



# DLA NEWS

## PAPERS ON MALAYALAM LINGUISTICS AND RHETORICS

Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, 2025, PB,  
Demmy 1/8, pp. 192,  
Rs.400/- (US\$ 40/-)

## THE INFLUENCE OF SARASVATIKANTHABHARANA ON PRAKRIYASARVASVA

P. Visalakshy, 2024, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 216,  
Rs. 450/- (US\$ 45/-)

## ENGLISH-BANGLA-MALAYALAM BASIC VOCABULARY

Dhrubajyoti Das, 2024, PB, Crown 1/4, pp. 133,  
Rs. 450/- (US\$ 45/-)

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June 2026

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

*Hearty Welcome to*

# THE 53<sup>RD</sup> ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS

&

## SYMPOSIUM ON NEP 2020: EQUIPPING REGIONAL LANGUAGES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

**18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>st</sup> June, 2026**

*Organized by*

Department of Punjabi and Linguistics & Punjabi Lexicography, Punjabi University, Patiala

*in Collaboration with*

Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) Mysuru, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR),  
Punjabi Linguistics Association (PLA), Dravidian Linguistic Association of India (DLA), and  
the International School of Dravidian Linguistics (ISDL), Thiruvananthapuram

The organizers of the 53<sup>rd</sup> All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists extend a warm welcome to the AICDL delegates who come from different parts of India and abroad. The Punjabi University which holds the 53<sup>rd</sup> AICDL is one of the most prestigious educational institutions in Punjab. Every Indian will feel blessed to be in the soil of Punjab since it had played and even now plays a major role in our nation's defence security, food security, upholds the prestige of India in sports, games, arts, music, dance and also the excellence in agricultural, industrial and educational arenas.

The Royal city of Patiala is the abode of major academic institutions and the nerve centre of coaching institutions of sports and games. So also, there exist many famous temples, gurdwars and mosques which shine as the cosmopolitan symbols of Patiala. It is quite apt to hold the 53<sup>rd</sup> AICDL at this famous royal city of peace and calm on the very year in which Prof. V.I. Subramoniam Centenary celebrations are being celebrated. It really is an honour to late Prof. V.I. Subramoniam. Let us all join together at Patiala to make the 53<sup>rd</sup> AICDL a memorable event and also to pay respects to one of the leading linguists of our country late Prof. V.I. Subramoniam during his centenary year.

### TO THE ATTENTION OF INTENDED PARTICIPANTS - 53<sup>RD</sup> AICDL

All those who wish to participate in the 53<sup>rd</sup> AICDL should register for the conference immediately. Please note that paper presentation, food and accommodation will be provided only for those who have registered. Please remit the required fee and register for the conference on or before 12-6-2026. Spot registrations are allowed, but to them we cannot assure accommodation and conference kit.

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Most of the eminent linguists of India and a few from abroad are expected to take part in the 53<sup>rd</sup> AICDL, the inaugural function of which is scheduled on 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2026. The awards declared in the 53<sup>rd</sup> AICDL will be distributed in the inaugural function followed by the releasing of new publications of ISDL. In this conference there will be eleven Endowment Lectures by eminent scholars.

There will be parallel sessions on every day from 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026. About 200 scholars are expected to participate in the conference deliberations. **The spot registration will commence at 8.30 AM on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at Punjabi University, Patiala, where facilities will also be available for the enrolment to DLA membership.**

The organizers, once again whole heartedly welcome all the delegates of the 53<sup>rd</sup> All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists to the reputed campus of Punjabi University, one of the leading universities of South Asia.

**All queries regarding abstract, full paper etc., for the 53<sup>rd</sup> AICDL may please be made to [53aicdl@gmail.com](mailto:53aicdl@gmail.com)**

### CALENDAR OF DLA / ISDL MEETINGS

ISDL Governing Council Meeting	18/06/2026 (4 PM)
DLA Managing Committee	18/06/2026 (5.15 PM)
IJDL Managing Committee and Editorial Board	18/06/2026 (5.45PM)
DLA General Body Meeting	19/06/2026 (5 PM)

### SPECIAL LECTURES TO BE DELIVERED AT 53<sup>RD</sup> AICDL, PATIALA.

#### A. ENDOWMENT LECTURE

##### 1. PROF. ANVITA ABBI ENDOWMENT LECTURE

**Prof. S. Imtiaz Hasnain** (Former Professor of Socio Linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh)

#### B. MEMORIAL LECTURES

##### 1. PROF. V.I. SUBRAMONIAM MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Prof. R.C. Sharma** (Former Professor & Head, Dept. of Linguistics, Delhi University)

##### 2. PROF. SUNITI KUMAR CHATTERJI MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Prof. Ronki Ram** (Former Professor, Institute for Development and Communication, Chandigarh)

##### 3. PROF. NAGAMMA REDDY MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Prof. Jaiteg Singh Khaira** (Pro Vice Chancellor & Dean of Faculty of Computer Science, Chitkara University, Patiala)

##### 4. PROF. KARUNASINDHU DAS MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Prof. Ramesh Bharadwaj** (Former Professor & Head, Dept. of Sanskrit, Delhi University)

##### 5. PROF. S.K. VERMA MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Prof. Rajesh Sharma** (Former Professor & Head, Dept. of English, Punjabi University, Patiala )

