

Diamond Harbour Women's University

Centre for Indian Languages and Culture Studies

Preamble

“If culture was a house, then language was the key to the front door, to all the rooms inside”

- Khaled Hosseini, Afghan-American Novelist & Physician

Languages are not only primary human tools for expression and communication, but also the very cornerstones of cultures and knowledge systems. The very essence of a culture and cultural identity comes from the language associated to it. Again, as people of diverse linguistic backgrounds communicate, cultures are reshaped, reformed, and rejuvenated. There are close to seven thousand spoken languages in the world today, each unique in its own beautiful way, and shaping together the sundry histories and cultures of humanity.

According to the Peoples' Linguistic Survey of India, our country has the second highest number of languages in the world, after Papua New Guinea. According to the 2011 Census, there are 121 languages in India with 10,000 or more native speakers. Of these, 22 languages are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, and are known as the Scheduled Languages. Others are called Non-Scheduled Languages.

British Colonial Education Policies had seldom offered the scope of learning multiple Indian languages, as that would have facilitated a pan-Indian notion of nationalism. Nevertheless, even 75 years after the Independence, when Indians are frequently migrating out of their home states in search of education, job, and business opportunities, formal education still offers little scope to peep into the languages and cultures of other states. The Centre for Indian Languages and Culture Studies (CILCS), Diamond Harbour Women's University, strives to promote and facilitate studies in Indian Languages and Culture in various levels.

Furthermore, according to a 2009 UNESCO Report – The Atlas of the World Languages in Danger – several thousand languages in the world under the threat of imminent extinction, and may be wiped out altogether even before the commencement of the coming century. The said report has named several Indian languages as well, many of them being located in the North-East. Among the sparse populations in the difficult terrains of the North-East India, there are languages with a few thousand speakers (below 10,000). As newer generations are increasingly adapting the major and dominant languages in search of education and occupation, the smaller ones are quickly falling into oblivion, inviting alongside the ensuing extinction of associated cultures. CILCS earnestly seeks to work towards researches and preservation works on such languages and cultures.

Last but not the least, learning a language is a skill, and mastery over multiple languages notably enhances the credibility of a job aspirant. With inter-state educational and professional

migrations growing exponentially in India, present-day students simply cannot aspire to secure lucrative jobs by knowing their mother tongues only. CILCS offers, and plans to offer, courses of diverse durations and credits to enhance the linguistic abilities of students, which can a great booster of CVs in a highly competitive job market.

Further details on the Aims and Objectives of CILCS are furnished below.

Draft Aims and Objectives

- To offer Certificate, Diploma, and Degree courses in Indian Languages and Culture Studies.
- To conduct research and project works on Indian Languages and Culture Studies.
- To organise seminars, symposia, and conferences on Indian Languages and Culture Studies.
- To publish scholarly books and journals on Indian Languages and Culture Studies.
- To promote and publish creative writings in Indian Languages.
- To work towards the preservation of endangered Indian languages and linguistic communities.
- To participate in Faculty and Student Exchange programmes with other Indian universities and centres.
- To bring out a Journal of CILCS.

Constituent Body

Chairperson:	Prof. Kajal De, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor
Director:	Prof. Tapan Mandal, Professor, Dept. of Bengali
Assistant Director:	Kumaraditya Sarkar, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English
Treasurer:	Dr. Subhendu Jana, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Bengali
External Members:	Prof. Arindam Chattopadhyay, Dept. of Bengali, University of Burdwan
Internal Members:	Dr. Tapu Biswas, Dept. of English, Visva-Bharati University Dr. Aparna Singh, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English Dr. Tridib Roy Mandal, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sanskrit
Invitee Members:	Dr. Madhumita Majumdar, Associate Professor & Head, Dept. of English Dr. Abhijit Banerjee, Assistant Professor & Coordinator, Dept. of English

Courses Offered

- One-Year Diploma in Communicative English (Self-Financed)
[Syllabus]

Planned Courses [Offline / Blended]

- Certificate Course in Hindi
- Vocational Course in Web Content Writing (in English)
- Certificate / Diploma course in various branches of music.
- Certificate / Diploma course in *Gaudīya Nr̥tya*
- Certificate / Diploma course in Theatre Studies
- Certificate Course in Mass Communication
- Certificate Course in Editing and Publishing

Upcoming / Planned Programmes

- A Two-Day International Seminar on the Partition of India.
- A Two-Day International Seminar on Literatures and Cultures from the Margins.

Contact

- For enquiries related to Admission /Courses:
Kumaraditya Sarkar, Assistant Director (+91 77971 94771)
- For enquiries related to other Academic / Administrative matters
cilcs@dhwu.ac.in