



CONFERENCE ON NON-SCHEDULED, ENDANGERED AND LESSER-KNOWN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES OF INDIA

27-28 OCTOBER 2026

Information
Brochure

Department of Linguistics
North-Eastern Hill University
East Khasi Hills Shillong-793022 Meghalaya, INDIA

PRELIMINARIES

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Department of Linguistics, in collaboration with the Society for Endangered and Lesser-Known Languages, India, is organizing a Two Days' Conference on Non-scheduled, Endangered and Lesser-known Languages and Cultures of India on 27th - 28th October 2026 [ELKL-14 [2026]].

The conference will bring together scholars and practitioners in Linguistics and other allied disciplines together with specific focus on linguistic diversity, tradition and practices among non-scheduled languages and speech communities. 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.

About SEL, India

SEL, the Society for Endangered and Lesser-known Languages was founded in July 2011. It aims to revitalize endangered languages by bringing likeminded people together to document such languages, describe their grammars, and prepare dictionaries and pedagogical material for the native communities. It was formally registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act in March 2015.

Vist @ <https://selindia.org>



CONCEPT NOTE AND SUB-THEMES

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 Realm 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.

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.



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

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

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. Please submit your abstract in both [.pdf] and [.doc] formats to:

Email: conferencelinguisticsnehu@gmail.com

Note: Kindly ensure that you meet the deadline and send your abstract in the desired format.

Presentation

- Oral Presentation
- Poster Presentation
- Mode: Blended (offline and online)

Publication

Select papers focussing on the thrust areas of the conference will be published in peer-reviewed journals with ISSN



LOGISTIC ARRANGEMENTS

Registration Fee

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

Registration

All the delegates are required to register as per the fee prescribed on the left column according to their categories of participation. The first/corresponding author will be provided with a certificate. In case each of the co-authors require separate certificate, they need to register separately by paying the mandated fee for the conference.

Local Hospitality and Accommodation

The delegates will be provided with the food, beverages, and moderate accommodation on campus during the conference days. They need to bear their own cost in case of any extended stay and other charges.

Travel Support

The limited resources constrain us in providing any travel support to the delegates. We request you to arrange for your travel expenditure within your organization or from any other funding agency.

For any other information, kindly write to us at: conferencelinguisticsnehu@gmail.com



DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS: A BRIEF PROFILE

Number of Students Awarded Degrees [1996-2025]

M.A. Degrees: **1550**
(and counting...)

M. Phil. Degrees: **56**
(closed after adopting NEP 2020)

Ph.D. Degrees: **52**
(and counting...)

Students Fellowships:

UGC NET/JRF: **82**

Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship: **65**

Research Projects: **20**



The Department of Linguistics, North Eastern Hill University created as a Research Centre in Nagaland in 1984, established itself as a full-fledged department with Post-Graduate Programs from 1996 at Shillong campus.

Since its beginning as a full-fledged department with Post-Graduate Programs from 1996 at Shillong campus, the Department of Linguistics, North Eastern Hill University has placed its major thrust areas of research in Tibeto-Burman and Austro-Asiatic languages. The Department has conducted various research programs in collaboration with Central Institute of Indian Languages, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Mysore and Centre for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC, Poona) on different aspects of languages across the North East and the different dialects/varieties of Khasi.