##### 6. PROF. A. CHANDRASEKHAR MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Prof. S. Kunjamma** (Former Professor & Head, Dept. of Linguistics, University of Kerala)

##### 7. PROF. CHEKKURI RAMARAO MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Prof. K. Karunakaran** (Former Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University, Thanjavur)

##### 8. PROF. H.M. MAHESWARAIAH MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Prof. Bhakthavatsala Reddy** (Former Dean, School of Folk and Tribal Lore, Telugu University, Warangal)

##### 9. PROF. K. MAHADEVA SASTRI MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Prof. Suhnu Ram Sharma** (Former Professor & Head, Dept. of Linguistics, Deccan College, Pune)

##### 10. DR. PARSO GIDWANI & LACHHMI JESSARAM MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Prof. Bhupinder Singh Khaira** (Former Professor of Linguistics, Punjabi University, Patiala, President, PLA and Vice-President, DLA)

**AWARD WINNERS - 53<sup>RD</sup> AICDL****PROF. V.I. SUBRAMONIAM CENTENARY AWARD**

for the best grammatical treatise on any of the Major Dravidian Languages is awarded for the book '*A Historical Linguistic Analysis of Tamil Verbal Bases*' by **PROF. S. RAJENDRAN** (Former Professor of Linguistics, Centre for Excellence in Computational Engineering and Networking (CEN), Amrita University, Coimbatore)

**Prof. K.M. Venkataramaiah Award**

for the Study of Language, Culture and other Linguistics-related Topics

**Dr. P.T. Abraham**

Professor & Head (Retd.), Rajiv Gandhi Central Central University, Arunachal Pradesh

**Award for the Best Monograph on Dravidian Tribes****Dr. Aiswaria G. Shajan**

NTS, CIIL, Mysuru

**Dr. Hermann Gundert Endowment Award**

for the Best Dictionary, Lexicon or Encyclopaedia on any major Dravidian Language or any Dravidian Tribal Language

**Dr. Peri Bhaskara Rao**

(Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo)

**Dr. K.N. Kuppaswamy Award**

for a Lecture/Comparative Study of a Grammatical Text of Tamil, Sanskrit, Prakrit or Pali

**Dr. Arundhati Das**

Scottish Church College, Kolkata

**Dr. P.C. Ganeshsundaram Award**

To a Voice Researcher and to a Machine Translator

**Dr. Sarath V.S.**

CESCM, Tirur

**Mrs. Radhabai Katre Memorial Prize**

for M.A. topper in Linguistics (2023-2025 batch)

**Ms. Aaruni Prasad**

University of Kerala, Kariavattom



**Shri. C. Achutha Menon Prize** for the Best Article or Book published on 'Computer and Language'. (Shared)

- Dr. Sneha S. & Dr. Rajeev R.R.**  
ICFOSS, Trivandrum



- Dr. Prajisha A.K.**  
ICFOSS,  
Thiruvananthapuram

**Prof. Susheela P. Upadhyaya Award**

For a young researcher below 40 years who has produced a good monograph or Ph.D. research thesis or a good article on any branch of Modern Linguistics (Shared)

- Dr. Praveenkumar Sri**  
Bharathiar University
- Dr. Anju B.**  
Central University of Kerala



**Telugu Award** For the best book or research article in any study related to Telugu Linguistics, Folklore, Culture and such other related fields

**Prof. M.C. Kesava Murty**

Dravidian University, Kuppam



**BEST PAPER AWARDS - 53<sup>rd</sup> AICDL****Last date of submission : 17/06/2026**

Paper presenters in the 53<sup>rd</sup> AICDL who wish to consider their papers for the best paper awards from among those presented in the conference are requested to submit the copy of the same each to the Organising Secretary 53<sup>rd</sup> AICDL ([53aicdl@gmail.com](mailto:53aicdl@gmail.com)) and to the DLA ([dlavis1971@gmail.com](mailto:dlavis1971@gmail.com)) on or **before 3 pm 17th June 2026**.

**Prof. Colin P. Masica Award** For the best paper in the field of ‘India as a Linguistic Area’ or ‘Pedagogical Linguistics’

**Prof. Vennelakanti Prakasam Award** For the best paper on systematic functional Linguistics (Phonology, Lexicogrammar, Semantics and Pragmatics)

**Best paper in Telugu Linguistics** presented in the 53<sup>rd</sup> AICDL.

**Award for the Best Paper in the Conference** by a young full-time student or research scholar.

**Manikkam & P.N. Kamala Award** for the best paper on Tamil presented in the 53<sup>rd</sup> AICDL

**PLA Award for the best paper in Punjabi** presented in the 53<sup>rd</sup> AICDL

**No paper received after the last date will be entertained under any circumstance. So please strictly adhere to the last date.**

**OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE 53<sup>rd</sup> ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS****Chief Patron**

