



Concept Note:

International Mother Language Day, observed globally on 21 February and formally recognised by UNESCO since 2000, underscores the vital role of linguistic diversity, multilingualism, and intercultural dialogue in fostering peace and mutual understanding. In an era marked by rapid globalisation, the protection and promotion of mother tongues assume renewed urgency, particularly in multilingual societies such as India.

Jharkhand, characterised by its remarkable linguistic plurality, is home to numerous indigenous communities whose languages belong to the Austroasiatic, Dravidian, and Indo-Aryan families. As institutions located within this culturally vibrant region, the Central University of Jharkhand and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Ranchi, bear an intellectual and ethical responsibility to foreground the significance of mother tongues in education, research, and public discourse.

Globalisation operates as a paradoxical force. While increased mobility, digital technologies, and transnational exchanges have expanded opportunities for documentation and revitalisation, they have simultaneously intensified linguistic hierarchies, marginalising minority languages through processes of homogenisation and language shift. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, with its advocacy of mother-tongue-based multilingual education (MTB-MLE), acknowledges India's linguistic heterogeneity and affirms the pedagogical, cognitive, and cultural value of early education in the mother tongue. Such initiatives are crucial not only for academic success but also for sustaining linguistic justice and cultural continuity and achieving SDGs.

Language is more than a communicative system; it is a repository of collective memory, ecological knowledge, and lived experience. Indigenous languages of Jharkhand encode intricate understandings of land, biodiversity, agricultural practices, and community ethics. Their erosion signifies not merely linguistic decline but the loss of epistemic diversity and biocultural heritage. Ecological approaches to language highlight its adaptive, dynamic, and environmentally embedded nature, reinforcing the need to situate linguistic inquiry within broader socio-ecological frameworks.

This seminar seeks to critically examine the tensions between global communication and local linguistic sustainability, with particular attention to Jharkhand's multilingual realities. By bringing together scholars, writers, policymakers, and community practitioners, it aims to generate dialogue that foregrounds regional languages as sites of knowledge, collective wisdom, and ecological consciousness. Ultimately, the seminar aspires to contribute to a more inclusive, culturally grounded, and sustainable linguistic future. While priority will be accorded to research on the languages of Jharkhand, scholarly contributions engaging with any mother tongue or regional language of India are equally welcome.

Sub-themes:

- Mother Tongue and Education
- Mother Tongue and Cognition
- Language Endangerment and Documentation
- Technology and Artificial Intelligence
- Multilingualism
- Mother-Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE)
- Culture and Identity
- Field Notes and Ethnographic Reports
- Literature
- Folklore
- Translation
- Ecology
- Translanguaging
- Sign Language
- Psychology and Language
- Linguistic Human Rights
- Orality, Memory, and Performance Traditions of Jharkhand
- Accessible and Inclusive Linguistic Practices

Two-Day National Seminar on Mother Tongues in a Globalised World: Challenges and Opportunities

(Hybrid Mode)

jointly organised by

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

Regional Centre, Ranchi

and

Department of English Studies

Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi

(Accredited with NAAC A+)

on

26 and 27 February, 2026

Day 1: **26.02.2026**

Keynote and plenary talks in offline mode

Day 2: **27.02.2026**

Paper presentations in online mode

**VENUE for Day 1 (offline mode)- Auditorium
Science Building, Central University Of
Jharkhand, Cheri Manatu, Ranchi**

Submission Guidelines

- Language of submission: **English or Hindi**
- Abstract length: 250–300 words
- Format: Times New Roman, 12pt, Justified, 1.5 line spacing
- Referencing Style: MLA

Include the Following Details:

- Full Name of Author(s)
- Institutional Affiliation
- Email ID

Submission Format: You may submit your abstract as a Microsoft Word document or a PDF file (.doc/.docx/.pdf)

Abstract Submission link:

<https://forms.gle/Pe8DYjGCxmBnnayq8>

Scholars and practitioners are invited to submit **original and unpublished** work.

Registration Details and Important Dates

Last date for abstract submission: **22 February, 2026**

Intimation of abstract selection: **23 February, 2026**

Last date for registration: **24 February, 2026**

Full paper submission: **20 March, 2026**

Selected paper presenters will be provided with a separate link in due course.

NOTE- No registration fees

Outcome

Selected papers will be published as a book under the aegis of IGNCA.

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