



DLA NEWS

PAPERS ON MALAYALAM LINGUISTICS AND RHETORICS

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THE INFLUENCE OF SARASVATIKANTHABHARANA ON PRAKRIYASARVASVA

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August 2025

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA



*Happy
Independence Day*

On the 79th year of Independence let
us pledge to strive hard to make India
vibrant, strong and supreme among
the nations of the world.



52ND ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON NEP 2020 AND EQUIPPING MOTHER TONGUE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Report

(Continued from the previous issue)

In the inaugural session of the 52nd AICDL at Annamalai University, Prof. N. Bhakthavathsala Reddy, President, Dravidian Linguistic Association of India, delivered the presidential address. In his insightful and thought-provoking address, Prof. Reddy discussed the historical evolution and relevance of Dravidian linguistics in India and beyond. He highlighted the contributions of the DLA in fostering research, documentation, and dissemination of knowledge in the field of Dravidian languages over the decades. Prof. Reddy emphasized the importance of academic forums like this conference for nurturing indigenous linguistic traditions and promoting dialogues between classical scholarship and contemporary linguistic science. Focusing on the theme of the symposium, he underscored the urgency of strengthening mother tongues for higher education. He argued that language plays a critical role not only in cognitive development but also in cultural continuity and epistemic justice. He called for policy-level changes that support vernacular medium instruction in universities supported by adequate resources and teacher training. He appealed to the scholars and young researchers to contribute actively to preserve and promote linguistic diversity in our country. His address inspired the audience and provided a strong intellectual and institutional foundation for the sessions to follow.

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The inaugural address of the 52nd AICDL was delivered by Prof. T. Arutselvi, Member of the Vice-Chancellor Convener Committee, Annamalai University. In her eloquent speech, Prof. Arutselvi expressed her deep appreciation for the scholarly gathering and emphasized the importance of the conference in the present socio-academic context. She acknowledged the critical role of Dravidian languages in


shaping the intellectual and cultural landscape of South India and commended the efforts of the Centre of Advanced Study in Linguistics for hosting such a meaningful symposium. Highlighting Annamalai University's legacy in language and literary studies, she reiterated its commitment in promoting multilingual education and interdisciplinary research.

Prof. M. Krishnan, Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Tamil Nadu, delivered the Chief Guest's Address. In his intellectually engaging address, Prof. Krishnan emphasized the inextricable link between language, identity, and access to knowledge. He noted that the Dravidian linguistic tradition stands as a testament to the rich cultural and philosophical heritage of South India, and must be preserved and revitalized through academic and policy-level interventions. He commended the organizers for choosing a theme that aligns closely with contemporary educational needs, particularly the necessity of promoting mother tongue instruction in higher education for equity, quality, and inclusiveness. Prof. Krishnan highlighted that education in one's native language not only enhances comprehension but also bridges the gap between learners and their socio-cultural context. Addressing the young scholars and researchers, he urged them to explore language not merely as a structure, but as a living embodiment of people's wisdom and worldview. He also encouraged collaborative research between linguists, educators, and policymakers to influence language policies in Indian universities. His address was greeted with enthusiastic appreciation from the audience and served as a strong intellectual anchor for the symposium "NEP 2020 and Equipping Mother Tongue for Higher Education".


Saranya R.
(Organizing Secretary, 52nd AICDL)
(To be continued...)



79TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED



The 79th Independence Day of our great nation was enthusiastically celebrated by the International School of Dravidian Linguistics and Dravidian Linguistic Association of India on the 15 of August 2025. Prof. G.K. Panikkar (Hon. Director, ISDL & Dean, DLA) hoisted the national flag at 9.00 am in front of the administrative block, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, Menamkulam, Thiruvananthapuram and the national anthem was sung by the staff and Research fellows. After the flag hoisting, a meeting was held in the CD room. Prof. G.K. Panikkar delivered the independence day message. The meeting which was attended by the office bearers, staff and research fellows remembered the sacrifices made by the people of India for achieving independence. The meeting ended by distributing sweets to all those assembled there.



DLA News Desk

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PROF. G.K. PANIKKAR HONOURED

(Continued from the previous issue)

Prof. Niladri Sekhar Dash, ISI, Kolkata lauded Prof. Panikkar for his untiring administrative capabilities. Prof. Sam Mohanlal, Mysuru, a student of Prof Panikkar, honoured him with a shawl and commemorated him for his life time achievements.

