



An ICSSR-sponsored International Conference

Understanding Bharat through Bhashas

Eight to ten languages | Eleven thematic sessions | One civilisation in transformation

20-21 November 2026

Organising Institution: Doon University, Dehradun

Knowledge Partner: Valley of Words, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Bharat is a civilisation defined by its diversity, a reality most vividly captured in its linguistic landscape. Language in India is not merely a tool for communication; it is a repository of culture, history and identity. As the nation emerges as a significant global economic and cultural power, there is a pressing need to revisit and understand the narrative of contemporary Bharat through the prism of its languages, the Bhashas. The academic conference will bring together writers, translators, academics, scholars and researchers to explore the multiple nuances of contemporary Bharat. In addition to writings in the languages of the Eighth Schedule and their translations into Hindi and English, we have a range of writings from Indian writers in English who have penned many portraits of India. On the educational front in India, many universities are offering courses in a range of global languages - from French, German and Spanish (from the European continent) as well as Mandarin and Japanese (from Asia).

The conference aims to critically look at how Bharat is written, read, and perceived across the world. How is the gaze on India reflected in multiple languages? This conference will explore, through a close reading of contemporary texts on fiction, non-fiction, and translations, the perceptions of a range of writers in eight to ten scripts. Spread over twelve thematic sessions, this academic conference will offer a unique opportunity to young scholars to interact with well-established writers, academics and media practitioners.

"No single language can claim a monopoly on the truth about India."

ABOUT THE HOST INSTITUTION

Doon University, Dehradun

Established in 2005 by the Government of Uttarakhand, Doon University is a NAAC-accredited state public university set in the Shivalik foothills on the banks of the Rispana River. Its 52-acre campus sits at the edge of Dehradun- India's education capital - surrounded by sal forests and mountain air, offering a uniquely immersive academic environment. Approved by the UGC and governed by the Doon University Act (2005), it offers multidisciplinary programmes at the undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral levels across nine schools.

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES — THE ORGANISING SCHOOL

Founded in 2010, the School of Languages (SoL) is an emerging trendsetter in multilingual education, the only university in Uttarakhand and one of the very few in India to offer four-year undergraduate and Master's programmes under NEP across five international languages, as well as PhD programmes. Its six departments, language multimedia labs, and research initiatives (SoL-Dialogue, SoL-Screen, SoL-Expressions) uniquely position it to host a conference exploring India through its Bhashas.

Departments: Chinese Studies | English | French & Francophone Studies | German Studies | Japanese Studies | Spanish Studies

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Analyse how Bharat is perceived across eight to ten scripts and languages
- Facilitate dialogue between Indian-language texts, translations, and English works
- Investigate how Indian realities travel across linguistic borders
- Connect emerging scholars with established literary and media voices
- Capture India's evolving self-perception in global cultural flows

PARTICIPATION FORMATS

Academic Sessions

Papers by scholars, writers, and translators on the twelve themes

Poster Gallery

Visual summaries of research for networking and informal exchange

Young Voices Forum

Scholars under 30 presenting critical commentaries on eminent participants

ELEVEN THEMATIC SESSIONS

01	02	03
The Himalayas	The Sun as a Metaphor	Poetics of Contemporary Bharat
Geography	Regional Voices	Contemporary Voices
04	05	06
India from Afar in French & Francophone Perspectives	From Past with the Present Spanish & Latin American Responses	Twentieth to Twenty-first Century India
Global Gaze	Global Gaze	Growth & Aspiration
07	08	09
The Politics of Language	Viksit Bharat @2047: Language and Symbols of Digital Netizens	India in Chinese Writings: Historical & Contemporary Perspectives
Language & Power	Future India	Global Gaze
10	11	
India-Japan Linguistic & Cultural Responses	Indian Reception in Germany: Perspectives from Past and Present	
Global Gaze	Global Gaze	

SUB-THEMES

- Literary portraits of urban and rural India	- Migration and diasporic narratives
- Environmental writing and ecological consciousness	- Historical memory and political imagination
- Technology, modernity, and changing social fabrics	- Translation as cultural negotiation
- Folk traditions and contemporary cultural expressions	- India in global languages: external and internal gazes
- Marginalised voices and subaltern narratives	- Digital humanities and new forms of storytelling

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Peer-reviewed edited volume or special journal issue
- Policy recommendations for multilingual literary ecosystems in higher education

- Network for future collaborative research projects
- Intergenerational dialogue between scholars and practitioners

ORGANISERS & PARTNERS

ORGANISERS	School of Languages, Doon University Valley of Words (knowledge partner)
CONFIRMED	ICSSR, Sahitya Akademi, Indian Association of Teachers of French (IATF) Garhwal Post / Print / News Trust / Newspost House of Himalayas (gifting partner)

Chief Patron:

Prof. Surekha Dangwal, Vice Chancellor, Doon University

Convenor:

Prof. Chetana Pokhriyal, Dean, School of Languages, Doon University

Organising Committee Members:

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Prof. Rana Nayar: Former Professor and Head of the Department of English and Cultural Studies at Panjab University, Chandigarh

CALL FOR PAPERS

Academic sessions · Poster presentations · Young Voices Forum (scholars under 30)

Submit abstracts to: conferencesol2026@doonuniversity.ac.in

Abstract Submission Guidelines: APA Citation and Referencing Style

Abstract Word Limit: 350-500 words (with keywords)

Abstract Submission Deadline: 30th Sept 2026

Date of Acceptance: 10th Oct 2026

Submission of the Full Paper: 30th Oct 2026

Presenting author's contact details (should be the same details as the submitting author so that the presenting author receives correspondence about the abstract) - Email address

Registration Fee Details:

International Participants: \$ 50

Indian Participants:

Academicians: INR 2000/-

Research Scholars: INR 1000/-

University Students: INR 500/-

Limited paid shared accommodation will be provided on first-cum, first-served basis.

Register for the Conference:

Google Form Registration Link

<https://forms.gle/UqxFDCT4dUrppKLg9>



Payment Details:

Account Name: DOON UNIVERSITY-
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In case of any queries, please contact at conferencesol2026@doonuniversity.ac.in or (+91-9997351225; +91-9634418859)