**Dr. Jagdeep Singh** (Vice-Chancellor, Punjabi University, Patiala)

**Patrons**

**Prof. Harjeet Singh Gill** (Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi), **Padama Bhushan Prof. Kapil Kapoor**, (Former Pro-Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi), **Prof. Shailendra Mohan** (Former Director, CIIL), **Prof. R.C. Sharma** (Former Professor, Delhi University), **Prof. K. Karunakaran** (Former Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University, Thanjavur and Chairman, ISDL), **Prof. G.K. Panikkar** (Director, ISDL and Dean, DLA), **Prof. M.J. Warsi** (President LSI), **Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan** (Hon. Professor, ISDL & Former Deputy Director, Collegiate Education, Govt. of Kerala), **Prof. Bhupinder Singh Khaira** (Former Professor, Punjabi University, President, PLA and Vice President, DLA), **Prof. Jaswinder Singh Brar** (Dean, Academic Affairs, Punjabi University, Patiala)

**Organizing Secretary**

**Dr. Rajwant Kaur** (Head, Department of Punjabi)  
Phone : 8567886223 email : [rajwant68@yahoo.co.in](mailto:rajwant68@yahoo.co.in)

**Coordinator**

**Dr. Harvinderpal Kaur** (Head, Dept. of Linguistics & Lexicography)  
Phone : 9417691195 email : [dhpalkaur@gmail.com](mailto:dhpalkaur@gmail.com)

**BE PROUD TO BE A LIFE MEMBER OF DLA AND AVAIL THE SPECIAL PRIVILEGES**

Become a member of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India (DLA) so as to get free copies of the International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics and the DLA News. So also the DLA members are eligible to get 50% discount for all DLA / ISDL publications.

**For details visit our website : [www.ijdl.org](http://www.ijdl.org)**

THE ART AND EDIFICE OF GENDERLECT, B. Sreedevi, 2023, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 160, Rs.320/- (US\$ 32/-) A DICTIONARY OF SANSKRIT, PRAKRIT AND PALI WORDS IN TAMIL AND MALAYALAM, N. Gopinathan Nair, 2022, HB, Crown 1/4, pp. 988, Rs.2300/- (US\$ 230/-) A SOCIO-CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND LINGUISTIC STUDY OF THE PATHANS OF KERALA, S. Abdul Samed, 2022, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 104, Rs.130/- (US\$ 13/-) MAPPILA MIGRANTS IN ANDAMANS - A SOCIO-LINGUISTIC STUDY, N. Muraleedharan Nair, 2022, PB, Demy 1/8, pp.225, Rs.260/- (US\$ 26/-). GRAMMAR OF RĀMACARITAM, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, 2022, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 395, Rs.500/- (US\$ 50/-).

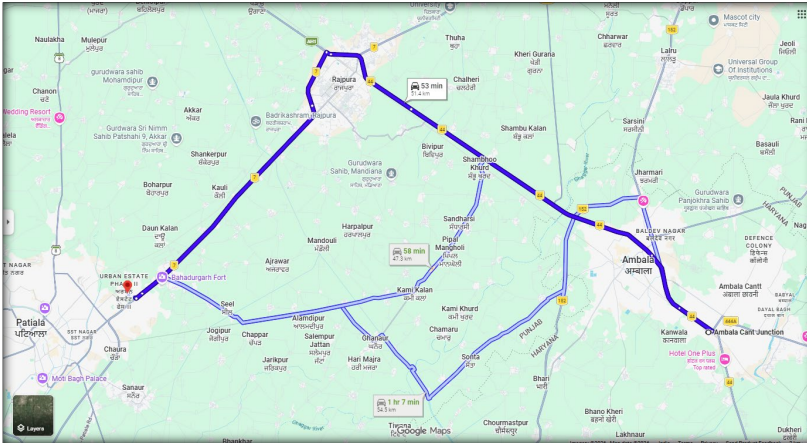
## HOW TO REACH PUNJABI UNIVERSITY, PATIALA

To reach Punjabi University, Patiala, you have two entry points:

1. From Ambala Cantonment Junction railway station (by road: **51 km**) (Travel time: around **1 to 1.5 hours**)
2. From Chandigarh Airport (by road: **60 km**) (Travel time: around **1 to 1.5 hours**)

Both road and rail routes are available.

### (1) From Ambala Cantonment Railway Station to Punjabi University, Patiala



#### (1) Option A - By Road (Best and fastest) Bus

Punjab Roadways / PRTC direct buses are available from the **bus stand opposite to Ambala Cantt Rly station**.

Buses go frequently towards Patiala. (Journey: 1.5 Hr. to 2 Hrs. Fare is usually around ₹ 150 – ₹ 300).

#### Taxi / Cab

You can book Ola/Uber or local taxi. (Uber fare is around ₹ 1100.)

Travel time: about 1 hour.

Route: Ambala Cantt → Shahbad → Rajpura → Patiala → Punjabi University

#### Option B — By Train

##### Route

Take a train: Ambala Cantt (UMB) → Patiala Railway Station (PTA)

(Travel time: around 1 Hr.)

