/story_16301366.jsp) on December 27, 2013. Retrieved September 28, 2013. "...Madhvendra who is interested in promoting young talents from Jamshedpur, organised career counselling programmes for aspirants from steel city willing to try their luck in cinema in 2003 and 2004. He has also financed two Santhali films, Sagun Ena Suhag Dulad and Hai Re Aree Chaili in 2004."
28. " 'First international platform for Santhali film- Dashrath Hansdah's award-winning work to be screened at Nepal festival for indigenous movies ' " (https://web.archive.org/web/20080606222601/http://www.telegraphindia.com/1080531/jsp/jharkhand/story_9345006.jsp). *The Telegraph (Calcutta)*. May 31, 2008. Archived from the original (http://www.telegraphindia.com/1080531/jsp/jharkhand/story_9345006.jsp) on June 6, 2008. Retrieved September 28, 2013. "For the first time, a Santhali movie is going to be screened at an international film festival. Sitanala Re Sagun Supari, which won an award at the Santhali Film Fare festival, would be screened at the second edition of Nepal International Indigenous Film Festival, between June 5 and 8."
29. " 'Santhali film a huge hit' " (<http://in.news.yahoo.com/santhali-film-huge-hit-220148775.html>). *yahoo.com*. September 15, 2012. Retrieved September 28, 2013. " "Ranchi is not a Santhal belt. So yes, I had not expected such an overwhelming response to my film," said Dasharath Hansda, director of Sita Nala Re Sagun Supari (Santhali), which was screened at the small hall of Sujata cinema to a packed house in the morning."
30. " 'Santhali film a huge hit' " (https://web.archive.org/web/20150712094957/http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120915/jsp/jharkhand/story_15976706.jsp). *The Telegraph (Calcutta)*. September 15, 2012. Archived from the original (http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120915/jsp/jharkhand/story_15976706.jsp) on July 12, 2015. Retrieved September 28, 2013. " "Ranchi is not a Santhal belt. So yes, I had not expected such an overwhelming response to my film," said Dasharath Hansda, director of Sita Nala Re Sagun Supari (Santhali), which was screened at the small hall of Sujata cinema to a packed house in the morning."

31. " 'Despite rain, rival film galas shine' " (https://web.archive.org/web/20131227030529/http://www.telegraphindia.com/1110506/jsp/jharkhand/story_13945913.jsp). *The Telegraph (Calcutta)*. May 6, 2011. Archived from the original (http://www.telegraphindia.com/1110506/jsp/jharkhand/story_13945913.jsp) on December 27, 2013. Retrieved September 28, 2013. " "I have been a part of this award ceremony after a gap of two years and now I have bagged an award which proves my calibre in acting. Since there are two award ceremonies simultaneously on tonight, I am also expecting a recognition at Jharkhand Cine Award," smiled Geetam Hansda, a comedian who won an award for Santhali film Poran Porayni at RASCA."
32. " 'Mumbai calls Santhali films' " (https://web.archive.org/web/20131227030513/http://www.telegraphindia.com/1110730/jsp/jharkhand/story_14306651.jsp). July 30, 2011. Archived from the original (http://www.telegraphindia.com/1110730/jsp/jharkhand/story_14306651.jsp) on December 27, 2013. Retrieved September 28, 2013. " "We'll select films in August and screen them between October and December. We may also take few actors to interact with the audience," Hasdah added. Favourite picks are Bir Manani and Amar Tangi Nind Tangi. Stars such as Dasrath Hansda, Surendra Tuddu and Pintu Soren are favourites among tribals."
33. "Movierulz 2024" (<https://movierulz.com.in/>). *Movierulz*.
34. "जब सांसदले फिल्ममा डायलग दिए ..." (<https://thahakhabar.com/news/3255/>) *Thaha Khabar*. Retrieved 2021-01-08.
35. "Winner – 1 Season – Everest International Film Festival" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210109225145/https://www.everestfilmfest.com/winner-1-season/>). Archived from the original (<https://www.everestfilmfest.com/winner-1-season/>) on 2021-01-09. Retrieved 2021-01-07.
36. Naaiky (2020-01-31). "Best Debut Director Award Won By Mr. Kiran Khatiwada" (<https://www.inspiremediaph.com/best-debut-director-award-won-by-mr-kiran-khatiwada/>). *Inspire Media Production House*. Retrieved 2021-01-07.
37. "Vedu App" (<https://veduapp.co.in/>). *veduapp.co.in*.

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Santali_cinema&oldid=1289375626"