



NO.2

CENTRE FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGES
O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

JUN-DEC
2025

WELCOME TO OUR

Biannual Newsletter

From the Director's Desk

Dear JGU Community,

An institution grows strongest when individual efforts come together in shared purpose. The second edition of the CFL Newsletter reflects this collective spirit - faculty working as a team, each contributing to institution building, strengthening JGU's academic presence, and advancing individual scholarly profiles.

The period from June to December 2025 has been marked by significant academic momentum. The Spanish section under the leadership of Mr. Mohammad Jilani has made an immense contribution to CFL, notably by initiating the MoU between Instituto Cervantes and JGU, alongside producing impactful research that strengthens our international engagement. The French section took responsibility for convening and successfully organizing the 2nd JGU International Foreign Language Conference on "*Thinking With and Beyond AI in Foreign Languages: Integration, Reflection and the Future of Language Teaching, Literature and Translation.*" The German Section continued to actively contribute to JGU's academic rigor with added strength through the contributions of Dr. Payal Kumari, while this semester also witnessed the introduction of Japanese courses at CFL, marking an important step in curricular expansion.

Dr. Neha Tyagi's publication in the Q1-ranked, Scopus-indexed journal *Sexuality, Gender and Policy* (Wiley) merits special commendation. Her article, "*Kinnars at Traffic Signals: Contesting Gender and Space*" (2025), underscores her scholarly rigor and international research impact.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Prof. Padmanabha Ramanujam for his continued guidance and support to CFL. I also acknowledge Ms. Mehar Arora and Mr. Ratul Bandopadhyay for their consistent coordination, and Ms. Struti Patnaik, who has also taken dedicated care of CFL's needs.

As you read this edition, I invite you to see not just individual accomplishments, but a shared commitment to excellence and collaboration that continues to shape CFL and JGU.

Warm regards,

Shruti Jain

CFL ORIENTATION

An orientation session for the new cohort was held on 6 August 2025, organized by the faculty members of Centre for Foreign Languages. The session aimed to warmly welcome incoming students and provide them with essential guidance for their language learning journey. Faculty members introduced the vision, objectives, and academic framework of CFL, highlighting its learning culture, expectations, and opportunities for holistic development.



SUMMER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM (ST-SAP) TO GRANADA, SPAIN

A successful two-week Summer Study Abroad Program (ST-SAP) was organised by Prof. Mohammad Jilani (Faculty Co-ordinator) allowing a group of students from across the University to participate in an intensive cultural and linguistic immersion experience at the Centro de Lenguas Modernas (University of Granada).

Focus: Immersion in Spanish culture and language learning.

Key Highlights: The program included enriching cultural excursions and educational trips to the cities of Sevilla and Málaga, providing students with a broader understanding of Andalusian history and heritage.

The Spanish section of CFL is planning a forthcoming study abroad opportunity. Winter STSAP (Study Abroad Program) to University of Granada, Spain. 'Doing Business in Spain and Spanish Language'

Objective: To continue providing students with opportunities for deep cultural and linguistic immersion during the winter break.

Upcoming

**WINTER STUDY
ABROAD PROGRAM
TO GRANADA**



**SPECIAL GUEST LECTURE BY
DR. MARÍA ELENA GARCÍA TORRES**

The Spanish section of CFL hosted a significant academic event on November 4, 2025 featuring a special guest lecture by Dr. María Elena García Torres, the Education Advisor to the Ministry of Education, Professional Training, and Sports at the Embassy of Spain, Delhi where she discussed the diverse and exciting academic opportunities available in Spain, including insights into higher education, research collaborations, scholarship programs, and cultural exchange possibilities within Spanish institutions.

This session offered students and faculty a unique and invaluable direct insight into European education policy and advanced study options in Spain.



Faculty Achievements

MR. MOHAMMAD JILANI
(ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE OF SPANISH)

PUBLICATIONS:

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLE:

Jilani, M. (2025) *Negotiating Culture: Approaches to Translating Culture-Specific Elements from Spanish into Hindi*. Praxis International Journal of Social Science and Literature, 08. 08-16. ISSN 2581-6675

OP-ED:

Jilani, M. (2025, October 22). Languages beyond borders. Millennium Post. <https://www.millenniumpost.in/opinion/languages-beyond-borders-632072> MillenniumPost

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

1. Paper presented at SRM University conference (25-26 November, 2025) on Indian literature and Culture, organized by Dept. of English & Foreign Languages, SRM University, Sonipat Haryana. The paper was titled: Transfer of cultural elements in the translation of the Spanish short story "El Espejo de las sombras" into Hindi.
2. Paper presented on the topic: Influence of Technology/AI in the translation at JGU Foreign Language Conference "Thinking With and Beyond AI in Foreign Language Studies: Integration, Reflection, and the Future of Language Teaching, Literature, and Translation" on 5 December 2025.

