

CFSR
CENTRE FOR FOLKLORE STUDIES AND RESEARCH



हैदराबाद विश्वविद्यालय
University of Hyderabad

CENTRE FOR FOLKLORE STUDIES AND RESEARCH (CFSR)
IN COLLABORATION WITH
CENTRE FOR FOLK CULTURE STUDIES (CFCS)
UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD

3RD INTERNATIONAL YOUNG FOLKLORIST

Conference

VERNACULARITY AND
FOLK PRACTICES:
MAPPING LIVING
TRADITIONS AND INDIAN
KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM



HYBRID

MARCH | 06, 07 & 08 | 2026

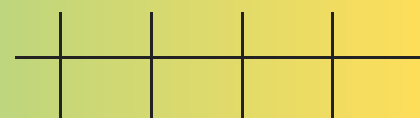
ONLINE: GOOGLE MEET PLATFORM
OFFLINE: CFCS, UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD

About our Centres

Centre for Folklore Studies and Research (CFSR): CFSR is a global community of scholars, educators, artists, and community members dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of folklore and its various manifestations across cultures and historical periods. We believe that folklore is an essential part of human culture, shaping our identities, beliefs, values, and practices. Our network aims to promote critical analysis of folklore and to facilitate collaboration and communication among scholars, educators, artists, and community members. We seek to foster a deeper understanding of the significance of folklore in shaping cultural identities, social practices, and artistic expression, and to promote the preservation and appreciation of folk traditions worldwide. Through our research, teaching, and outreach activities, we aim to advance knowledge, promote diversity, and engage in dialogue with diverse audiences about the role of folklore in contemporary society. We encourage the representation of underrepresented groups and perspectives in the study of folklore and promote inclusivity and diversity.

CFSR, officially registered as a non-profit charitable public trust under the auspices of the Government of West Bengal, is dedicated to the upliftment of our rich folk artistry. Our primary objective is to rejuvenate various cultural facets by orchestrating seminars, workshops, and conferences on a regional scale. In pursuit of this, we employ a multifaceted approach that integrates cutting-edge technology with on-the-ground fieldwork methods to promote and safeguard endangered elements of folklore. We promote the use of digital technologies in the study and preservation of folklore and support the establishment of folklore archives and museums. Our unwavering commitment revolves around the central theme of preserving and perpetuating our roots, currently imperiled by the passage of time. Through a harmonious blend of tradition and innovation, we aspire to ensure the survival and sustenance of our indigenous art and artists.

Centre for Folk Culture Studies (CFCS), University of Hyderabad is the first of its kind in the Central University system in India. It was established with the assistance of the Ford Foundation, USA. Centre's interdisciplinary and multi-perspectival approaches emphasize research and teaching in Folk Culture Studies in the milieu of contemporary ethnographic fieldwork. The Centre's thrust is on the study of various aspects of folk expressive behaviour as a dialogue between human groups and their physical and social environments. The manifold folk forms are information banks and communication systems explicating the dynamics of adaptive processes in time and space. To decode and explain the folk expressive forms, the Centre is adopting a research strategy that combines the methodological procedures and theoretical approaches of both humanities and social sciences. Apart from the NEP electives, GEC, and optional courses, the Centre offers Ph.D programmes with the current strength of nine.



VERNACULARITY AND FOLK PRACTICES: MAPPING LIVING TRADITIONS AND INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

The term "vernacular" can be best described as the language of the common people. The concept of vernacularity foregrounds community-based articulations of knowledge systems expressed through oral narratives, ritualistic performances, ecological associations, and healing practices embedded within specific cultural systems. Indian folk traditions, irrespective of regions, show the fluid interplay between vernacular language, landscape, and lived experience. They represent a vernacular overview that resists socio-cultural homogenization and sustains diverse epistemologies rooted in locality and in cultural memory. A defining characteristic of vernacularity is its complexity and durability, that thrives on its inherent tendency to constantly evolve, adapt and travel across time. Language here not only plays the role of primary indicator of a community's identity but also as an integral component in the production, transmission, and sustenance of vernacularity in its varied regional expressions. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) has historically evolved from such vernacular epistemologies—whether manifested in agricultural patterns, medicinal practices, ritual healing, environmental ethics, craft traditions, or narrative heritage.

