

## Celebration of International Mother Language Day

Loreto College  
IQAC Initiative  
21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

Loreto College organized a special event on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2025 to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Mother Language Day, proclaimed by UNESCO in 1999 at the initiative of Bangladesh to commemorate the martyrs of Bangladesh who sacrificed their lives on this day in 1952 to reclaim Bengali as their state official language as against Urdu which was imposed upon them by the then West Pakistan. From 2000, this day has been observed throughout the world, to promote “the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world”.

Northeast India is known for its multilingualism and cultural diversity. However, globalisation has put many languages at risk of extinction. Language preservation is crucial for advancing education among the mass and protecting cultural heritage. In this context, the College dedicated this year’s celebration to the linguistic and cultural diversity of Northeast India, aiming to raise awareness and respect for languages and traditions among students.

The chief guest of the event was Dr. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, former Regional Secretary of the Sahitya Akademi, former officer of the Visva-Bharati Granthan Vibhag, and a noted author. In his speech, he discussed the reasons behind extinction of some languages and highlighted three languages from Northeast India that have managed to revive themselves despite the threat of disappearance. Renowned Mizoram-based writer Ms. Malsawmi Jacob joined the program virtually. She spoke about the languages, scripts, usage, culture and contemporary literature of various states in Northeast India.

A student panel featuring five participants from Assam, Sylhet, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur shared insights into the history, diversity, folklore and growing influence of their regional languages. Dr. Nishi Pulugurtha, Associate Professor, Department of English, Brahmananda Keshab Chandra College, Kolkata was present at the event as the moderator.

The event also featured captivating performances of Bengali music, a historical presentation of the language movement, and traditional dances from Northeast India. Additionally, an exhibition was held showcasing information on the language movement. An inter-college creative writing and a poster making competition were organized to raise awareness about the importance of mother language among student community of different colleges in Kolkata.

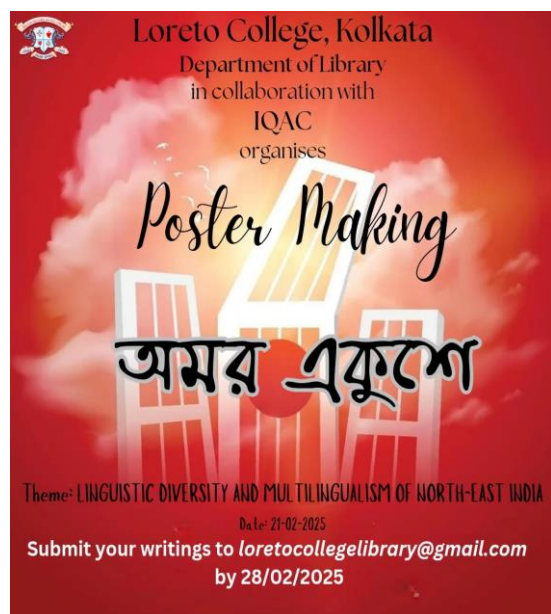
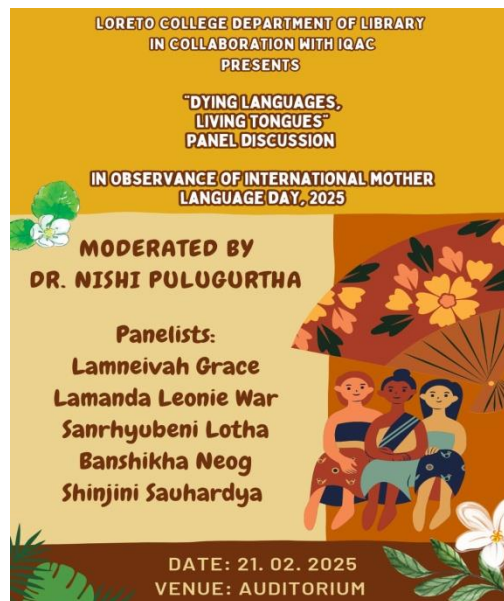
This programme has been organised by the Department of Library in association with IQAC. The participating Societies include Library Society, ARTSOC, DRAMSOC, ECS, Literary Society, ICT Society and Cine Society.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- ❖ Understand the Historical Significance – To educate students about the 1952 Language Movement and its impact on linguistic rights.
- ❖ Appreciate Linguistic Diversity – To recognize the importance of preserving and celebrating indigenous and regional languages.
- ❖ Develop Intercultural Awareness – To encourage respect and understanding of different languages and their cultural heritage.
- ❖ Enhance Critical Thinking – To reflect on how language plays a role in identity, resistance, and societal progress.
- ❖ Encourage Creative Expression – To use poetry, music, and drama as tools to convey the significance of language and cultural preservation.
- ❖ Promote Global Citizenship – To instill awareness that language rights are a universal issue and that ideals like freedom of expression transcend national boundaries.