DR. NEHA TYAGI
(ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SPANISH)

SCOPUS INDEXED PUBLICATION:

Tyagi, N. (2025). Kinnars at traffic signals: Contesting gender and space. Sexuality, Gender and Policy, 8.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/sgp2.70029>



MoU signed with Instituto Cervantes

Through the initiative of Mr. Mohammad Jilani, CFL played a crucial role in establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Instituto Cervantes and JGU. This collaboration opens new avenues for student and faculty exchange programmes, joint research, and vibrant cultural events. The partnership aims to enhance language learning, promote cultural dialogue, and provide access to global academic resources, fostering mutual understanding and respect across communities.



Student Testimonials

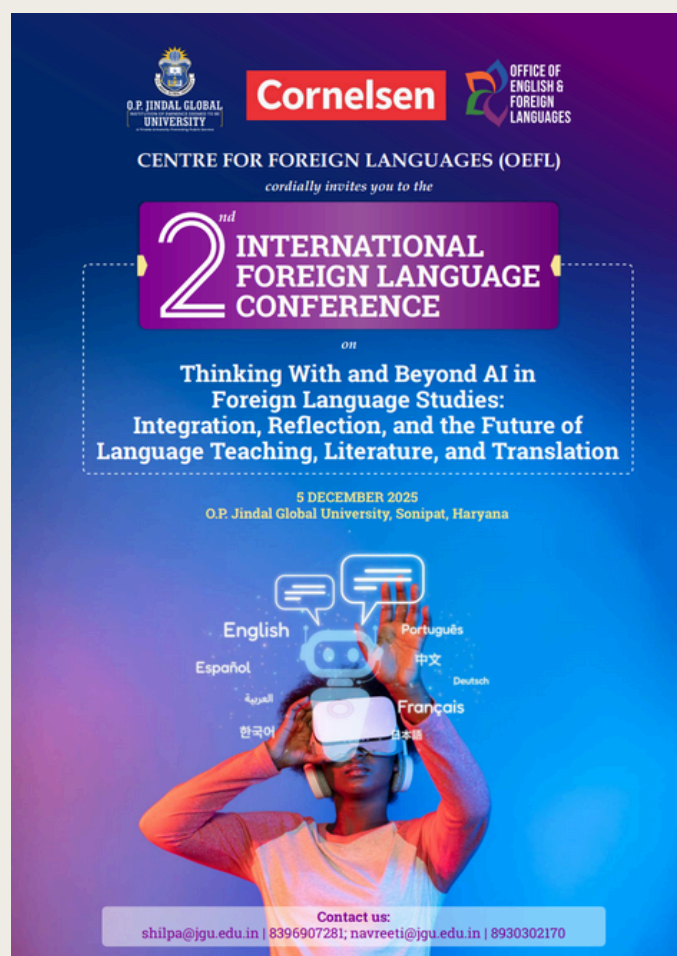
It has been a great semester learning Spanish under Professor Deepika Teckchandani. Even though the classes were conducted later in the evening, we were very enthusiastic about learning something new in every class.

Her approach to the subject is unique. She encourages class participation, class activities, and using the class time efficiently to learn to the utmost. She is always ready to help, guide, and explain as many times as we ask until we understand the subject.

Every student needs a professor like her. Her encouragement to ask questions helps students build confidence, learn the subject in depth, and develop further interest. I am fortunate that I am learning the subject under her and want to continue learning until the last year of my Master's. -Tanuka Das, MADLB 2025

I am Adhikshita Vishnoi, a second-year undergraduate student pursuing B.A. (Hons.) Diplomacy and Foreign Policy. I have been learning Spanish at O.P. Jindal University for three semesters now and have thoroughly enjoyed the classes and learning the language. Our professor, Jilani Sir, makes the language really interesting and easy to learn. We learn the grammar, writing skills and vocabulary as well as the cultural context of Spanish culture, cuisine, music. Understanding how conversations can be done in Spanish and how we can use the language further is an integral part of the class too. While we all may make mistakes while practicing the language, there is always a space to improve in the class. I have had a great time learning the language and the culture of Spain and I hope to experience the culture by myself, someday as well. Me gusta mucho aprender español.

