

INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

At Vivekananda College, efforts to integrate ancient India's Jñāna, Vijñāna and Jeevan Darshan within the modern disciplines aim to integrate two worlds: the traditional Indian past and the modern scientific world, with right overlaps between the two. The online course on IKS titled 'Jeevan Darshan' will begin in August 2024 as per IQAC recommendations.

Introduction

The rich cultural heritage of India is reflected in the Literature, Arts, Science, Music, and Philosophy of antiquity. A close scrutiny of these gems reveals that the Indian Knowledge System developed during the Vedic Age and has sustained its dynamics in the modern times as well. Whether it is the Vedic Literature or Mathematics, Cosmology or Philosophical schools; the epistemological groundwork provided by ancient Indian knowledge system generates a lot of interest among modern day scholars in the global scientific community. The historic meetings of **Swami Vivekananda** with **Nikola Tesla**, **Herman Helmholtz**, and **Lord Kelvin** in Chicago 1893, meetings between **Rabindranath Tagore** and **Werner Heisenberg** (1929, Kolkata) and **Albert Einstein** (1930, Berlin) are significant antecedents that anticipated the confluence of interests of the 21st century.

In 2004, **CERN**, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, accepted the non-linear causal pattern behind India's ancient concept of space-time-causation and change (Karya-Karan-vada of the Indian philosophy) in the form of a dancing Cosmic Purusa – Shiva or Nataraj – which is regarded as eternal, indestructible, formless and all-pervasive Universal Principle in Samkhya philosophy. <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/nataraj-statue>

At present the renewed interest in Vedic and post-Vedic literature, science and cultural history of India stems from a genuine desire for knowledge rather than redirected energy emanating from the validation received from the Western world. It is also true that the Western world has growing interests in Indian knowledge system, evident in their research of the 'Sanskrit effect', for instance. Scientists in the West, trained in Cognitive neuroscience, have researched the tradition of Vedic memorization and recitation and have noted unprecedented brain differences (between those who practised Sanskrit chanting daily and those who did not). It is difficult to say what these brain mappings could mean for medical science and education

but these findings are likely to have an impact on neuro diseases like **Alzheimer's**. (James Hartzell: 'A Neuroscientist Explores the "Sanskrit Effect"', cited in <https://www.scientificamerican.com/blog/observations/a-neuroscientist-explores-the-sanskrit-effect/>)

Also, his interview:

<https://grin.news/how-learning-sanskrit-literally-expands-and-improves-the-brain-307770cb12b4>

It is time that we stop seeking validation from the West and focus on tapping our traditional resources that have withstood the test of time despite the neglect. 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family) found in **Maha Upanishad**, is more relevant today as the world is on the brink of a major disaster caused by climate change. Humans need to correct their erroneous belief that they are the masters of Nature. It is time to challenge and overthrow all models that propagate notions of individual consumption and individual progress and shift our focus on the principle 'the world is one family'. Only then can we achieve sustainable development, preservation of resources, tolerance, harmony and peace for ALL. Whether we collectively rise or fall depends on what we choose today.

Course Objectives:

- Enlightening the youth about India's diverse history and rich heritage. Informing them about the gradual loss of heritage, cultural misappropriation and effacement and its consequence.
- Inculcating the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam among the youth so that they are inspired to think about the welfare of All – thereby fostering a sense of **global** responsibility and solidarity.
- Exploring and understanding the value of the scientific knowledge system of ancient India to seek remedial mechanisms in development and sustainability, safeguard intellectual property rights (patents, copyrights, trademarks) etc.
- Exploring and understanding the value of Vedic literature and the traditional philosophical schools to preserve linguistic, cultural and spiritual identity. Taking cognizance of the ancient notions of spirituality and its ramifications in the modern world.
- Focusing on contributions of IKS in psychology, happiness studies, socio-cultural aspects.

- Promoting multidisciplinary approach and integrating ancient Indian Knowledge system with the modern educational modules.

Course Outcome:

- Training in IKS would eventually facilitate interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research in various domains such as Ayurveda and modern medicine, ancient Indian history and archaeological exploration, Indian language systems and modern aesthetics, Natya Shastra and modern dramaturgy/Fine Arts, mathematics, ancient cosmology and modern astronomy, Nyaya Shastra-ethics and modern social sciences, Artha shastra and economics etc.
- IKS could eventually ensure a holistic development of the youth in terms of physical and mental well-being. Apart from higher research prospects it will ensure a revival of several dying disciplines; adding career and professional opportunities for young learners.

Conducted by Departments: Sanskrit, History, Biological Sciences

Course Coordinators: Prof. Kuntal Narayan Chaudhuri, Prof. Malabika Bhattacharya, Prof. Abhishek Das, Prof. Tania Chakravarty

Course Advisor: Prof. Anuradha Mukherjee

Mode of Discipline: Online

Course Syllabus: Beginners Course. Details to be announced shortly.

Module 1

- Introduction to IKS – What is Indian Knowledge System – Concept, Meaning and Relevance. Indian framework for establishing valid knowledge and its applicability in today's society.
- **Sanskrit Effect:** Essence of Indian Knowledge: Epics, Puranas.

Course on Bhagavad Gita – A brief training in Recitation (Shringeri style).

Understanding Bhagavad Gita: Jeevan Darshan and Application in Psychology/
Happiness.

(The text as a part of the most exciting epic of the sub continent is a guidebook or manual of Jeevan darshan.)

Course Duration: 2 Semesters (6 months each)

Eligibility: Higher Secondary.

Course is for undergraduate and post- graduate students, teachers, non-teaching staff.

Fees:

UG & PG students – Rs., 100/- for full Course

Non- teaching staff & Others: Rs. 200/- for full course

Teachers, Alumni & Others- Rs. 500/- for full Course

Course Benefits:

- Students will learn to appreciate and understand the rich heritage of traditional knowledge. (Indic socio-cultural approach to development and sustainability)
- Learn to acknowledge the importance of Sanskrit - the mother language of several Indian languages – as an effective tool to acquire the traditional resources like Yoga. (Sri Aurobindo- Integral Yoga)
- Get a thorough exposure to the primary philosophical schools and imbibe the key concepts for an improved life. (Indian psychology- Vedic Psychology)
- Learners will be prepared to begin their journey in life with appropriate values, maturity and equanimity.

Certificates will be awarded on successful completion

