Invites you to a conversation on

**Tribal and Endangered Languages of India**

with **Professor Anvita Abbi**

Professor Emerita of Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi and President, Linguistic Society of India

Thursday, August 24, 2017, 5 P.M.
Center for India Studies, East 5350 Library

Prof Anvita Abbi taught Linguistics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi for 38 years. She is a distinguished researcher on minority languages of the Indian sub-continent and has carried out first-hand field research on all seven language families of India. Her recent work has been on the endangered languages of the Andaman Islands. She identified a new language family of India, namely Great Andamanese (2003), which was subsequently verified by population genetic studies. She has authored, co-authored and edited 19 books and over ninety papers on areal typology, language documentation, structures of tribal and minority languages, language policy and education, and analysis of ethno-linguistic aspects of language use. She has taught in the USA, UK, Europe and Australia. She has been a Guest Scientist at the Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology at Leipzig, Germany; Leverhulme Professor at SOAS, England; and advisor to UNESCO.

In 2015, Prof. Abbi was recipient of the Kenneth Hale Award of the Linguistic Society of America for outstanding lifetime contributions to the description and documentation of languages of India and the Padma Shri (2013) by the President of India for her pioneering work on endangered languages.

She is the President of the Linguistic Society of India and Honorary Director of the Centre for Oral and Tribal Literature at Sahitya Akademi (Indian Academy of Letters), New Delhi. She is also an Adjunct Professor at the Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

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