Having learnt Spanish for a little over two years now, there are certain aspects of the experience that especially resonated with me, and will surely go a long way in sustaining my connection with Spanish, despite classes having officially concluded. Reflecting on my experience, what certainly helped me grasp the language the most was speaking – both impromptu during class discussions, and the prepared speaking exercises that we participated in, in groups and individually. While our class was definitely not the most talkative/conversation-initiating bunch when it came to speaking in Spanish owing to the ever-terrorizing fear of the fumble, thus needing much provocation from our professor's part, speaking definitely helped me go beyond remembering rules of grammar to actually learning how to use vocabulary and conjugations in actual conversation. The in-class presentations and skits that we engaged in also particularly helped in this regard, especially because they involved both writing and performing on our part. Unfortunately, this allowed me and my friends to experiment with our wonderful (questionable) comedic timing and humorous writing, which we did with much glee and disregard for the audience who had to suffer our stints. Jokes apart (literally), these exercises helped me find my expression in Spanish, because they involved engaging with the language at a personal level, and talking about things that were part of my everyday life. I found myself looking up new words for the specific emotions or occurrences I wished to describe, and I fondly remember coming across many beautiful words that I would otherwise have not. Lastly, I am grateful to have been part of a classroom where we traversed beyond linguistic and grammar exercises to engage in learning about Hispanic culture – discussing and watching films, listening to music, and recitations from a guest poet who joined us for a session. Professor Neha Tyagi, who initiated and encouraged these engagements, and designed the interactive exercises I mentioned before, helped me form a personal connection with the language, for which I remain abundantly grateful. - Mansi Chhadia(BAGA 23/JSIA)

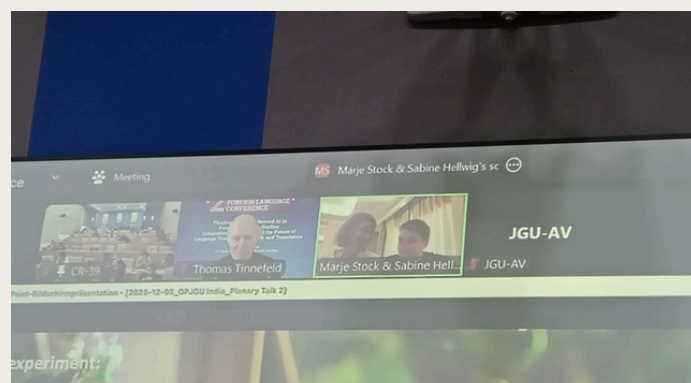


The French Section of the CFL took over the responsibility of convening and successfully organized the 2nd International Foreign Language Conference on 5 December 2025. The conference brought together scholars, educators, researchers, and practitioners from India and abroad.

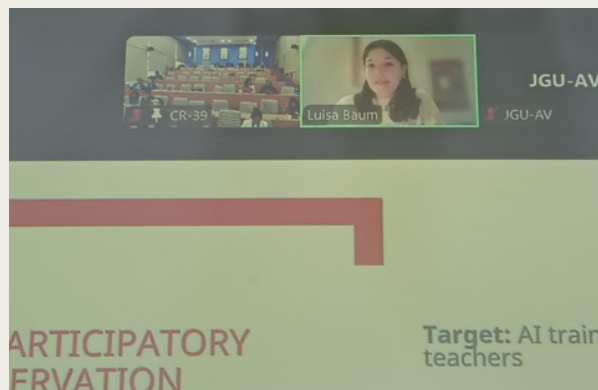
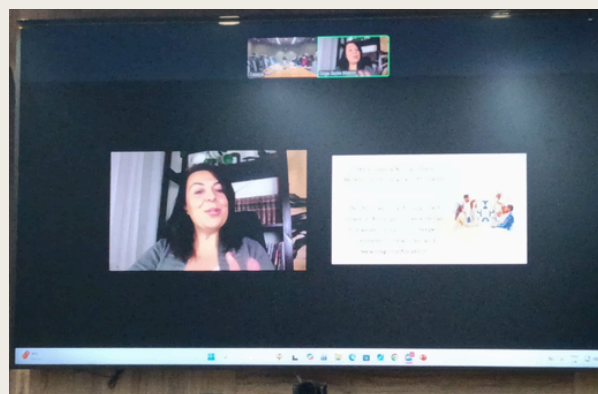
The conference was themed “Thinking With and Beyond AI in Foreign Language Studies: Integration, Reflection, and the Future of Language Teaching, Literature, and Translation.” It aimed to critically examine the growing role of Artificial Intelligence in foreign language education while reaffirming the humanistic, cultural, and emotional dimensions central to language learning.

