



Ministry of Culture
Government of India



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Regional Centre, Ranchi

in collaboration with

Department of English Studies CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF JHARKHAND

Cordially invite you to a

TWO-DAYS CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY – 2026

Mother Tongues in a Globalised World: Challenges and Possibilities

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Satyaketu Sankrit

Dean (Acad.)

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi

Chief Guest

Prof. Sarang Medhekar

Vice-Chancellor

Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi

Coordinators

Dr. Kumar Sanjay Jha

(Regional Director, IGNC A RC-Ranchi)

Dr. Sudhanshu Shekhar

(Assistant Professor,
Dept. of English Studies, CUJ)

Date **26-27** February
2026

Time: 10:30 AM

Venue:

Central University of Jharkhand
Ranchi

Programme Schedule

Day 1- Offline Session: 26 February 2026

Day 2- Online Session: 27 February 2026

Scan Me



For Joining 2nd day session

Webinar ID: 954 9189 5207 | Passcode: 12345



Ministry of Culture
Government of India



कला यस्मिन् प्रतिष्ठिताः
इन्दिरा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Day One – 26 February 2026

Offline Session

Keynote Speaker:

Prof. Satyaketu Sankrit

Dean, School of Letters

Dr B.R. Ambedkar University, Delhi

Plenary Speakers

Shri Mahadev Toppo

Expert in Tribal Languages

Dr. Dayamanti Sinku

Assistant Professor, Department of
Ho Language, Ranchi University

Smt. Parul Sharma

Education Head, UNICEF (Jharkhand)

Dr. Kamal K. Bose

Former HoD, Hindi Department
St. Xavier's College, Ranchi

Dr Vinod Kumar

Head, Department of Tribal and
Regional Languages, DSPMU, Ranchi

Dr Kumari Urvashi

Assistant Professor, Department of
Hindi, Ranchi Women's College

Day Two – 27 February 2026

Online Session

Plenary Speakers

Dr. Arun Ghosh

Expert on Santali Linguistic
ethno-Linguistic & Munda Languages

Dr Hari Madhav Ray

Assistant Professor, Centre for
Linguistics, JNU, Delhi

Dr Mahesh M

Associate Professor, Department of
English and Foreign Languages,
Faculty of Engineering & Technology,
Kattankulathur, Chennai

Dr M. Ramakrishnan

Assistant Professor, DATS, CUJ

Dr. Sujoy Sarkar

Officer-in-Charge, SPELL, CIIL, Mysore

Shri Pramod Kumar Jha

Former Director, Ranchi Doordarshan
Jharkhand



ignca.gov.in



outreach.ignca@gmail.com



IGNCA



ignca_delhi



Ministry of Culture
Government of India



National Seminar (Call for Papers) on 'Mother Tongues in a Globalised World: Challenges and Opportunities'
(26 and 27 February, 2026)

International Mother Language Day, observed globally on 21 February and formally recognised by UNESCO since 2000, underscores the vital role of linguistic diversity, multilingualism, and intercultural dialogue in fostering peace and mutual understanding. In an era marked by rapid globalisation, the protection and promotion of mother tongues assume renewed urgency, particularly in multilingual societies such as India.

Jharkhand, characterised by its remarkable linguistic plurality, is home to numerous indigenous communities whose languages belong to the Austroasiatic, Dravidian, and Indo-Aryan families. As institutions located within this culturally vibrant region, the Central University of Jharkhand and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Ranchi, bear an intellectual and ethical responsibility to foreground the significance of mother tongues in education, research, and public discourse.

Globalisation operates as a paradoxical force. While increased mobility, digital technologies, and transnational exchanges have expanded opportunities for documentation and revitalisation, they have simultaneously intensified linguistic hierarchies, marginalising minority languages through processes of homogenisation and language shift. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, with its advocacy of mother-tongue-based multilingual education (MTB-MLE), acknowledges India's linguistic heterogeneity and affirms the pedagogical, cognitive, and cultural value of early education in the mother tongue. Such initiatives are crucial not only for academic success but also for sustaining linguistic justice and cultural continuity and achieving SDGs.

Language is more than a communicative system; it is a repository of collective memory, ecological knowledge, and lived experience. Indigenous languages of Jharkhand encode intricate understandings of land, biodiversity, agricultural practices, and community ethics. Their erosion signifies not merely linguistic decline but the loss of epistemic diversity and biocultural heritage. Ecological approaches to language highlight its adaptive, dynamic, and environmentally embedded nature, reinforcing the need to situate linguistic inquiry within broader socio-ecological frameworks.

This seminar seeks to critically examine the tensions between global communication and local linguistic sustainability, with particular attention to Jharkhand's multilingual realities. By bringing together scholars, writers, policymakers, and community practitioners, it aims to generate dialogue that foregrounds regional languages as sites of knowledge, collective wisdom, and ecological consciousness. Ultimately, the seminar aspires to contribute to a more inclusive, culturally grounded, and sustainable linguistic future. While priority will be accorded to research on the languages of Jharkhand, scholarly contributions engaging with any mother tongue or regional language of India are equally welcome.

Core Themes

- Mother Tongue and Education
- Mother Tongue and Cognition
- Language Endangerment and Documentation
- Technology and Artificial Intelligence
- Multilingualism
- Mother-Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE)
- Culture and Identity
- Field Notes and Ethnographic Reports
- Literature
- Folklore
- Translation
- Ecology
- Translanguaging
- Sign Language
- Psychology and Language
- Linguistic Human Rights
- Orality, Memory, and Performance Traditions of Jharkhand
- Accessible and Inclusive Linguistic Practice