Centre for Folklore Studies and Research (CFSR), jointly with Centre for Folk Culture Studies (CFCS), University of Hyderabad, cordially invites scholars, researchers, early-career faculty, and practitioners to the 3rd International Young Folklorists' Conference titled Vernacularity and Folk Practices: Mapping Living Traditions and Indian Knowledge Systems.

This three-day hybrid event attempts to map the intersections of vernacularity and folk-practices putting forward their role in preserving, conserving, transitioning and revitalizing the Indian Knowledge Systems. This conference engages with a wide spectrum of concerns starting from the role of orality and performativity in the traditional knowledge making process to the integration of folk-knowledge as a part of NEP 2020. By mediating between the sacred and the secular, the natural and the human, it seeks to explore pathways that advocate for the decolonization of knowledge production systems and fosters cultural inclusivity by resisting homogenization. Furthermore, it also aims to revisit the pioneering contributions of the eminent folklorists, historians, social scientists, and conservationists whose timeless work has shaped the understanding of India's vernacular and folk heritage.

In an era characterized by technological acceleration, digital mediation, ecological instability, and standardized knowledge paradigms, this conference aims to celebrate vernacular knowledge-making processes, critique its transitions under modernity, address ethical concerns around documentation and mediatization, and promote the integration of vernacular wisdom into sustainable futures, policy frameworks, and educational reforms. This event will promote cooperations between folklore studies, cultural studies, history, sociology, anthropology, linguistics, ecology, museum studies, performing arts and allied fields through interdisciplinary conversations. It envisions outcomes that not only document these traditions but also empower communities enough to reclaim their narratives, ensuring that Indian Knowledge Systems remain dynamic, relevant, and future-oriented.

Themes & Sub-themes:

This Conference invites early-career faculty and researchers (both PhD and Post-Doc scholars), Undergraduate and Postgraduate students, independent researchers, practitioners, and enthusiasts to critically engage and explore themes including, but not limited to:

1. Vernacularity and Living Traditions:

- Oral, performative and community-based practices as carrier of vernacular knowledge
- Vernacular languages and folk epistemology
- Local rituals, festivals and their role in the transmission of cultural memory

2. Folk Practices and Indian Knowledge Systems:

- Knowledge-making practices within community settings
- Folk epistemologies and their intersections with Indian Knowledge Systems
- Preservation and transition of Indian Knowledge Systems

3. Medicinal Traditions and Knowledge-Based Healing Practices:

- Local community-based sacred traditions of healing
- Rituals, shamanism and other psycho-spiritual knowledge-based practices of healing
- Folk medicines and their vernacular adaptations in contemporary health practices

4. Agricultural Practices, Ecological Sustainability, and Folk Wisdom:

- Traditional farming practices, element-based rituals, seed sovereignty, and agro-ecological knowledge
- Knowledge-based Traditions and Environmental Ethics: Disaster Management, Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity Conservation
- Agrarian calendar system, festivals and seasonal wisdom towards a sustainable agro-future

5. Applied Folklore, Public Folklore, and the Generation of Knowledge:

- Applied folklore for policy-making, heritage conservation and the role of UNESCO
- Application possibilities of folk-knowledge towards a sustainable future
- Decolonizing museum narratives through applied and public folklore

6. Folk Knowledge in Media: Propagation, Publication, and Dissemination:

- Folklore and Virtual Media: Memes, Reels and Digital Storyboards
- Viral traditions and the question of authenticity in digital space
- Ethical Concern vs. Public Interest: Challenges in Mediatizing Folklore

7. Roles of the Pioneers in Documentation, Preservation, and Revival:

- Biographies and influences of regional icons in the development of global Folklore Studies
- Role of the societies and institutions in the development of Folklore Studies in post-Independence India
- Untold stories of the grassroots custodians of traditional knowledge systems

8. Folk Knowledge and Pedagogy in NEP-2020:

- Integrating folk knowledge systems in education curriculum as per NEP-2020
- Multilingual education and the role of oral traditions in language pedagogy
- Addressing equality and inclusion goals through folk knowledge within NEP-2020 frameworks