The event was convened by Dr. Shilpa Gupta (Associate Professor of Practice of French) and Dr. Navreeti Sharma (Associate Professor of French) with Dr. Shruti Jain, Professor (German) and Director, CFL, serving as the Organizing Committee Advisor. The organizing committee comprised faculty members from French, Spanish, German, and Japanese sections, supported efficiently by the OEFL executive officer, Ms. Struti Patnaik and student volunteers - Aarchi Amish BA GA 2024, Athin B Paul (MA DLB 2024) and Ishaan Banwait (MA DLB 2024).

The conference featured eminent keynote speakers and invited plenary speakers, including Prof. Dr. Deepanwita Srivastava, Prof. Dr. Vibha Maurya, Ms. Sabine Hellwig, Ms. Marje Zschiesche-Stock, Prof. Dr. Thomas Tinnefeld, Prof. Dr. Mohar Daschaudhuri, and Dr. Michael Stadler. Their addresses explored diverse perspectives on AI in language pedagogy, literature, translation, teacher training, ethics, and future skills, offering both critical reflection and practical insights. In addition to the keynote and plenary sessions, the conference hosted research paper presentations across French, Spanish, German, and English studies. These presentations addressed a wide range of topics such as AI-assisted language learning, emotional and cultural limits of machine translation, human agency in translation, literature and affect, ethical challenges of AI, and blended pedagogical models. The multilingual and interdisciplinary nature of the sessions enriched academic dialogue and fostered cross-language collaboration. The conference provided a vibrant platform for engaging discussions on how AI can be integrated responsibly into foreign language classrooms without undermining the role of the teacher or the experiential depth of language, literature, and culture.



Participants particularly appreciated the balanced approach adopted by the conference, which emphasized critical engagement with technology rather than uncritical adoption. Overall, the 2nd International Foreign Language Conference was a resounding success. Under the leadership of the French Section of CFL, the event strengthened academic exchange, encouraged interdisciplinary thinking, and contributed meaningfully to ongoing debates on the future of foreign language education in the age of Artificial Intelligence.



Student Testimonials



Professor Shilpa Gupta's French class was an engaging and enriching learning experience. Within a short period of time, the sessions covered key aspects of the language through interactive activities, creative exercises, and fun learning methods. The class environment was consistently encouraging, ensuring that students remained attentive and never felt bored. The balance between structured learning and enjoyable activities made the French class both effective and memorable. It was truly rewarding to be part of such a lively classroom and to contribute by supporting and assisting during the sessions. Overall, the class stood out as a positive and enjoyable academic experience. - Athin B Paul, MADLB 2024

Learning French has been both challenging and enriching, but most of all a rewarding academic experience that broadens my cultural awareness and global outlook in many ways. As an international language spoken by so many people, French plays an important role in diplomacy, global governance, and cross-cultural communication. By studying it, my linguistic skills, discipline, and respect for many cultures and intellectual traditions have grown stronger.

Overall, learning French added great value to my academics and enabled more informed and confident engagement with overseas perspectives.

-Sanya Singh, BADFP 2025

Bonjour!

As a beginner learning French, I have realised that language learning depends on the kind of guidance a student receives. At Level 1, building confidence with a new language is just as important as learning vocabulary and grammar. Prof. Navreeti Sharma creates a classroom environment where students feel comfortable making mistakes and learning from them.

She listens patiently, encourages us to speak, and guides us step by step to improve our pronunciation and understanding. Her approach makes learning French feel less intimidating and more engaging. Because of her constant encouragement and clear guidance, students are able to develop both confidence and interest in the language.

