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सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Education
Government of India



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PROGRAMME AGENDA

Celebrating International Mother Language Day- 2021 FOSTERING MULTILINGUALISM FOR INCLUSION IN EDUCATION AND SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR & VIRTUAL CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION 21st Feb-24th Feb, 2021

Organized by:
Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi
Ministry of Education, Government of India
BHASHAKRITI

Knowledge Partner: UNESCO New Delhi Office

DAY 1: 21st Feb, 2021

**INAUGURAL SESSION
11.00 A.M to 12.15 Noon**

11.00-11.07 A.M	Welcome Address	Shri Sanjay Dhotre, Hon'ble Minister of State for Education, Government of India.
11.07-11.15 A.M.	Address by Special Guest	Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, (Independent Charge) Government of India.
11.15-11.25 A.M.	Address by Guest of Honor	Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal, Hon'ble Education Minister, Ministry of Education, Government of India.
11.25-11.30 A.M.	Inauguration of International Virtual Calligraphy Exhibition.	Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice-President of India.
11.30-12.00 P.M.	Inaugural Address by Chief Guest	Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice-President of India.
12.00-12.05 P.M.	Vote of thanks	Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts(IGNCA)

DAY 2: 22nd Feb 2021

**INTRODUCTION SESSION
2.00P.M to 3.30 P.M**

2.00-2.15 P.M	Welcome and Introduction	Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh C. Gaur, Dean-IGNCA & Member UNESCO Global Task Force on Indigenous Languages.
2.15-2.35 P.M	Address by Guest of Honor	Mr. Omar Diop, Chief of the Education, UNESCO, New Delhi Cluster Office for Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, Nepal, the Maldives and Sri Lanka.
2.35-3.05 P.M	Keynote Address	Prof. Anvita Abbi, Eminent Linguist, Former Professor, JNU.
3.05-3.15 P.M	Introduction to Virtual Exhibition	Mr Rajeev Kumar, Calligrapher
3.15-3.25 P.M	Concluding Address	Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA
3.25-3.30PM	Vote of Thanks	Ms. Ritu Mathur, Founder-Bhashakriti

DAY 2: 22nd Feb 2021

**THEME 1: PRESERVING & PROMOTING MOTHER TONGUES
3.30 P.M to 6.00P.M**

Session 1: 3.30P.M to 4.30 P.M

Screening of Documentary Film “Dreaming of Words”: A Unique Directory Offers a Comparative Study of Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil and Telugu.

Chair: Ms. Nirupama Kotru, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India

Panelists:

Dr. Sreenivasarao, Secretary. Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi

Mr. Nandan, Director & Producer of the Documentary

Session Moderator: Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh C. Gaur, Dean- IGNCA & Member UNESCO Global Task Force on Indigenous Languages

Njattiyela Sreedharan, a fourth standard drop-out, compiles a dictionary connecting four Indian languages. Travelling across four states and doing extensive research, he spent twenty five years making the multilingual dictionary. This unique dictionary offers a comparative study of Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil and Telugu. 'Dreaming of Words' traces Sreedharan's life, work, love for languages and the struggles to get the dictionary published. The film also explores the linguistic and cultural diversity in India.

DAY 2: 22nd Feb 2021

Session 2: 4.30P.M to 5.30 P.M

“Preserving Languages through Documentation & Archiving”

Chair & Moderator: Prof. Ramesh C. Gaur, Dean, IGNC&A & Member UNESCO Global Task Force on Indigenous Languages

Panelists:

Prof. Shobhana L. Chelliah, Distinguished Research Professor & Associate Dean for R&D, University of North Texas, USA

Dr. David Peterson, Dartmouth College, USA, Calion

Ms. Shakuntala Mahanta, IIT-Gauhati

Dr Muhammad Zakaria, Graduate School of Language and Culture, Osaka University, Japan

As per UNESCO, there are more than 780 languages in India of which 220 languages have died in past 50 years and 197 are endangered. It is peoples’ right to freedom of expression and education in their mother tongue and to participate in public life using their languages. This is a prerequisite for the survival of indigenous languages many of which are currently on the verge of extinction. There is a great potential of digital technologies in supporting the use and preservation of such languages. NEP also emphasizes that all languages in India, and their associated arts and culture will be documented through a web-based platform in order to preserve endangered and all Indian languages and their associated rich local arts and culture.

DAY 2: 22nd Feb 2021

Session 3: 5.30 P.M to 6.00 P.M

“Sanskrit - India’s Soft Power”:

Talk by: Shri. Rajiv Malhotra, Founder-Infinity Foundation, USA.

Session Moderator: Ms. Ritu Mathur, Founder, Bhashakriti

Sanskrit has given many words to the global Vocabulary- Guru, Gyan, Yoga, Pandit, Avtar. This International Vocab represents India’s Soft power.

According to research, NASA claims that Sanskrit – the ancient Hindu language – is the most suitable language to develop computer programming for their Artificial Intelligence program.

