

# VSDS Mahesh Akavarapu

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in mahesh-akavarapu    🌐 mahesh-ak

## Research Interests

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Computational Linguistics / Natural Language Processing, Historical Linguistics

Specifically: Computational Historical Linguistics, Low Resource NLP, Multilingual and Multimodal LLMs

## Education

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**PhD**    **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur**, Computer Science    July 2019 to present

- GPA: 3.84/4.00 (9.6/10.0)
- Advisor: Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya

**BT**    **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur**, Computer Science, Physics    July 2014 to May 2019  
(Second Major)

- GPA: 3.72/4.00 (9.3/10.0)

## Awards / Honors

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**Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (2019-24):** Grant of INR 200,000 per year (approx. USD 12,000 in total) from Ministry of Education, Government of India

**Academic Excellence Award from IIT Kanpur (2015):** Awarded to Top 10% students of the batch

## Experience

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**Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur**, Research Fellow    Kanpur, India  
• Under Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (Advisor: Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya)    Aug. 2019 to July 2024  
4 years 11 months

**Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur**, Student Researcher, Intern    Kanpur, India  
• High Performance Computing in CUDA (Advisor: Prof. Mahendra K. Verma)    May 2018 to July 2018  
2 months

## Publications

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**A Likelihood Ratio Test of Genetic Relationship among Languages**    June 2024

V.S.D.S.Mahesh Akavarapu, Arnab Bhattacharya  
Proc. of **NAACL 2024**, Mexico City, Mexico

**Automated Cognate Detection as a Supervised Link Prediction Task with Cognate Transformer**    Mar. 2024

V.S.D.S.Mahesh Akavarapu, Arnab Bhattacharya

Proc. of **EACL 2024**, St. Julian's, Malta

**Cognate Transformer for Automated Phonological Reconstruction and Cognate Reflex Prediction**

Dec. 2023

V.S.D.S.Mahesh Akavarapu, Arnab Bhattacharya

Proc. of **EMNLP 2023**, Singapore

**Creation of a Digital Rig Vedic Index (Anukramani) for Computational Linguistic Tasks**

Jan. 2023

V.S.D.S.Mahesh Akavarapu, Arnab Bhattacharya

Proc. of **World Sanskrit Conference 2023**, Canberra, Australia

## Invited Talks

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- Evolutionary Biology-Inspired Language Models in Historical Linguistics, University of Tübingen (Online), Apr. 2024
- Tutorial on LLMs: Finetuning and Prompting, with Arnab Bhattacharya and Shubham K. Nigam, NIT Warangal (Online), Mar. 2024
- Tutorial on Legal Named Entity Recognition, with Shubham K. Nigam, NIT Trichy (Online), Dec. 2022

## Teaching Assitance

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- (CS 689) *Computational Linguistics for Indian Languages*, Instructor: Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya (Spring 2024, Fall 2022)
- (CS 63) *Theory of Computation*, Instructor: Dr. Raghunath Tewari (Fall 2023, Fall 2022)
- (CS 315) *Principles of Database Systems*, Instructor: Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya (Spring 2023, Spring 2021)
- (CS 657) *Information Retrieval*, Instructor: Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya (Spring 2022)
- (CS 771) *Introduction to Machine Learning*, Instructor: Dr. Nisheeth Srivastava (Fall 2021)
- (CS 685) *Data Mining*, Instructor: Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya (Fall 2020)
- (ESC 101) *Fundamentals of Computing*, Instructor: Dr. Nisheeth Srivastava (Spring 2020), Dr. Piyush Rai (Fall 2019)

## Technologies

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**Languages:** Python, C/C++, HTML, Shell Scripting etc.

**Libraries:** PyTorch, TensorFlow, HuggingFace, Pandas etc.

## Personal Details

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**Full Name:** Akavarapu, Venkata Satya Durga Sai Mahesh

**Gender:** Male   **Age:** 27   **Nationality:** Indian