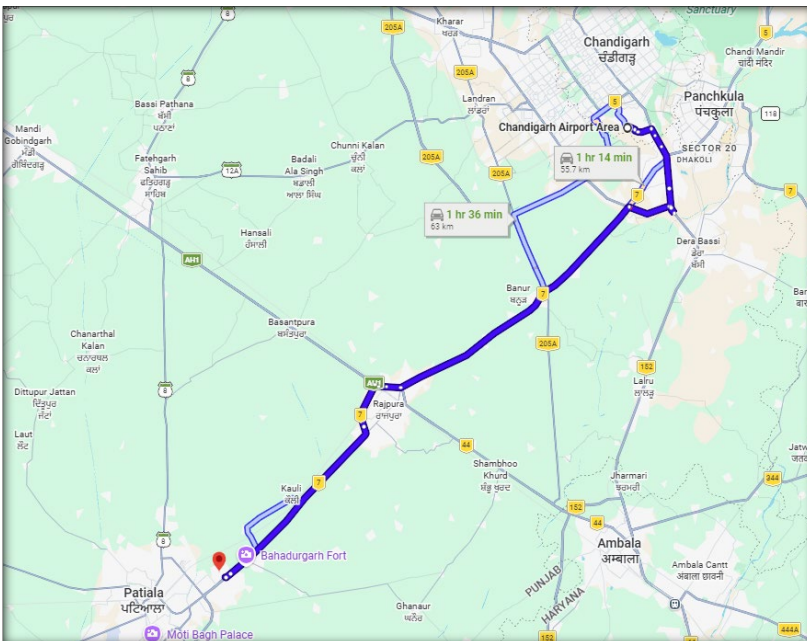
##### After reaching Patiala Railway Station

Punjabi University is about **7 km** from Patiala station.

Take: Auto-rickshaw / Cab / E-rickshaw (Travel time from station to university: 15–20 minutes.)

Note : Ola and Uber services are available.

### (2) From Chandigarh Airport to Punjabi University, Patiala



#### (2) Option A — By Road (Recommended)

- **Taxi / Cab** This is the easiest option. (Uber fare is around ₹ 1200 to ₹ 1700.)

##### Route

Chandigarh Airport → Rajpura → Patiala → Punjabi University

Roads are good and well connected.

##### Bus Option

- ❖ From airport, go to:
  - ◆ Chandigarh Sector 43 Bus Stand (11 km from Airport) or
  - ◆ Zirakpur Bus Point (14 km from Airport)

- Take a bus to Patiala.

- Then auto/cab/E-rickshaw to university. Note : Ola and Uber services are available.

##### Option B — By Train

You must first travel to:
 

- ◆ Chandigarh Railway Station (13 km from Chandigarh Airport) or
- ◆ Ambala Cantt Railway Station (50 km from Chandigarh Airport)

Chandigarh to Patiala Bus Fares (Approximate)

- Ordinary/Non-AC Buses: ₹189 - ₹250 (Usually operated by PRTC).
- AC Seater/Semi Sleeper: ₹229 - ₹400.
- Volvo/Luxury Services: ₹500 - ₹650

Then take a train to Patiala. Because of transfers, train travel from airport is usually slower than road travel.

### Which option is better?

Starting Point	Mode	Approx Distance	Approx Time
Ambala Cantt Railway Station	Bus / Taxi	50–60 km	1–1.5 hrs
Ambala Cantt Railway Station	Train + Auto	50 km + local travel	1.5–2 hrs
Chandigarh Airport	Taxi / Cab	53–63 km	1–1.5 hrs
Chandigarh Airport	Train	No direct train	Longer

For Chandigarh Railway Station to Patiala

One can also check the “How to Reach” page of the Punjabi University’s official website. (See - [Punjabi University Patiala – How to Reach](#))

### 53<sup>rd</sup> AICDL : TRAVEL GRANTS

The organizers are unable to provide TA / DA to the participants. Since it is a prestigious conference of linguists, the participants (both teachers and research scholars) may avail of sponsorship from their respective universities. However, if any funding agency provides financial support, T.A. will be given to the special invitees and deserving delegates as per the direction of the funding body. **Also please make sure to book the tickets through authorized agencies like IRCTC/ Balmer Lawrie /Ashok Travels and Tours (ATT).**

### ‘INTERFACES BETWEEN LINGUISTICS AND SLP’



Dr. C.S. Swathi, Department of Linguistics, UCASS, Osmania University, Hyderabad, spoke on the ‘Interfaces between Linguistics and SLP’ on 21/05/2026 at School of Rehabilitation Sciences, Vinayaka Mission’s Research Foundation, Puducherry Campus. The talk was attended by many distinguished academicians from linguistics, speech and hearing and various other Science and Humanities Departments.

*C.S. Swathi, Osmania University*

### TO THE WELL WISHERS OF V.I. SUBRAMONIAM CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

As already announced the year-long centenary celebrations of Prof. V.I. Subramoniam has commenced from 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026. It is envisaged as a grand academic event having intermittent academic programs throughout the year. Those who would like to support this celebration financially may make their contributions to the following account.