The felicitation address of Prof. N. Rajasekharan Nair, Former Director of CAS in Linguistics, Annamalai University was read by Dr. Lalitha Raja in his absence. Prof. S. Natanasabapathy, Former Director of CAS in Linguistics, spoke on the excellent qualities of Prof. Panikkar. Prof. R. Saranya, Director, CAS in Linguistics, praised Prof Panikkar for the guidance she received in her academic endeavours. She admired his passion in empowering youngsters. Dr. P. Chandramohan, Professor of Linguistics, honored him with a shawl and applauded his sincere activities to improve the talents of Indian linguists, especially the Dravidian linguists.

Prof. P. Visalakshy, wife of Prof. G.K. Panikkar was also seated on the dais. Prof. G.K. Panikkar in his acceptance speech, profusely thanked all the scholars who extended nice words about him. In his emotional speech he also mentioned about the hardships he encountered during his career. Many scholars from the audience honoured Prof. G.K. Panikkar with shawls.

Dr. N. Vijayan, Member, Executive committee, TMS paid his respects to Prof. G.K. Panikkar and proposed the vote of thanks.

N. Rajasekharan Nair

WORKSHOP ON CLASSICAL TAMIL LITERATURE TO MALAYALAM LANGUAGE RESEARCHERS

Central Institute of Classical Tamil, as part of its programme to conduct workshops on Classical Tamil Literature to students and researchers of Indian languages, has conducted a workshop for Malayalam language researchers for ten days from 29th July to 7th of August 2025. Forty scholars working in the field of Malayalam from various universities like the Central University of Kerala, Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University, University of Kerala, M.G. University and Sanskrit University have attended the workshop. Eminent Professors including Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Honorary Professor, ISDL conducted classes. The workshop helped the participants to acquire a first-hand knowledge about Classical Tamil Literature.



Prior to the commencement of the workshop Dr. K. Jayakumary welcomed the participants. Dr. R. Bhuvaneshwary delivered the introductory address. The presidential address was delivered by Dr. R. Chandrasekaran, Director, CICT. Former Professor C.G. Rajendrababu delivered the keynote address and Dr. M. Suseela, Research Officer proposed the vote of thanks.

S. Abdul Samed

INVITED TALK - "LANGUAGE AND GENDER : A BRIEF OVERVIEW"

The Department of Linguistics, Central University of Kerala organized a lecture on "Language and Gender: A Brief Overview" by Prof. M.J. Warsi, President, LSI on July 21, 2025.

Prof. Warsi has explained that language is more than a set of words and rules for communication. It is a mirror of societal norms and values. It reflects and often reinforces gender roles, subtly shaping our understanding of what it means to be "male," "female," or something else. For instance, the words and phrases we use for describing strength or emotion, authority or gentleness, often carry associations with gender. Societal norms shape gendered communication styles and common differences in their conversational behaviour. These associations can reinforce traditional views on gender by suggesting who should be assertive and who should be nurturing, who leads and who follows.



He further said that language and gender have a complex relationship, one that has been the subject of extensive research and debate. This relationship is not static but evolves over time, reflecting societal changes and power dynamics. Research into the relationship between language and gender identity in applied linguistics and sociolinguistics has progressed considerably since their emergence in the 1970s. Initially, the focus was on demonstrating power inequalities between the sexes as reflected in the language and explaining linguistic differences between the sexes, but now it is viewed from a much larger perspective.

Dr. Anusree Sreenivasan introduced the speaker while Dr. Zam Ngaih Cing proposed vote of thanks.

Thenarasu Sakkan

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FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS of THE CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES

The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru celebrated its 57th Foundation Day on 17 July 2025. Eminent scholars including Former Directors and retired scholars of the Institute were invited to join this auspicious occasion.

The Foundation Day Celebration was inaugurated at the conference hall of CIIL with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony by the Chief Guest Prof. G.K. Panikkar, Director, International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Thiruvananthapuram alongside distinguished guests Prof. Prasad Joshi, Vice-Chancellor, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune; Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh, Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva and Prof. C.G. Venkatesh Murthy (all three were Former Directors of CIIL) in the presence of dignitaries from various universities and institutions.



Dr. Aleendra Brahma, Lecturer-cum-Junior Research Officer (L-JRO), CIIL, Mysuru welcomed the guests, invitees and attendees. Followed by this, launch of the *Bhasha Sanchika* portal ([Sanchika :: Home](#)), a digital initiative of the Institute was held. Dr. Sujoy Sarkar, L-JRO, CIIL, introduced the *Bhasha Sanchika* portal and said that it is a digital language repository, a pioneering platform where language preservation, dissemination and technology converge.



Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh, former Director of CIIL delivered the keynote address. He spoke on the future of language and literature studies in India, emphasising the urgent need for indigenous linguistic data to fuel Artificial Intelligence (AI), Natural Language Processing (NLP), and speech technology. He urged linguists to enrich Indian language archives and begin engaging in creative literature writing. Prof. Singh advocated for the creation of a Museum of Voices to support endangered and tribal languages. He called for multilingual education in line with NEP-2020, culturally sensitive AI, and mobile applications for minority languages. He stressed the use of voice interfaces for non-literate users and proposed multilingual diagnostic tools to address the mental health issues of youth. Prof. Singh highlighted the underexplored domains such as Forensic Linguistics and language in law. He also stressed the need for renewed South Asian linguistic collaboration and archiving multiple versions of Indian epics. His address laid out a 20-year vision blending cultural heritage with digital innovation for CIIL's future growth.

The Chief Guest of the event Prof. G.K. Panikkar, Director of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Thiruvananthapuram, praised the Institute's foundational role in easing post-independence linguistic tensions and advancing national integration through research and outreach. Prof. Panikkar credited CIIL's early leadership, especially Prof. D.P. Pattanayak, Founder Director, for establishing the Institute as a centre of excellence. Prof. Panikkar, underscoring the need for mutual respect among Indian languages, called for an inclusive and equitable language policy. He commended CIIL's work in employing young linguists, developing both theoretical and applied linguistics, preserving tribal languages, and promoting academic collaboration. He further added that in the context of NEP-2020, CIIL must take efforts in integrating Indian languages into higher education and appealed for enhanced administrative and financial support to position the Institute as a global leader in language policy and research.

Guest of Honour of the occasion, Prof. Prasad Joshi, Vice-Chancellor of Deccan College, Pune, reflected on the Institute's legacy and its pivotal role in India's language policy. He revisited CIIL's historic contributions and honoured pioneers of the field, who shaped Indian linguistics and helped establishing CIIL's early vision. Prof. Joshi also highlighted the strong ties between CIIL and Deccan College, Pune. While emphasising on NEP-2020, he urged integration of India's linguistic traditions into modern education.

Prof. D.P. Pattanayak, Founder Director of CIIL, addressed the 57th Foundation Day celebrations virtually from Bhubaneswar, offering a powerful reflection on the Institute's legacy. He recounted CIIL's formative years and its role in shaping India's language policies, one of which gained United Nations recognition. Prof. Pattanayak highlighted CIIL's early work in Sociolinguistics, Psycholinguistics, and Computational Linguistics, and its mediation in language-related state issues. He expressed his concern over the lack of an official multilingual education framework and challenged narrow definitions of 'mother tongue.'



Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva, former Director of CIIL, voiced concern over the weakening of India's language researchers. He emphasised the importance of linguistic education and called for introducing Linguistics and Language Pedagogy in schools and colleges. Advocating linguistic rights, he stressed every child's right to education in his/her mother tongue and Union languages. He urged meaningful implementation of NEP-2020, reaffirming CIIL's role in curriculum design and teacher training to uphold India's linguistic diversity.

Speaking at the occasion, former Director Prof. C.G. Venkatesh Murthy emphasised the urgent need for a transparent and inclusive national language policy. He expressed concern over waning commitment to the three-language formula. Prof. Murthy urged CIIL and called for grassroots engagement, capacity building, and a national think tank to support NEP's language goals.

Prof. Shailendra Mohan, Director, CIIL, in his presidential address announced two major initiatives to be launched by the end of July 2025: a mobile app for learning 22 Indian languages eventually expanding to other mother tongues and an AI based language assessment system enabling nationwide proficiency testing. He also highlighted CIIL's technological advancements, including Machine Translation tools, text-to-speech systems, and multilingual corpora accessible via medha.ciil.org. Prof. Mohan, noting the translation of 'The Constitution of India' into 11 Indian languages, reaffirmed CIIL's dedication to linguistic diversity and its pivotal role in national language planning.

As part of the academic proceedings, there were three thematic panel discussions by eminent linguists, educationists and scholars from universities, IIT, IIIT & IIMs and academic institutions on topics namely, Vision 2047: Promotion of Indian Languages in Education, The Interface of AI and Indian Languages: Linguistic and Technological Perspectives and The Role of Classical Languages in Promoting Indian Knowledge System.

