



## 2<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES - TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE MULTILINGUALISM

(ICOIL-2)

13-14 February, 2020

Venue: Indian Institute of Technology Madras

**Organized by**

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras  
Centre for Endangered Language Studies, IIT Patna  
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Patna

### **Announcement and Call for Papers**

#### **Concept Note**

Indian society is heterogeneous in ethnic and linguistic composition. Literate societies view language as an autonomous system with its distinct history and tradition. A country's geography of multilingualism provides an apt lens to view communication patterns based on blurred linguistic boundaries, language identity, social attitude, communication choices and inter- group and intra- group communication patterns. Though the exact figure of the number of languages spoken in India is not clear, a rough estimate puts it close to 1600. The Government of India reports only 22 official/ scheduled languages. Languages are vanishing from the landscape of India at an alarming rate, the causes could be many but primarily, attitude towards a language, its visibility in the public domain and government policies towards it could be considered as the most obvious factors behind the prevailing linguistic ecology of a place. It is pertinent that we create awareness about such subtleties through academic interventions towards sustainable multilingualism. With this as the central idea we are pleased to announce that the Centre for Endangered Language Studies (IIT Patna) and the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Patna jointly with the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras will host the 2nd International Conference on Indigenous Languages (ICOIL- 2). Abstracts are being invited for oral and poster presentations on substantial, original and unpublished research with particular focus on indigenous and endangered languages and linguistic applications like morphosyntax and discourse pragmatics of linguistic constructions relevant to South Asian languages.

#### **Paper Topics**

The areas of interest include, but are not limited to, the following (alphabetically sorted):

Anthropological Linguistics  
Culture and Identity  
Endangered languages and Vitality  
Folklore, Myth and Oral Tradition  
Heritage Language  
Knowledge in Indigenous Languages  
Language and Storytelling  
Language Documentation  
Language Ecology

Language Shift  
Language Sustainance  
Minority Language and Literature  
Policy and Planning for protecting indigenous languages  
Translation  
Theoretical Linguistics

#### **Key Note Speaker**

Prof. Sandagomi Coperahewa (Head, Department of Sinhala, University of Colombo)

#### **Panini Lecture**

Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya (Director, IIT Patna)

#### **Plenary Speakers**

Prof. Umarani Pappuswamy (CIIL, Mysore)

Prof. Pritha Chandra (IIT Delhi)

Prof. Rajesh Kumar (IIT Madras)

Dr. Hemanga Dutta (EFLU)

#### **Submission Guidelines**

The participants are requested to submit an anonymous abstract of no more than 300 words on any of the themes mentioned above to facilitate blind review. A separate file consisting of author details and title should be sent as a separate attachment. Authors may submit no more than one individual or one joint (co-authored) proposal (ONLY ONE ABSTRACT PER AUTHOR). More than one entry will be rejected. Abstracts and full papers have to be submitted to [aslinguistics.iitm@gmail.com](mailto:aslinguistics.iitm@gmail.com) and Cc to [linguisticsiitp@gmail.com](mailto:linguisticsiitp@gmail.com) as per the following schedule.

#### **Important Dates**

Abstract submission deadline: January 10, 2020

Notification of acceptance: January 20, 2020

Last date of registration fee payment: January 30, 2020

Submission of full paper: January 30, 2020

Conference: February 13-14, 2020

#### **Awards**

*Certificate for Best Presentation will be awarded to student presenters.*

*Certificate for Outstanding Upcoming Researcher*

#### **Registration Fee**

1. Faculty members and Industry participants - INR 2500.00

2. M. Phil and PhD research scholars- INR 2000.00

3. Masters and Undergraduate students- INR 1000.00

4. Late Registration- INR 3000.00

5. Other Participants from SAARC countries- INR 5000.00

\*Bank details to be provided soon.

Please note that accompanying person(s), if any, also have to register. Students must carry their institute id card during the conference.

#### **Conveners**

Dr. Anindita Sahoo (HSS, IIT Madras)

Dr. Sweta Sinha (HSS, IIT Patna)

Dr. Smriti Singh (HSS, IIT Patna)

CIIL, Mysore

#### **Scientific Committee**

Dr. Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi (SMVDU)

Dr. Atanu Saha (Jadavpur University)

Dr. Barnali Chetia (IIIT Vadodara)

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Dr. Gurmeet Kaur (University of Gottingen)  
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Dr. Kamal Chaudhary (IIT Ropar)  
Dr. MeirabaTakhellambam (Sikkim University)  
Dr. Somdev Kar (IIT Ropar)  
Dr. Usha Udaar (IIT Kanpur)

**Contact**

0612-3028681; 0612-3028397; 044- 22574534 (during Office hours)

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Postal correspondence- HSB 332B, Dept. of HSS, IIT Madras, Chennai- 600036

Registration fee includes one dinner, conference kit, tea and lunch for both the days of the conference. On campus accommodation may be provided on payment basis. TA will be reimbursed subject to availability of funds. Selected papers will be published by an international publisher of repute in an edited volume.