### **Learning outcomes –**

- Students gained a deeper appreciation for linguistic diversity and the importance of preserving indigenous languages.
- The re-enactment of the 1952 language movement helped students understand the sacrifices made for linguistic rights, especially in Bangladesh.
- Remembering the martyrs instilled a sense of gratitude and responsibility in students to uphold linguistic and cultural heritage.
- The speeches of the students pertaining to different aspects of languages like Khasi, Assamese, Sylheti, Naga, and Kuki highlighted the resilience and literary contributions of these languages, fostering a sense of respect for linguistic minorities.
- Through poetry, songs, and performances, students learned how art can be a powerful medium to celebrate and protect linguistic heritage.
- This programme reinforced the significance of language in shaping identity, culture, and historical consciousness, making it a valuable educational experience.











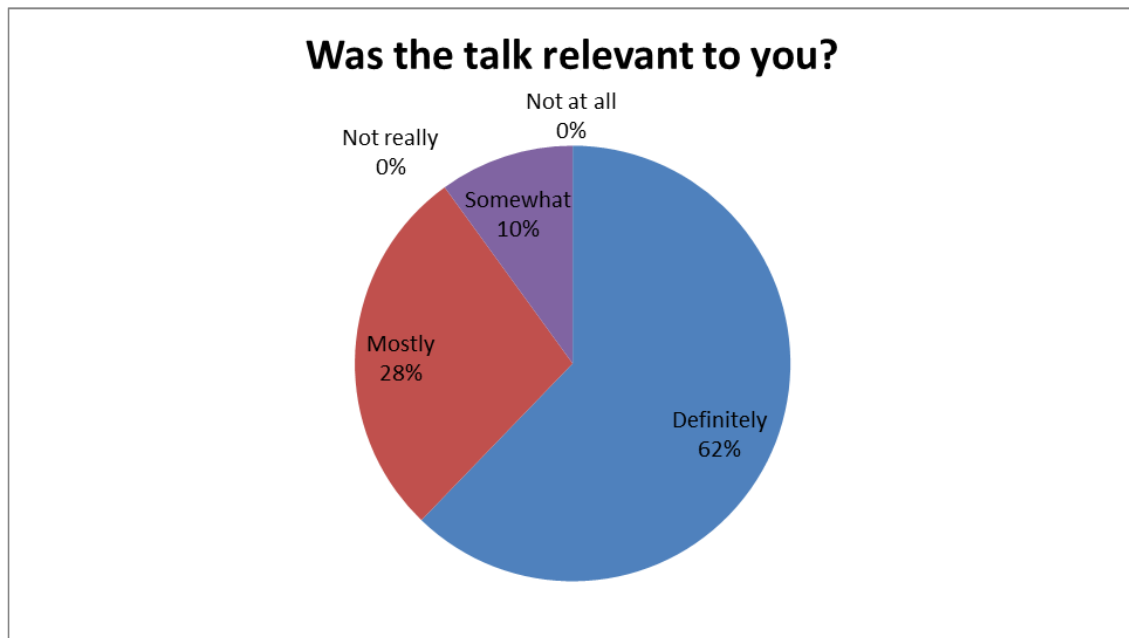


## Feedback

**Total No. of Respondents: 90**

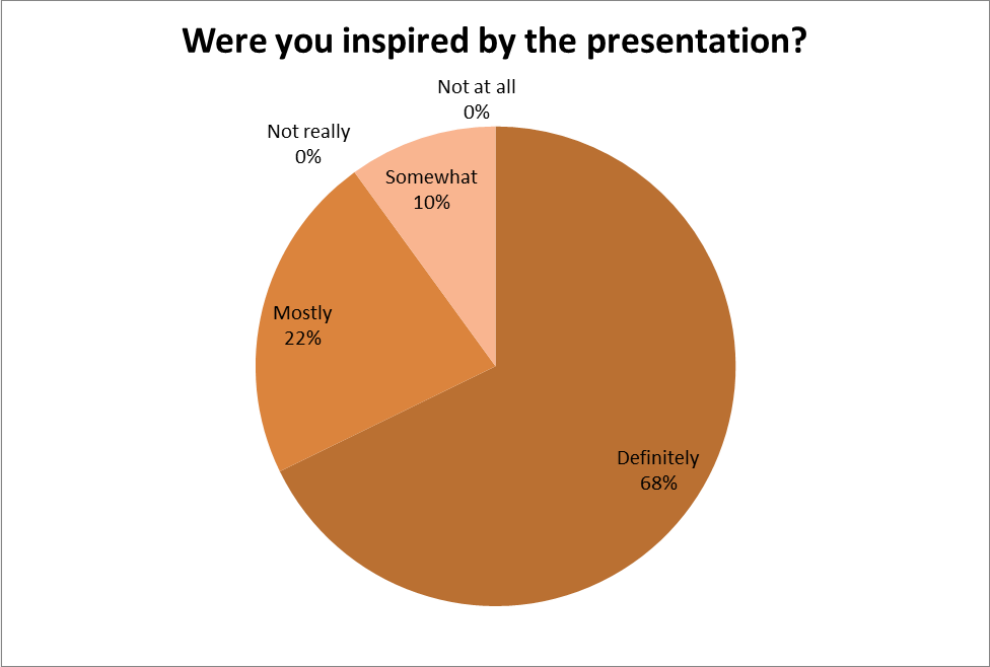