Sanskrit is the Mother for many Languages. Sanskrit’s geographical influence is seen in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Tibet, China, Korea, and Japan. Although Sanskrit is mostly used today for religious and cultural rituals, many different languages can trace its roots back to this classic language. Its reach extends to countries such as India, China, Japan, Korea, Tibet, South East Asia, South Asia, Europe, and the United States.

DAY 3: 23rd Feb, 2021

THEME 2: MOTHER TONGUE & GLOBALIZATION
2.30 P.M to 5.00P.M

Session 1: 2.30 P.M to 4.00P.M

“Mother Tongue and New Education Policy”

Chair: Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, India

Panelists:

Dr. Atul Kothari, Secretary, Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas.

Dr. Balwant Shantilal Jani, Chancellor, Dr. Harisingh Gaur University, Sagar, M.P.

Dr. Dhashana Oza, SNTD University, Mumbai

Session Moderator: Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh C. Gaur, Dean, IGNC & Member UNESCO Global Task Force on Indigenous Languages

As per NEP, the mother tongue or local or regional language is to be the medium of instruction in all schools up to Class 5 (preferably till Class 8 and beyond). Sanskrit will be offered at all levels. However, the policy also says "no language will be imposed on any student". The NEP has recognised that unless the gap in the language of a child and that of the teacher is addressed, the universalization of literacy and education remains a challenge.

DAY 3: 23rd Feb, 2021

Session 2: 4.00 P.M to 5.00P.M

“Globalization and Mother Tongue”: Panel Discussion

Session Moderator: Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh C. Gaur, Dean, IGNC & Member UNESCO Global Task Force on Indigenous Languages

Panelist:

Mr. Yogendra Puranik, Tokyo Edogawa City Councilor, Japan

Dr. Marit Koves, University of Delhi

Mother Language plays a critical role in historical, political, economic, social, and cultural contexts however globalization’s impact on the world has made English as the lingua franca. Examples like Japan, France, Germany, Russia and China who have defied this and continued to prosper and become top economies of the world despite working in their Mother Language.

Day 4: 24th Feb 2021

THEME 3: LANGUAGE & SCRIPTS

3.00 P.M to 6.30P.M

Session 1: 3.00P.M - 4.00P.M: Screening of the Virtual Calligraphy Exhibition

Curator: Rajeev Kumar, Founder- Bhashakriti & Calligraphy Master

The relationship between language and culture is deeply rooted. Language and culture are intertwined. One cannot understand a culture without appreciating its language. Language allows you to interact and culture tells you how to do so.

Keeping this in mind we initiated a conversation with a few international calligraphers and in no time this initiative spread across the globe and became a movement... A movement to collaborate and celebrate & cherish the diversity of various mother tongues, indigenous languages, dialects, scripts and cultures.

First time in the world, the beauty of languages and cultures have been showcased on a common platform. You have calligraphy artworks in Sanskrit, Tamil, Greek, the oldest languages of the world to Afrikaans, world's youngest language to Serbian written in Cyrillic alphabet, Egyptian, Japanese written in Kanji, Arabic, German, Persian, Spanish, Korean, Mongolian and English. The stories of their cultures are beautifully reflected in their artworks.

Day 4: 24th Feb 2021

Session 2: 4.15 P.M to 5.00P.M

Session Moderator: Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh C. Gaur, Dean, IGNC&A & Member UNESCO Global Task Force on Indigenous Languages

“Story of the Devanagari Script”

Talk by: Rajeev Kumar, Founder- Bhashakriti & Calligraphy Master

The Devanagari script, used for writing Sanskrit and other Indian languages had evolved over a period of thousands of years. Devanagari, a development of Brahmi system of phonetics, is the only script which has specific signs (grapheme) for the phonetically arranged sounds of the human speech (phonemes), and it is flexible enough to write foreign sounds by attaching marks to the nearer grapheme. The Devanagari script is an important and widely used script of India. It is mainly used to write Hindi, Marathi, Nepali and Sanskrit languages. It also serves as an auxiliary script for other languages such as Punjabi, Sindhi and Kashmiri.

Day 4: 24th Feb 2021

Session 2: 5.00P.M to 6.00P.M

“Soul of the Language-Scripts”:

Session Moderator: Prof.(Dr.) Ramesh C. Gaur, Dean, IGNC& Member UNESCO Global Task Force on Indigenous Languages

Panelists:

Mr. Tim Brooks, Founder, Endangered Alphabet, Vermont, (U.S.A)

Ms. Jaya Jaitley, Founder-Dastkari Haat Samiti

Mr. Rajeev Kumar, Founder- Bhashakriti & Calligraphy Master

Any Language has two aspects- Spoken & Written. Spoken is more interactive and transient but written text can communicate across time and space and is permanent. Languages from around the world are written in different scripts. The shape of an alphabet can tell us more about the culture than even a spoken language. Writing system needs to be preserved to preserve languages and different cultures of the world.

Day 4: 24th Feb 2021

Closing Session: 6.00-6.30P.M : TBD

Programme Directors:

Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh Gaur, IGNC& Member UNESCO Global Task Force on Indigenous Languages ,

Ms. Ritu Mathur, Founder- Bhashakriti