**A/C No. 336602010008000** Union Bank of India, Menamkulam Branch, Trivandrum

IFSC Code : UBIN0533661

Swift code : UBININBBKHU

Please share the details of the payment along with the name and contact number of the remitter to [dlavis1971@gmail.com](mailto:dlavis1971@gmail.com)

**TAGORE’S GITANJALI**, K. Jayakumar, 2022, PB, Demy 1/8, pp.95, Rs. 130/- (US\$ 13/-). **ENDANGERED SPEECHES OF IDUKKI IN KERALA**, V.R. Prabodhachandran Nayar & K. Velappan, 2021, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 12+500, Rs. 660/- (US\$ 66/-). **INDEX OF BHARATAMALA**, R. Saraswathy Kutty Amma, 2021, HB, Demy 1/8, pp.892, Rs.1100/- (US\$ 110/-). **INDEX OF BHARATAMALA**, R. Saraswathy Kutty Amma, 2021, HB, Demy 1/8, pp.892, Rs.1100/- (US\$ 110/-). **COLLECTED PAPERS OF LV RAMASWAMI IYER**, G.K. Panikkar, K. Rangan & Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Eds.) 2021, HB, Demy 1/8, pp.826, Rs. 990/- (US\$ 99/-). **INDEX OF EARLY MANIPRAVĀLA WORKS**, N. Gopinathan Nair, 2021, PB, Crown 1/4, pp. 1086, Rs. 2240/- (US\$ 224/-). **INDEX OF RĀMAKATHAPPĀṬṬU**, G. Sulekha, 2021, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 1742, Rs. 1960/- (US\$ 196/-). **THE DRAVIDIAN CULTURE AND ITS DIFFUSION**, T.K. Krishna Menon, 2020, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 58, Rs. 75/- (US\$ 7.50/-).

## **NATIONAL SEMINAR ON ‘CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE OF INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS’**

*Report - Continued from the May issue*

The Valedictory Session was held on 20 February 2026 at 2:00 PM in the Seminar Hall. The session marked the formal conclusion of the academic programs conducted as part of the first program of the centenary celebration. The valedictory session began with a Welcome Address by Dr. Darwin L, Secretary of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics. In his address, he warmly welcomed the distinguished guests, scholars, and participants and briefly touched upon the significance of the seminar and its intellectual discussions. This was followed by the Address of Prof. G. K. Panikkar, Honorary Director of ISDL. He highlighted the scholarly legacy of Prof. V. I. Subramoniam and emphasized the importance of continuing research in linguistics, literature, and Indian knowledge traditions. The Presidential Address was delivered by Prof. Mahidas Bhattacharya, Former Professor of Jadavpur University, Kolkata. In his address, he briefed on the broader academic contributions of Prof. V. I. Subramoniam and the relevance of linguistic research in understanding India’s rich cultural and intellectual heritage. The VIS Memorial Address was delivered by Prof. Panchanan Mohanty, Former Professor, Centre for Applied Linguistics and Translation Studies, Hyderabad. He paid tribute to the life and scholarly achievements of Prof. V. I. Subramoniam and highlighted his lasting impact on Dravidian linguistics and language studies in India. The Valedictory Address was delivered by Prof. Niladri Sekhar Dash, Head of the Linguistics Research Unit at the Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi. In his address, he emphasized the role of Indian Knowledge Systems in contemporary academic research and appreciated the scholarly deliberations that took place during the seminar. The book titled *“Panjabin Katkathaikalin Kavithai”*, translated by Dr. Sankar, was released as part of the seminar programme. This work is a translation of the book *“Semiotics & Narrative of Punjab”* authored by Prof. Bhupinder Singh Khaira. The translated volume introduces the themes of semiotics and narrative traditions of Punjab to a wider readership through the Tamil language. The book was formally released by Prof. K. Karunakaran, Former Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University, Thanjavur in the presence of distinguished scholars and participants. The first copy of the book was received by Prof. L. Ramamoorthy. The participants’ feedback was presented by Prof. Ataullah Khan. In his remarks, he expressed his appreciation to the organizers for successfully conducting the seminar as part of Prof. V. I. Subramoniam Centenary Celebration. Prof. Ataullah Khan commended the organizers for bringing together scholars from different parts of the country and creating a meaningful platform for academic exchange. He noted that the seminar sessions reflected the richness and diversity of the Indian Knowledge System, covering areas such as linguistics, literature, indigenous knowledge, folklore, and cultural studies. He remarked that the seminar served as an intellectually enriching experience for the participants and contributed to a deeper understanding of Indian linguistic and cultural heritage. While concluding, he thanked the organizers and the host institution for their hospitality. Report of the seminar was presented by Dr. Annie Tisha Jerald, Junior Research Fellow, ISDL. The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Dr. N. Muraleedharan Nair, Senior Research Fellow, ISDL. He expressed gratitude to the distinguished speakers, chairpersons, participants, organizers, and all those who contributed to the successful conduct of the centenary celebration and seminar.

The three-day National Seminar successfully achieved its objectives by fostering scholarly engagement on the contemporary relevance of Indian Knowledge Systems. The deliberations demonstrated that IKS continues to offer significant insights into language, literature, law, culture, and epistemology. The event marked a significant milestone in the Centenary Celebrations of Prof. V.I. Subramoniam and strengthened academic collaboration among institutions.

*Annie Tisha Jerald*

## CENTENARY TRIBUTE TO ACHARYA BODDUPALLI PURUSHOTTAM (1926–2000)



The year 2026 marks the birth centenary of Acharya Boddupalli Purushottam, one of the most distinguished scholars, teachers, linguists, and intellectuals in the field of Telugu language and literature. Born on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1926 in Bapatla in a humble family, he rose through perseverance, scholarship, and dedication to become a nationally respected authority on Telugu grammar, linguistics, literature, and spiritual discourse.