Sujoy Sarkar
(Academic Coordinator, 57th FDC)
(to be continued....)

REFRESHER COURSE

A Refresher Course on “Linguistic Perspective of Traditional Tamil Grammars ” was held at the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai, from 09th - 22th July, 2025. The event focused on linguistic resources available in Tamil language and its connections with other Linguistic Perspectives of Traditional Tamil Grammars. It was inaugurated by Prof. R. Chandrasekaran, Director of CICT, Chennai. Introductory address was by Dr. R. Bhuvaneshwari, Registrar of CICT. Dr. Sreekumar, Department of Linguistics, Central University of Kerala, Kasaragodu, Kerala has delivered an insightful speech. Dr. M. Selvadurai, Junior Research Officer and Coordinator at CICT, Chennai, offered the welcome address, and Dr. V. Mariyappan, Junior Research Officer and Associate Coordinator of the Refresher Course, proposed the Vote of Thanks. The faculty was comprised of distinguished scholars.

Selvadurai Murugesan

New Life Members of DLA

Name & Address	Membership Number	Name & Address	Membership Number
<i>Ms. Surumi A.F. Karikkathil Veedu, Kulathupuzha P.O. Kollam - 691310</i>	1706/2025	<i>Dr. S. Mahadevan Plot No. 22, Flat - D, Nandhavanam Apartment, Pankajammal Nagar, Nandhivaram, Guduvanchery - 603202</i>	1709/2025
<i>Prof. C. Santhosh Kumar 1-69/2, Adapootuvilai, Keelkulam, Keelkulam P.O., Kanyakumari Dist. Pin. - 629193</i>	1707/2025	<i>Dr. Simarat Kaur Department of Linguistics and Punjabi Lexicography, Punjabi University, Patiala</i>	1710/2025
<i>Prof. P. Chandramohan No. 25, Sri Nataraja Garden, Extension 2, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu - 608001</i>	1708/2025	<i>Ms. Sukanya B. Sukanya Bhavan, Choozhattukotta, Malayam P.O., Trivandrum</i>	1711/2025
		<i>Ms. Pallavi Kaushal H. No. 25, Chahal Quarters, Patiala-147002</i>	1712/2025

OSMANIA PAPERS IN LINGUISTICS (OPiL)

Osmania Papers in Linguistics (OPiL) is a journal published by the Department of Linguistics, University College of Arts & Social Sciences, Osmania University, Hyderabad. It is an annual, refereed and peer reviewed research journal devoted to the publication of articles in the field of general and applied linguistics since 1975. It also includes book reviews and review articles. In this context, OPiL invites original articles from faculty and research scholars. The focus of this volume will be on areas of Applied Linguistics.

For submitting articles in the prescribed format, please visit <https://www.osmania.ac.in>

The last date for full paper submission is extended to 20th August 2025.

C.S. Swathi

SPECIAL LECTURE BY PROF. VASU RENGANATHAN

On July 24, 2025, the Centre of Advanced Study in Linguistics, Annamalai University hosted a special lecture by Prof. Vasu Renganathan, a distinguished scholar and Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. The paper was titled "Redefining Tamil Pedagogy in the Era of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics". His presentation comprehensively explored the transformative capabilities of artificial intelligence and robotics within the realm of Tamil education. He provided a wise analysis of how emerging technologies can revolutionize conventional teaching methodologies by illustrating his points with a practical demonstration involving a robot. Prof. Vasu Renganathan underscored the critical necessity of incorporating intelligent tools into Tamil pedagogical frameworks to elevate student engagement, enhance accessibility, and foster interactive language acquisition. Furthermore, the lecture delved into the ways AI-powered platforms can facilitate personalized learning courses, automated assessment systems, and immersive linguistic experiences. His address highlighted the imperative for language teaching strategies with technological advancements, thereby ensuring that Tamil pedagogy remains both dynamic and poised for the future. Prof. P. Chandramohan, Director, CAS in Linguistics welcomed the gatherings and Dr. P. Kumaresan, Associate Professor, proposed the vote of thanks.

P. Chandramohan

THE ENSUING ACADEMIC EVENTS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS, MADURAI KAMARAJ UNIVERSITY

Madurai Kamaraj University is organizing the following academic events:

1. Skill Enhancement Course for PG Students

The Department of Linguistics, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai is organizing a Skill Enhancement Course for PG Students from 25th to 29th, August 2025. This course also provides the career opportunities and placement areas, such as language technology experts, corpora creators, computational linguists and big-data experts.