Merci beaucoup. Au revoir.

-Jiyaa Soni MA DLB 2025

ASK-A-GERMAN - SESSION WITH DR. MICHAEL STADLER & DR. PAUL HEEREN



The German section of the CFL organized an engaging academic interaction titled “Ask-A-German”.

The session featured Dr. Michael Stadler, DAAD Lecturer from the Centre of German Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Dr. Paul Heeren, Project Manager for Skilled Workers at the Goethe-Institut, New Delhi. The speakers shared valuable insights on Germany’s language, culture, higher education landscape, and career opportunities, especially for students aspiring to study or work in Germany.

Designed as an interactive forum, the event encouraged participants to ask questions directly to the experts, fostering open dialogue and cross-cultural understanding.

Overall, Ask-A-German was a successful initiative that strengthened academic exchange and deepened students’ interest in German language and culture.



ONLINE GUEST LECTURE BY DR. NIDHI SACHDEVA



OFFICE OF ENGLISH & FOREIGN LANGUAGES

CENTRE FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGES
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO AN ONLINE TALK ON:

small bites = BIG GAINS:
LEVERAGING EVIDENCE-INFORMED MICROLEARNING TO ENHANCE YOUR INSTRUCTION

DESCRIPTION:
In this session, the speaker will explore what microlearning is and how theories and concepts from the science of learning can be leveraged to design effective microlearning experiences that enhance instructional practices. Participants will also learn about evidence-based microlearning design principles and how these can be integrated into learning design and instructional practice. The session will include examples of how this knowledge can support educators who teach languages.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:
Dr. Nidhi Sachdeva is a leading Canadian researcher in the Science of Learning, specializing in the intersection of educational technology and evidence-informed learning design. Her work spans a wide range of contexts, including teacher education, post-secondary instruction, continuing professional education, and health education and patient literacy. She teaches online learning and microlearning from a cognitive science perspective at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. A recognized expert in translating educational research into practical classroom strategies, Dr. Sachdeva coauthors the globally-read Science of Learning newsletter and currently serves as Chair of researchED Toronto conference.

DR. NIDHI SACHDEVA
LECTURER IN MASTER OF TEACHING
ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FRIDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER, 19:30 - 20:30 HRS. (IST)
<http://bit.ly/4nxtjty> PASSWORD: JGU

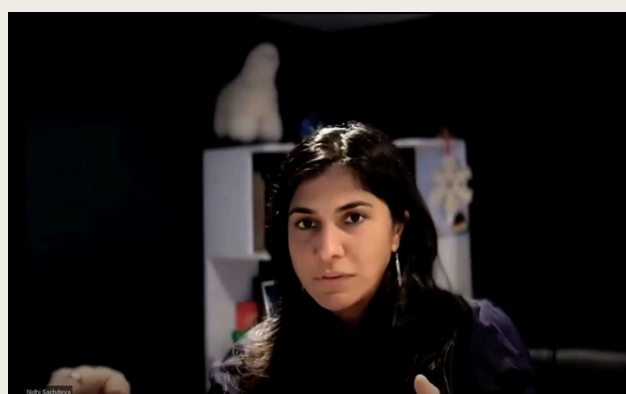
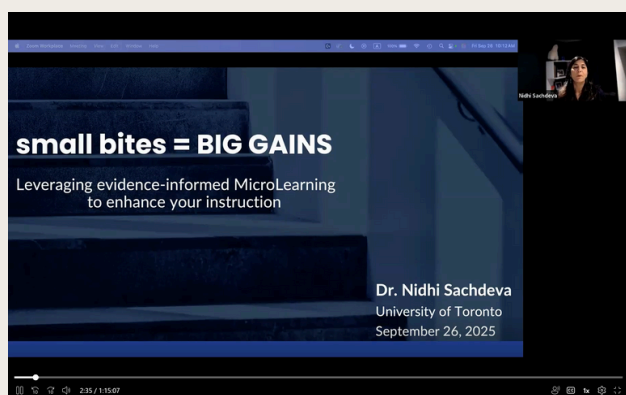
RSVP: Prof. Dr. Shweta Jain, Professor & Director, Centre for Foreign Languages, DEFL
Email: shweta@jgu.edu.in

The German section of the CFL successfully organized an online talk titled “Small Bites = Big Gains: Leveraging Evidence-Informed Microlearning to Enhance Your Instruction” on Friday, 26 September 2025.