Beginning his professional life as a government clerk and later as a school teacher, Purushottam garu pursued higher education despite severe financial hardships. His academic journey eventually led him to Andhra University, where he completed his M.A. in Telugu under the guidance of legendary scholars. His doctoral research, *Telugu Vyaakarana Vikaasam* ("The Evolution of Telugu Grammar"), became a landmark contribution and is regarded as one of the earliest comprehensive scientific studies of Telugu grammar from a linguistic perspective.





Purushottam garu served as Lecturer, Professor, and Head of the Department of Telugu & Oriental Languages at Nagarjuna University. He was honored as a National Professor by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and served as Distinguished Visiting Professor at premier institutions including Banaras Hindu University, University of Delhi, University of Mysore, and Annamalai University. He was also served as a Senior Fellow at the International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Thiruvananthapuram and was an active member of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India. An exceptional mentor and academic guide, Purushottam garu supervised 18 Ph.D. and 19 M.Phil. scholars, emphasizing originality, rigorous research, and linguistic depth. His compassionate mentorship transformed the lives of many students. Purushottam garu authored over thirty books spanning Telugu grammar, linguistics, literary criticism, poetry, translations, novels, and spiritual writings. His notable English work, *The Theories of Telugu Grammar*, published by the International School of Dravidian Linguistics (ISDL) in 1996, received national and international recognition. He had a deep professional rapport with another legend Professor V.I. Subramoniam, then Director of ISDL, whose birth centenary is also being celebrated this year. Purushottam garu also co-authored the landmark *Vyakarana Padakosham* ("Dictionary of Telugu Grammar"), published by the Telugu Academy, Hyderabad.

Widely celebrated as "Upanyasa Kesari" ("Oratorical Lion"), Purushottam garu captivated audiences across India and the United States through lectures on Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavatam, and the teachings of spiritual luminaries such as Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, and Sri Aurobindo. His association with All India Radio and literary-cultural programs further amplified his influence on Telugu intellectual and cultural life. Acharya Boddupalli Purushottam's life remains a timeless example of scholarship, discipline, and excellence. His birth centenary offers an opportunity to honor a visionary teacher, scholar and humanitarian whose contributions continue to enrich Telugu language, literature, and cultural heritage.

The members of the DLA and ISDL pay their respects and tributes to the late National Professor Acharya Boddupalli Purushottam.

*Raghava Boddupalli*

### New Life Members of DLA

Name & Address	Membership No.	Name & Address	Membership No.
 Ms. Muskan Research Scholar University of Hyderabad Gacjibowli, Hyderabad	<b>1731/2026</b>	 Dr. Sudheer Bhan Associate Professor Helen Kelle's College for Speech & Hearing, HKIRRDC, Telangana	<b>1733/2026</b>
 Dr. Priya Varghese Head, Dept. of Malayalam Kannur University, Dr.P.K. Rajan Memorial Campus, Nileswaram	<b>1732/2026</b>	 Dr. Remya L.B. Senior Research Fellow ISDL, Thiruvananthapuram	<b>1734/2026</b>

## RETURN OF THE LEIDEN COPPER PLATES TO INDIA

The Leiden University Library received in 1862 two sets of copper plates, weighing around 30 kgs, as gift from the heirs of the well-known Leiden University Professor Hendrik Arent Hamaker – an Assyriologist. Prof. Hamaker got the Copper Plates from the family of his wife Johanna Camper, who was the great grand daughter of Florentius Camper. Florentius Camper was employed by the Dutch East India Company as minister of faith and stayed in Batavia (present Jakarta, Indonesia) from 1701 to 1712. The Copper Plates remained as property of the Camper and later Hamaker families until 1862.



Both the families did not know the history or contents of the copper plates. The Larger Copper plates contain a set of twenty-one plates and a beautiful seal of the famous Chola dynasty of South India. The smaller Plates contain three plates and a seal of the Cholas. At the Leiden University, they got the name Leiden Copper Plates. They remained in the Netherlands for a little more than three centuries and in India a little more than six centuries. The Chola emperor gifted the village Anaimangalam to Maravijayottungavarman, the son of Chulamanivarman, the ruler of Sri Vijaya and Kataha, Java, Indonesia. These eleventh century copper plates were once known as the Anaimangalam Copper Plates (Anaimangalam ceppedukal).

Both the plates are of immense importance for the study of the history of the imperial cholas, in particular, the period of the great emperor Raja Raja and his son Rajendra Chola, eleventh century. These inscriptions narrate the gift of lands and rice to build and maintain a Buddhist vihara in Nagappattinam.

Three days after my arrival in Leiden in September 1968, I saw these plates permanently exhibited in a glass case at the entrance of our University Library. Almost no one was interested! Later they were shifted to a vault in a secure area in the new building of the university. They were always available for my research.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2026, they were shown to Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji during his visit to the Netherlands, in the presence of the Dutch Prime Minister, Vice-Chancellor and Librarian of the Leiden University. The Leiden University Library decided to return them to India. The Leiden University Executive Board confirmed this decision, and it was conveyed to the Dutch Government. The Indian Government and the Indian Embassy in the Hague deserve our appreciation for their relentless and continuous diplomatic efforts to bring these valuable heritage artefacts back to India.