**Note:** Post conference excursion tour to Mahabalipuram will be arranged at an additional cost. Information will be shared with interested participants.

**ICOIL 2 Speakers:**

**Keynote:**



**Prof. Sandagomi Coperahewa**  
(Head, Department of Sinhala, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka)

A PhD from University of Cambridge, UK, Prof. Coperahewa has been actively researching on the politics of language in Sri Lanka, sociolinguistic situations and linguistic diversity with special focus on the lesser known languages of Sri Lanka. He is currently the Head of the Department of Sinhala, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo. He has been awarded with Smuts Scholarship in Commonwealth Studies, Developing World Education Fund, Commonwealth Academic Staff Scholarship to name a few. He has edited and authored volumes on Gitanjali, Anagarika Dhamapala and India, A Dictionary of Sinhala Sandhi, Purifying the Sinhala Language among many other significant linguistic works.

**Panini Speaker:**



**Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya**  
(Director, IIT Patna)

Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya is a distinguished name in the field of Computational Linguistics and a specialist in AI- ML- NLP. He is the ex- president, Association of Computational Linguistics and Ex- Vijay and SitaVashee Chair Professor in the Department of CSE, IIT Bombay. Having received his education from three major IITs in India his primary research area is on the interface of human cognition and technology. His books *Machine Translation*, *Investigations in Computational sarcasm* and *Cognitively Inspired Natural Language Processing*,

all published by Springer, are milestones in NLP research. Among various awards, he has also been conferred with the Distinguished Alumnus Award from IIT Kharagpur.

**Plenary Speakers:**



**Prof. Umarani Pappuswamy**  
**Deputy Director, CIIL, Mysore**

Having served in institutions like NEHU, Shillong, Prof. Umarani is currently the Deputy Director of CIIL, Mysore. She is an established name in researches on the lesser known languages of India. Her publications: Issues and Challenges in search of Effective Orthography for Unwritten Languages of North-east India, A Supervised Clustering Method for Text Classification, Dative Subjects in Tamil: A Computational Analysis have opened new research avenues in Linguistics. Among other researches, she is also trying to create linguistic models for effective classroom teaching.



**Prof. Pritha Chandra**  
**HSS, IIT Delhi**

A PhD in Linguistics from the University of Maryland College Park, Maryland, USA, Prof. Pritha Chandra is currently serving in the Department of HSS, IIT Delhi. Her research areas comprise of Syntactic Theory, Linguistic Typology, Biolinguistics and Language & Politics. Some of her major research publications are on lexicon- syntax interface, gender- syntax interface, non- active voices in South Asian languages, minority languages to name a few. She has been frequently invited to deliver talks on linguistic issues in South Asian languages.



**Prof. Rajesh Kumar**  
**HSS, IIT Patna**

Rajesh Kumar is the Professor of Linguistics in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Madras, Chennai. He has obtained his PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign. Prior to joining IIT Madras, he taught at IIT Kanpur and IIT Patna in India and the University of Texas at Austin in the USA. He has been a visiting faculty at TISS, Mumbai in India. His book *Syntax of Negation and Licensing of Negative Polarity*

*Items* was published by Routledge in their prestigious series Outstanding Dissertations in Linguistics in 2006. He is the associate editor of the journal *Language and Language Teaching*. The broad goal of his research is to uncover regularities underlying both the form (what language is) and sociolinguistic function (what language does) of natural languages.



**Dr. Hemanga Dutta**  
**Department of Linguistics, EFLU, Hyderabad**

Dr. Hemanga Dutta, an Assistant Professor of Linguistics at EFL University, Hyderabad did his PhD in Linguistics from J.N.U, New Delhi and Post Doctorate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT),USA. He was awarded the Fulbright Nehru Post Doctorate Fellowship in 2014, Best Researcher award in 2018, UGC Raman fellowship in 2014, Utrecht PhD short term fellowship in 2009, UGC JRF in 2009, S.M. Katre award in 2006 and National Merit Scholarship in 1998 and 2000 among many. His research interests are mainly phonological theories, Loan word phonology, Phonetics-phonology interfaces, Sociophonetics, Language variation, Language and Gender studies. He has 5 international books and more than 30 research papers published by reputed journals of Linguistics and allied fields such as *Lingua*, *Journal of Universal Language*, *Alternative Journal of Indigenous People* etc to his credit. He has guided 10 PhD and 5 MPhil scholars.

**Special invitees:**

(Former) Prof. V. Renuga Devi (Professor Emeritus, Madurai Kamaraj University)  
Prof. R. Azhagarasan (Department of English, Madras University)

**More information is to be updated soon.**