**Q1. Was the talk relevant to you?**

<b>Definitely</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Mostly</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Not really</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Somewhat</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Not at all</b>	<b>0</b>



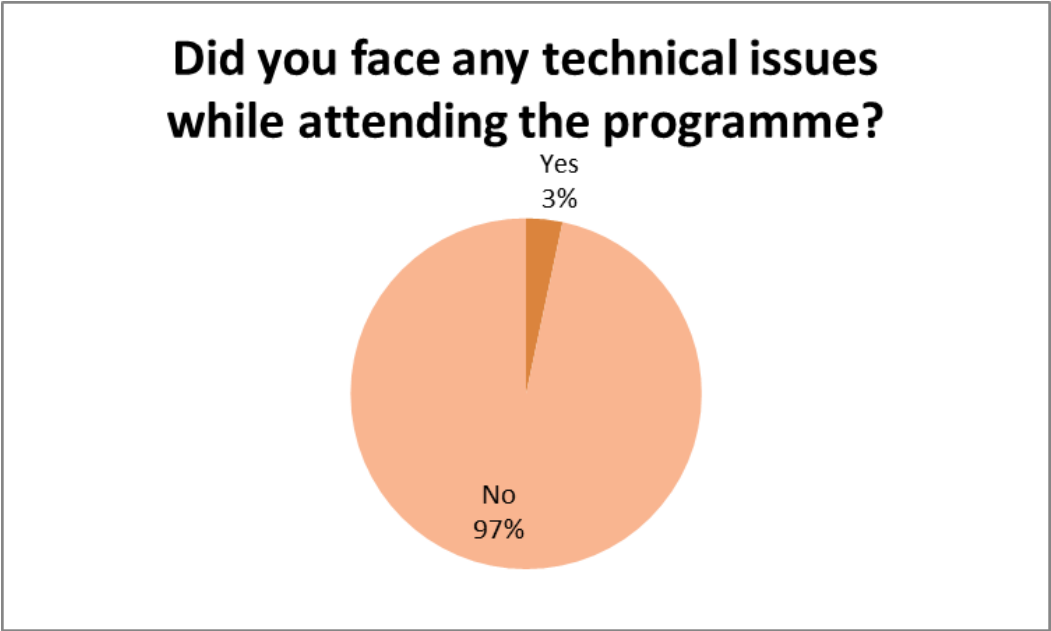
**Q2. Were you inspired by the presentation?**

<b>Definitely</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Mostly</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Not really</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Somewhat</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Not at all</b>	<b>0</b>



**Q3. Did you face any technical issues while attending the programme?**

Yes	3
No	87





**Q4. Would you want to attend a similar event in the future?**

<b>Definitely</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Mostly</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Not really</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Somewhat</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Not at all</b>	<b>0</b>