My teacher and the Founder of DLA and ISDL late Prof. V.I. Subramonium played a visionary role in encouraging me to publish my paper in the IJDL (2000): "Copper Plates to Silver Plates: Cholas, Dutch and Buddhism," which played a modest role in the repatriation discussions.

*A.G. Menon, Leiden, The Netherlands.*

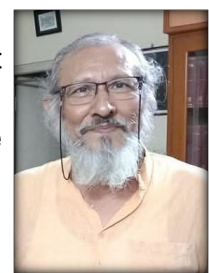
## OBITUARY PROF. PROBAL DASGUPTA

Prof. Probal Dasgupta, a globally renowned South Asian linguist, academician, and former president of the Universal Esperanto Association, passed away on 31 May 2026 in Kolkata, at the age of 72. He was celebrated for his immense contributions to generative grammar, Bangla syntax, and the global Esperanto movement.

Beyond linguistics, Dasgupta has written on Esperanto studies and language policy. He has served in leadership roles within the Esperanto movement, including as president of the Universal Esperanto Association (2007–2013) and president of the Akademio de Esperanto (2016–2022) and an Honorary Member, Linguistic Society of America (2004). Prof. Dasgupta taught at the University of Calcutta, Deccan College Postgraduate and Research Institute, the University of Hyderabad, and headed the Linguistic Research Unit of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata from 2008 until his retirement in 2018.

His doctoral dissertation at New York University, *Questions and Relative and Complement Clauses in a Bangla Grammar* (1980), was a great contribution to the study of Bangla syntax.

Prof. Dasgupta was an active life-member of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India. We, the members, staff and researchers of DLA and ISDL express our heartfelt condolence.



*Dhrubajyoti Das*

## DELHI-NALANDA DIALOGUE

Two-day Delhi-Nalanda Dialogue 2026 emphasizing Nalanda's historical significance and contemporary relevance was held on May 9-10, 2026 at India International Centre, New Delhi. Prof. M J Warsi, a widely acclaimed linguist, President of the Linguistic Society of India, and Chairman, Department of Linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University, had spoken in the panel on "Indian Languages and Knowledge Preservation".

In his initial remark, Prof Warsi expressed that India represents one of the most complex linguistic landscapes in the world. It is home to four major language families—Indo-European, Dravidian, Austro-Asiatic, and Tibeto-Burmese. While Indo-European and Dravidian languages account for the vast majority of speakers, the Austro-Asiatic and Tibeto-Burmese families include a large number of smaller languages with very limited speakers. This uneven distribution highlights a serious concern. The need for preservation is not limited to the 22 Scheduled Languages, it extends more urgently to those mother tongues spoken by communities of fewer than 10,000 people. These languages are often the most vulnerable—and yet, they are also the richest in terms of indigenous knowledge.

Further he explained that the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is deeply interconnected with linguistic diversity. Regional and indigenous languages are not merely tools of communication but they are repositories of cultural memory, ecological understanding and traditional wisdom. Citing examples, he said, knowledge of medicinal plants, agricultural practices and local ecosystems is often encoded in specific linguistic expressions that cannot be easily translated. Therefore, effective documentation protocols require mandatory integration of Indian Knowledge System experts and community practitioners alongside technical linguists. The successful preservation effort must be measured not only by the creation of an archive but by its ability to engage the dispersed, urbanized youth audience who are currently detached from the oral traditions of their communities, thus countering the effects of internal migration.

Warsi also cautioned that when a language dies, it takes with it stories, traditions, histories and ways of understanding the world. The loss is not only linguistic—it is cultural, intellectual and deeply human. Technology may help document and preserve languages but it cannot fully recreate the live experience and emotional depth carried by native speakers. To preserve the linguistic and cultural heritage, Warsi suggested that policy frameworks also play a vital role and the National Education Policy 2020 offers a comprehensive framework that highlights the importance of India's linguistic and knowledge traditions. It clearly acknowledges that Indian languages are not merely tools of communication but essential carriers of indigenous knowledge systems and therefore emphasizes their preservation and promotion. The policy advocates for an integrated approach to education in which universities design courses that bridge traditional knowledge with contemporary disciplines. It places strong emphasis on multilingualism as a core educational principle, enabling students to engage with original texts and knowledge systems in their native languages.

In his concluding remarks, Prof Warsi said that if we truly want knowledge preservation to be meaningful, we must move beyond archiving words into building multilingual classrooms, community-led immersion programs, and AI-driven tools like BharatGen and Bhashini that give tribal and regional languages new life in digital spaces, ensuring that India's linguistic diversity continues to support both cultural identity and knowledge development.

*M.J. Warsi*



**V.I.S Centenary Celebrations Program No. 5****SPECIAL LECTURE BY DR. PRASANNA CHANDRASEKHAR**

The International School of Dravidian Linguistics (ISDL), Thiruvananthapuram, organized a special lecture on “Introduction and User Guide to NAVLIPI: A Universal Alphabet” on 5 June 2026. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Prasanna Chandrasekhar (a Renowned Technologist working in USA), who introduced NAVLIPI as an innovative and inclusive phonemic writing system designed to represent the sounds of all human languages through a limited, systematic, and scientifically structured set of graphemes.