Important Dates

- Last date for submission of Abstracts: 29th January, 2026
- Intimation of selected Abstracts: 6th February, 2026
- Submission of Full-length Papers: 20th February, 2026
- Last date of Registration: 20th February, 2026

Authors are requested to kindly submit their abstracts via following Link/QR Code by 29th January, 2026: [Link/QR Code]

Submission Guidelines:

We invite original research, theoretical inquiries, case studies and interdisciplinary perspectives that contribute to the discourse surrounding the theme. Abstract of the proposed papers must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Abstract Length: 250-300 words with 5 keywords and a title.
- Formatting: Times New Roman, 12-point font, single-spaced, 1-inch margin on all sides, MS Word docs
- Must include a brief bio-note of the author(s) (100 words) with affiliation and contact details.
- Submit abstracts in Word formats via Google Form only

Full Papers (5000-7000 words, including references) must follow MLA 9th Edition Guidelines and the above formatting style. Submissions should be free of plagiarism and copyright claims.

Expected Outcome:

Selected papers will be published as conference proceedings in book format with an ISBN, offering a platform for scholarly dissemination and dialogue within the field of folklore studies. Kindly note that the selection of the abstract does not guarantee publication. The papers will undergo double-blind peer review processes. Selected authors will receive one complimentary copy.

Registration Fees

• Participants from India:

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students : 250 INR

Practitioners, and PhD Scholars: 500 INR

Post Doctoral Scholars: 750 INR

Independent Researchers and Early-Career Faculties: 1000 INR

• Participants from Abroad:

Practitioners, Students, and Scholars from SAARC countries: \$15

Early-Career Faculties from SAARC countries: \$25

Practitioners, Students, and Scholars from Non-SAARC countries: \$30

Early-Career Faculties from Non-SAARC countries: \$40

Fees for General Attendees without Paper Submission:

General Attendees from India: 150 INR

General Attendees from SAARC countries: \$10

General Attendees from non-SAARC countries: \$20



Organisers

• **Team Centre for Folklore Studies and Research (CFSR):**

Student Coordinators:

1. Ms. Ipshta Bose, MA in Folklore and Culture Studies, Indira Gandhi National Open University
2. Ms. Rubaiya Nasrin, PhD Scholar in English, Jadavpur University
3. Mr. Md Sujauddin Shaikh, PhD Scholar in English, The Neotia University

Faculty Coordinators:

1. Dr. Pooja Negi, Assistant Professor of English, Delhi University
2. Ms. Aaleya Giri, Assistant Professor of English, Delhi University
3. Ms. Debolina Guha Thakurta, Assistant Professor of English, Shri Shikshayatan College, University of Calcutta

Advisors:

1. Dr. Md. Intaj Ali, Assistant Professor of English, Netaji Subhas Open University
2. Dr. Sanjukta Naskar, Associate Professor of English, Janki Devi Memorial College, Delhi University

Treasurer:

1. Mr. Ramesh Bhattacharyya, PhD Scholar in Bengali, Adamas University

Team Centre for Folk Culture Studies (CFCS):

Student Coordinators:

1. Ms. Dhruva Nanda Roy, PhD Scholar, CFCS
2. Ms. Shreeta Shubham, PhD Scholar, CFCS
3. Mr. Pendem Sumanth, PhD Scholar, CFCS

Faculty Coordinators:

1. Mr. Nijil V., Assistant Professor, CFCS, University of Hyderabad
2. Dr. Aswathy Rajan, Director, Padma Knowledgeverse
3. Dr. Deepika Kashyap, Assistant Professor of Visual Communication, SRM Institute of Science and Technology

Advisors:

1. Prof. Joly Puthussery, CFCS, University of Hyderabad
2. Dr. Naveen Nanjundan, Assistant Professor, CFCS, University of Hyderabad

NB: Paper presenters will be awarded an e-certificate for their participation. Attendees are eligible to receive an e-certificate too by paying the requisite fee and registering for the event, actively participating in most sessions, and engaging throughout the conference. However, attendance at the session is free, without the option for a certificate. However, certification will be provided free of charge for CFSR members and students of the University of Hyderabad. For inquiries and submissions, please reach out to us at folklorestudienetwork@gmail.com Join us in reimagining folklore in the contemporary era of knowledge-making and charting pathways for its preservation and dissemination for sustenance.