Link for registration: Send your details (name, email id, phone number etc.) to the e-mail: umarajk@gmail.com

2. Linguistic Skills for Business - Skill Enhancement Course for PG Students

It also organizes a Skill Enhancement Course for PG Students from 08th to 12th, September 2025. This course also provides the career opportunities and placement areas like self-entrepreneurs, sales representatives, linguistic border businessmen, distributors of various products, employees of departmental stores, international level businessmen etc.

Link for registration: Send your details (name, email id, phone number, course details etc.) to the e-mail: umarajk@gmail.com

3. 13th International Conference cum Workshop on Endangered and Lesser-Known Languages (ELKL-13)

The Department of Linguistics, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai is organizing the 13th International Conference cum Workshop on Endangered and Lesser-Known Languages (ELKL-13), The Society for Endangered and Lesser-known Languages (SEL) in collaboration with various departments and institutions across India, annually organizes this event focusing on language endangerment, documentation and revitalization. This year it will be arranged from 17th to 19th December 2025, at Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai. Papers are invited from interested linguists from all over India and abroad.

The registration fee for the conference : For National and International Scholars: Rs 4000/-

For the students who are getting fellowship: Rs 3000/- For PG and the students who are not getting fellowship: Rs 2000/-

Accompanying persons, if any, must also register by paying the amount.

Payment details: Google pay number: 9497223316 Account Number: 20039227532 IFSC Code: SBIN0002235

Bank: State Bank of India, Branch: Madurai Kamaraj University Branch.

We request all the interested delegates to register for the conference as early as possible.

For the above three programs: If any further information is required please contact -

e-mail: umarajk@gmail.com , umarajk@gmail.com, umarajk.in Phone- 9487223316.



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WORKSHOP ON ANDROID AND IOS APP DEVELOPMENT FOR SOUTH DRAVIDIAN ENDANGERED TRIBAL LANGUAGES

The Institution of Engineers (India) organized an all-India Workshop on Android and IOS APP development for preservation and revitalization of South Dravidian Endangered Tribal Languages of Tamil Nadu on 07th and 08th August 2025. The Institution of Engineers (India) Kattankulathur Local Centre conducted it under the aegis of their Computer Engineering Division (CPDB) in association with Department of Computing Technologies, SRM Institute of Science and Technology.

This workshop is aimed for getting acquaintance with the technique to develop and test a mobile application for the Android platform that uses Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL) to inspire younger members of the tribal community to learn the language. Participant observation is the first method used to collect linguistic data. Agile software development is used to make MALL. This workshop explored the tribal communities, their languages, and the software architecture and design of MALL. It gave an experimental evaluation of a prototype that works on Android and IOS mobile devices. The native languages of tribal communities are at risk of disappearing due to globalization, discrimination, underestimation of the language, and the new generation's lack of interest and motivation to learn it. MALL technologies have enabled mobile applications, such as games, dictionaries, and translators, that promote the independent learning of languages and their revitalization.

Dhrubajyoti Das

WORKSHOP AT LRU, INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

The Linguistic Research Unit (LRU) at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, under the esteemed aegis of the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, is set to organize a significant 3-day workshop titled "Transcreation of Uniform Scientific and Technical Terminology for Indian Languages: Challenges & Opportunities." This crucial event will unfold in offline mode at the PJA building auditorium from September 1st to 3rd, 2025, running daily from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

The workshop promises a comprehensive experience, integrating lectures, hands-on activities, and engaging group discussions. Its primary objectives are ambitious and far-reaching, aiming to establish a uniform national terminological framework for scientific and technical terms (STT) across all Indian languages. Key goals include the identification, creation, and dissemination of pan-Indian STTs to build robust multilingual glossaries, dictionaries, and encyclopaedias for all academic levels. The initiative also seeks to significantly increase awareness and knowledge of STTs among a diverse audience, from students and scholars to scientists and government officials, while simultaneously training a new generation of experts skilled in standardizing and utilizing these terminologies. Furthermore, the workshop aims to facilitate the widespread usability of STTs in various governmental, institutional, and research settings, and to develop, define, and review terminologies across natural, social, juridical sciences, engineering, and technology. A crucial aspect involves gathering insights to create new STTs and propose strategies for their integration into significant Government of India initiatives like Bhashini, AI4Bharat, and the National Translation Mission.

For more detailed information, interested individuals can contact lruisical2024@gmail.com.

Arup Pandit