



Call for Papers

Conference on Non-Scheduled, Endangered and Lesser-Known Languages and Cultures of India

27–28 October 2026

organized by
**Department of Linguistics,
North-Eastern Hill University**
in collaboration with
**Society for Endangered and
Lesser-Known Languages, India**
ELKL-14 [2026]

Important Dates

Abstract Submission	15 September 2026
Notification of Acceptance	30 September 2026
Final Paper Submission	15 October 2026
Last Date of Registration	15 October 2026

Concept-note

Human language is a repository of the shared history, collective narratives, and worldview of its speakers. It confers a sense of identity upon its native speakers. India is a linguistically diverse country, home to a one-fourth of the world languages. According to the Census of India 2011, there are 22 scheduled and 99 non-scheduled languages out of 1369 mother-tongues spoken across the country. This linguistic diversity has significant implications in various domains such as education, governance, business, and social integration. According to Ethnologue, there are 7,117 languages spoken around the world today, of which 41% (2,926) are endangered. Similarly, as per the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger, there are 2,464 languages endangered. Krauss (1992:7) predicts that, "at the rate things are going- the coming century will see either the death or the doom of 90% of mankind's languages". Crystal (2000, 2004), on the other hand, estimates that 50% or half of the world's languages would disappear in the next 100 years. It must be understood that with the disappearance of any language not only the language is lost but also its cultural heritage and its worldview. By allowing languages to die out we are destroying what deserves to be preserved. Responses to this problem include local language maintenance and revival programmes, and language documentation. It is estimated that there are 197 endangered languages in India. Keeping these linguistic realities in view, this conference is an effort to keep our acts together on undertaking collective initiatives toward recording, documenting, preserving and revitalizing endangered and lesser-known languages and cultures of India.

The sub-themes of the conference include but are not limited by the following:

- Linguistic Diversity and Lesser-known Languages of North-East India
- Indigenous Languages and Knowledge System
- Oral Tradition and Folk Literature
- Role and Raelm of North-East India in Viksit Bharat 2047
- Ethnolinguistics
- Multilingualism
- Language and Identity
- Language and Gender
- Linguistic Hybridity
- Language Contact and Convergence
- Language Documentation
- Field Linguistics and Reports
- Language Planning and Policy
- Mother-Tongue Education
- Language Maintenance and Shift
- Applied Linguistics: Language in use
- Other related areas pertaining to the above themes in Anthropology, Sociology, Education, Media Studies, Philosophy etc.

Abstract Submission

Abstracts for a 20-minute talk (15-minutes presentation + 05-minutes discussion) should be at most one page long (minimum margins: 2.5 cm or 1 inch; size of characters: at least 12 points; spacing: single). An optional second page is permitted for data, figures and references. The abstract should start with the title of paper followed by the author's name, email address, affiliation and the abstract. If the abstract includes additional fonts, please attach them with your mail. lease submit your abstract in both [.pdf] and [.doc] formats to:

Email: conferencelinguisticsnehu@gmail.com

- **Oral and Poster Presentation**
- **Mode:** Blended (offline and online)
- Select papers focussing on the thrust areas of the conference will be published in peer-reviewed journals with ISSN

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Registration Fee

- **Rs. 3000/-** [for Faculty and Professionals]
- **Rs 1500/-** [for Research Scholars]
- **Rs 1000/-** [for Postgraduate Students]

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