The session was delivered by Dr. Nidhi Sachdeva, a leading Canadian researcher in the Science of Learning and Lecturer in the Master of Teaching program at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto. Dr. Sachdeva specializes in the intersection of educational technology, evidence-informed learning design, and professional education.

During the talk, Dr. Sachdeva explained how microlearning is grounded in well-established learning sciences and demonstrated how evidence-based instructional practices can be translated into effective microlearning design principles. She highlighted practical strategies for integrating microlearning into instructional contexts and shared real-world examples illustrating how educators can enhance language teaching and learning outcomes through this approach.

The session was highly informative and interactive, benefiting faculty members, educators, and students interested in innovative teaching methodologies. It offered valuable insights into bridging educational research with classroom practice, particularly in the context of language education.



Faculty achievements

DR. PAYAL KUMARI (ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF GERMAN)

On 29 October 2025, Dr. Kumari presented her research at the 7th Saarbrücken International Conference on Foreign Language Teaching – Deutsches Symposium held in Saarbrücken, Germany. At this international forum, she shared insights on AI-supported writing practices in German as a Foreign Language (DaF), offering an Indian academic perspective on learner autonomy, writing competence, and the ethical integration of digital tools in language education.





On 24–25 November 2025, Dr. Kumari participated in the International Seminar on “The Entangled Emergence of Human–AI Relationships: Co-creating the Future(s)” at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, where she was invited to chair a session and deliver a lecture titled “Between Autonomy and Algorithm: Imagining Future Writing Practices for German Language Learning in India.” Her talk examined the changing nature of writing, authorship, and learner agency in AI-mediated language classrooms.

Continuing her engagement with academic mentoring, Dr. Kumari was invited on 8 December 2025 to conduct a workshop titled “Prozess statt Endprodukt: Wissenschaftliche Identität im Fachbereich Germanistik in Indien” at the Centre of German Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Designed for MA and PhD students, the workshop focused on process-oriented research development, academic writing practices, publication strategies, and academic career pathways in German Studies.



PROF. DR. SHRUTI JAIN (PROFESSOR OF GERMAN)

PUBLICATIONS:

BOOK REVIEW:

Jain, S. (2025). Review of the book *How I Became a Tree*, by Sumana Roy. Plant Perspectives. <https://doi.org/10.3197/WHPPP.63876246815910>

OP-ED:

Jain, S. (2025, November 19). Why engage with M(Other) tongues? Millennium Post. <https://www.millenniumpost.in/opinion/why-engage-with-mother-tongues-636042>



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Prof. Dr. Shruti Jain has successfully completed the prestigious in-service program "DACH: Teaching Expertise in the Context of Pluricentricity and Culture-Based Learning." Spanning from November 2023 to June 2025 in a hybrid format, this program provided her with a unique opportunity to experience the D-A-CH region—Germany, Austria, and Switzerland—both as a unified cultural entity and through its nuanced regional diversity. The initiative was organized by the International Association of German Teachers (IDV) and was funded and supported by the education ministries of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

Out of a large pool of international applicants, Prof. Dr. Jain had the distinct honor of being selected as one of only fifteen participants for this pilot training. She received a full scholarship to attend the program, jointly awarded by the IDV and the Indo-German Teachers' Association (InDaF). Her achievements were officially recognized on August 1, 2025, during the International Conference of German Teachers (IDT) in Lübeck, where she was conferred with her Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS), issued by the ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland.



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**Advancing
Teaching Expertise:
Dr. Shruti Jain
Completes
Prestigious DACH
In-Service Training**

From July 28 to August 1, 2025, Dr. Jain attended the 18th IDT International Conference of German Teachers in Lübeck, an event that drew over 3,000 participants from around the world. During the conference, she co-led the specialized section "F.4 Künstliche Intelligenz im Unterricht reflektiert nutzen" (Reflective Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Classroom) alongside Dr. Dmitri Kletschko, the current Language Head of the Goethe-Institut Tel Aviv and former Language Head of the Goethe-Institut Berlin. This section facilitated a global exchange of perspectives and research findings, as participants from across the globe contributed to the critical discussion on the role of AI in modern language education.

