

Brief Report on the Release Ceremony of the Special Edition of *CMDR Journal of Social Research*

The Centre for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research (CMDR), Dharwad, organized a distinguished ceremony to release the Special Edition of the *CMDR Journal of Social Research* on the occasion of **Bharatiya Bhasha Divas** in the CMDR Seminar Hall, Dharwad, on 13th January 2026. The event brought together eminent academicians, administrators and scholars to celebrate the richness of Indian languages and their role in advancing social research. The program was marked by intellectual exchange, cultural pride and a reaffirmation of CMDR's commitment to inclusive knowledge dissemination.

The ceremony was not merely a journal release but a celebration of India's linguistic heritage. By aligning the Special Edition with Bharatiya Bhasha Divas, CMDR reinforced the idea that language is central to identity, inclusivity and social transformation. The event also showcased CMDR's role as a hub for interdisciplinary dialogue, bridging social sciences with technology, policy and cultural studies.

The ceremony was graced by Prof. Venkappayya R. Desai, Director, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Dharwad was the Chief Guest. Dr. Chandramouli S. Naikar, Retired Professor of Sanskrit, Karnataka University, Dharwad and the Guest Editor of the Special Edition, was the Guest of Honour. Prof. Vijayalaxmi A. Aminabhavi, Member, Governing Council, CMDR & Former Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Karnatak University, was the President of the Function.

The program commenced with an invocation by Smt. Seema Kulkarni. Prof. Basavaprabhu Jirli, Director, CMDR, welcomed the dignitaries and guests who graced the occasion and set the tone by explaining the facts like, Hindi is spoken by 609 million people; making it the third most spoken language in the world, yet its share of web content is so negligible. Likewise, Bengali, with 284 million speakers, Marathi and Telugu with large populations show the same striking lack of digital representation. In sharp contrast, languages like English (spoken by 1.5 billion people) account for 49.4% of all web content, only about 25% of its speakers are native, while the majority have acquired it as a second language, while Spanish (with fewer speakers than Hindi) comprises 6% of web content. Even languages like German and Japanese, with smaller speaker bases, have larger digital footprints than any Indian language

Dr. Jai Prabhakar S.C., Editor of the *CMDR Journal of Social Research*, briefed about the purpose of bringing out the special issue containing 23 articles in nine languages, setting a scholarly yet celebratory tone. Dr. Prabhakar highlighted its thematic focus on Bharatiya Bhasha Divas. He emphasized the journal's role in promoting research that bridges linguistic diversity with social development. Dr. Prabhakar expressed his gratitude to Dr. Chandramouli Naikar, Dr. Prateek Mali and Dr. Dayanand Patil for assuming the responsibility as Guest Editors for the Special Issue.

The dignitaries jointly unveiled the Special Edition, symbolizing a collective commitment to advancing multilingual scholarship.

Prof. Venkappayya R. Desai reflected on the role of technology and interdisciplinary research in preserving and promoting Indian languages. He highlighted the importance of Bharatiya Bhasha Divas in fostering national integration through linguistic plurality. Prof. Desai gave a detailed account of Indian languages by indicating the Indian languages appearing on Indian currency. He praised CMDR's initiative in dedicating a scholarly platform to Indian languages and their socio-cultural impact. Prof. Desai also emphasized the synergy between information technology and language studies, noting how digital tools can enhance accessibility and research dissemination.

Dr. Chandramouli S. Naikar shared insights into the editorial journey of the Special Edition, highlighting contributions from diverse scholars and the thematic richness of the issue.

Prof. Vijayalaxmi A. Aminabhavi lauded CMDR's efforts in nurturing social sciences research and stressed the need for integrating linguistic diversity into policy and pedagogy. She linked the efforts to the relationship between psychology and languages.

The release ceremony of the Special Edition of the *CMDR Journal of Social Research* was a landmark event that combined academic rigor with cultural pride. It highlighted the collective responsibility of institutions, scholars and policymakers to preserve and promote India's linguistic diversity. The presence of distinguished guests and the thoughtful addresses delivered underscored the relevance of Bharatiya Bhasha Divas in contemporary discourse. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, leaving participants inspired to continue the journey of inclusive and multilingual social research.

Prof. V. S. Korikantimath, Former Director, ICAR Research Complex for Goa, Prof. S. S. Patagundi, Former Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, KUD, Prof. Gopal Parasari, from IIT Dharwad, Sh. Shankar Halagatti, Secretary, Karnataka Vidyavardhak Sangha, Dharwad, Prof. Ganachari, Former Director PU Board and Principal Satya Sai Institute, Dharwad, Dr. Dundappa YB, Dr. Arun Kulkarni, Dr. Prateek Mali, Dr. SV Hanagodimath and more than 60 Research Scholars and Faculty members of various colleges participated in the event. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof Nayanatara, leaving participants inspired to continue the journey of inclusive and multilingual social research.