In his presentation, Dr. Prasanna Chandrasekhar traced the historical quest for universal phonetic and phonemic alphabets, highlighting both the achievements and limitations of existing systems. He explained that while several phonetic alphabets have been developed for linguistic description and language documentation, many of them remain difficult for non-specialists to learn and use. NAVLIPI seeks to address these challenges by providing a practical, scalable, and user-friendly alphabet capable of accurately representing the phones and phonemes of diverse languages while maintaining consistency and ease of learning.

The lecture outlined the linguistic principles underlying NAVLIPI, including its systematic approach to sound classification, symbol design, and phonemic representation. Dr. Chandrasekhar demonstrated how the script can be applied across languages belonging to different language families and writing traditions. He emphasized its potential role in language documentation, literacy development, multilingual education, language preservation, and digital communication. Particular attention was given to the possibilities of using NAVLIPI in language technology, including natural language processing, machine translation, speech technologies, and the creation of multilingual digital resources.

The session also included a practical user guide to NAVLIPI, familiarizing participants with its structure, symbol inventory, and methods of transcription. Through examples drawn from a variety of languages, attendees were introduced to the practical application of the alphabet in representing linguistic data and supporting cross-linguistic analysis.

The lecture was followed by an engaging discussion involving faculty members, researchers, and students on the relevance of inclusive phonemic alphabets in an increasingly multilingual and digital world. Participants explored the potential contribution of NAVLIPI to language research, literacy initiatives, and the documentation of under-resourced and endangered languages. The event provided valuable insights into contemporary efforts to develop universal writing systems capable of bridging linguistic diversity while supporting both academic research and practical language use.

The programme was chaired by Dr. G. K. Panikkar, Director of ISDL. Dr. Darwin, Head of the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala and Secretary of ISDL & DLA, delivered the welcome address, while Dr. Abdul Samed, Treasurer of ISDL & DLA proposed the vote of thanks.

*Darwin L.*

**AN INTERACTIVE SESSION ON NAVLIPI**

On 4 June 2026, Dr. Prasanna Chandrasekhar (USA) conducted an interactive training session on the use of NAVLIPI for research scholars and students of the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala. The session introduced participants to the principles, structure, and practical applications of NAVLIPI, a universal alphabet designed to represent the sounds of the world's languages accurately. Through demonstrations and hands-on activities, participants gained valuable insights into the development, functionality, and potential uses of this innovative writing system.



*Remya L.B.*

## THE WORD ஐங்கூலம் (AINKOOLAM) AND TAMIL ANTIQUITY

### 1. Introduction

Among the many Tamil words that have travelled into other languages, the one I consider most significant is the measurement term “அங்குலம்” (angulam). This word has journeyed from Tamil into both English and Sanskrit, and is in active use in those languages today. Of particular note is its relationship to Sanskrit, for this note demonstrates conclusively that Tamil is by no means a language derived from or posterior to Sanskrit.

The discussion proceeds in three stages: first, establishing that this word is authentically Tamil in origin; second, tracing how it transformed into the English word “INCH”; and third, examining its presence in Sanskrit. The evidence from Sanskrit, taken together with the Tamil origin of the word, allows the reader to draw their own conclusions regarding the antiquity of Tamil.

### 2. The Tamil Origin: ஐங்கூலம் (Ainkoolam)

Ancient Tamils, in their need for a precise unit of linear measurement, observed that grains of a specific variety of rice are remarkably uniform in size — each grain of the same variety having nearly identical length and girth. Taking advantage of this natural uniformity, they laid five grains of a particular short-grain variety (குறுவை அரிசி, kuruvai arisi) end to end lengthwise, and defined the total length so obtained as their basic unit of linear measurement. This unit they named “ஐங்கூலம்” (Ainkoolam) — a descriptive compound meaning “the length of five grains” (ainthu = five; koolam = grain). This is a *kāranāp peyar* — a Tamil grammatical term for a name derived from the cause or property of the thing named.

The reader may verify this independently: place five grains of short-grain rice end to end against a ruler. The total length will be found to be approximately one inch. The photograph accompanying this article provides visual demonstration of this fact.

An additional note: the same length of one inch may also be obtained by arranging 16 grains of the same variety of rice side by side in the widthwise (girth) direction. This cross-verification confirms the precision with which ancient Tamils defined this unit. The ratio of girth to length of a kuruvai grain is thus approximately 5:16 — a remarkable instance of ancient metrological precision.



[Figure 1: Five grains of kuruvai rice laid lengthwise alongside a ruler, spanning exactly one inch]

### 3. The Internal Tamil Transformation: ஐங்கூலம் → அங்குலம்

Over time, within Tamil itself, the word underwent a natural phonological evolution, as illustrated below:

ஐங்கூலம் → அயங்கூலம் → அங்கூலம் → அங்குலம்

This gradual phonological shift — familiar in Tamil linguistic history, much as other words transform through regular use — gave rise to the modern Tamil and pan-Indian form “அங்குலம்” (angulam). It is worth noting that the Tamil word “கூலம்” (koolam) refers generally to any grain but specifically to paddy and rice. It is from this same root that the Tamil word “கூலி” (kooli, meaning wages or remuneration) derives — since payment was originally made in grain. When this payment took the form of salt, it came to be called “salary” in English (from Latin *sal*, meaning salt) — an intriguing parallel in the history of remuneration across cultures.

A. Krishnamurthy  
(to be continued.....)