**Section head of the section
"Reflective Use of AI in the
Classroom") at IDT 2025 in Lübeck**



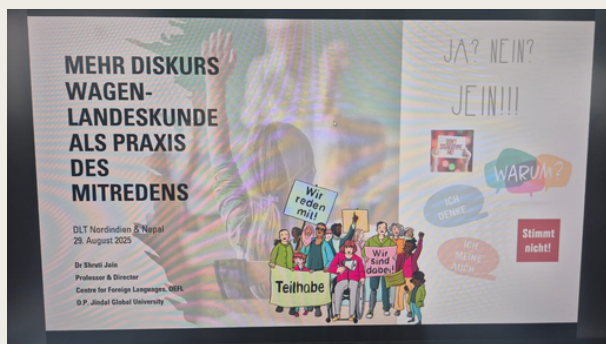
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Opening Keynote at DLT Northindia & Nepal 2025

Prof. Dr. Shruti Jain delivered the inaugural keynote address at the Deutschlehrkräftetagung (DLT) 2025 – “Back to Basics”, held from 29–31 August 2025 for German language teachers from North India and Nepal.

On the opening day of the conference, Dr. Jain delivered a keynote address titled “Mehr Diskurs wagen! – Landeskunde als Praxis des Mitredens”. In her keynote, she emphasized the importance of moving beyond fact-based cultural instruction towards a more dialogic and participatory approach to Landeskunde. She highlighted how cultural learning in the DaF classroom can serve as a space for critical thinking, reflection, and meaningful interaction, enabling learners to actively participate in social and cultural discourse.



Representing DaF Expertise on International Platform

On 13 November 2025, Prof. Dr. Shruti Jain conducted an online workshop for teachers of German as a Foreign Language (DaF), organized by the Deutsche Auslandsgesellschaft (DAG). The session, titled “KI als Werkzeug zur Förderung von Diskursfähigkeit im DaF-Unterricht,” was held on an international platform, bringing together participants from multiple countries for global online professional development.



Student Testimonials

German language classes, to me, were a refreshing break from the hectic JSIA subjects. The German class was always super fun and one that all of us were eager to attend. For us, it was the most interactive class we have ever had. Learning a language was not merely about grammar or rigid impositions like it used to be in school. This experience was truly different.

I learned German through small activities, games, songs, listening to and discussing news, and especially through learning about German culture.

Throughout these three years, we also had several events that brought us closer to both the language and the culture. We had a waltz session, games with tiny rewards, interactive “Ask a German” sessions, Theatre and even a visit from the Austrian Embassy. These experiences made learning German more lively and memorable.

More than anything, in German class we shared a bond stronger than the one in our own class. Before every German exam, we studied together, supported one another, and grew together. Prof. Shruti Jain supported us exceptionally well, ensuring regular revisions whenever we were close to forgetting the path we came from. This journey has been extremely memorable and very close to my heart, and I sincerely thank Prof. Shruti Jain for laying such a strong foundation in the German language. - Grace David, BAGA 2023

Learning German standalone is already extremely interesting but the way our Professor - Dr. Payal Kumari - taught us, has honestly improved that experience ten fold. Every session even if the topic starts to get more difficult and dull, our Professor managed to make it so fun and easy to understand that even the worst students could master the language. This course has been the only one which I have ever had fun in throughout my last 2 years in the University simply due to the conversations and very friendly nature of our Professor. She even conducted events which were a really nice experience to get to know other seniors who pursued the course in the past and how their experience has been. Our Professor was available even outside the scheduled class timings to help us with any of our doubts and was constantly giving us material to learn further. I am truly blessed to have this luck in my favour with the combination of one of the most interesting language courses and the best Professor to teach it alongside. - Nidhish Sahu, IBM 2024

Learning German has been a rewarding and unique experience for me. The classes were interactive and filled with real life practical examples which made the language more interesting to learn. It made the language more fun and stress free. Each and every session encouraged participation which helped to build my confidence. Not only just vocabulary and grammar, this course sparked my interest to know about German culture. Overall, this journey was very motivating as it inspires me to explore the language and culture with enthusiasm.- Brithi Jain, IBM 2025



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

In Spring 2026, CFL will offer 4-credit elective courses titled *Introduction to Portuguese Language and Culture* and *Introduction to Russian Language and Culture*. Interested students are encouraged to bid for the course during the registration period.

You may reach out to us:

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