

Three Day International Conference

On

Indian Knowledge Traditions and the Thought of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay: Global Perspectives and Contemporary Relevance

Organized by

Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Chair

Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

10-12 August 2026

Venue- Sambodhi Sabhagar

Concept Note

The contemporary world is witnessing profound transformations accompanied by challenges such as environmental degradation, social inequalities, cultural homogenization, ethical crises and unsustainable models of development. These developments have renewed global interest in indigenous knowledge systems and civilizational traditions that offer holistic perspectives on human well-being and sustainable living. In this context, Indian Knowledge Traditions (IKT) constitutes a rich repository of philosophical, scientific, ethical and cultural wisdom developed over millennia. Rooted in the Vedas, Upanishads, Buddhist and Jain traditions and diverse schools of Indian thought, these traditions emphasize harmony between the individual, society, nature and the cosmos. Their enduring relevance lies in their ability to provide ethical and sustainable frameworks for addressing contemporary global challenges.

Among the modern thinkers who sought to reinterpret India's civilizational wisdom in the context of modernity, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay occupies a distinctive position. His philosophy of Integral Humanism (Ekatma Manav Darshan) presents a holistic vision of human development that seeks to harmonize material progress with moral, cultural and spiritual values. Rejecting the limitations of both capitalism and socialism, Upadhyay advocated a human-centred approach to development based on cultural rootedness, social harmony, self-reliance and the welfare of all. His ideas of Antyodaya, decentralized governance, ethical public life and sustainable development continue to resonate in contemporary debates on governance, economy, education and environmental stewardship.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has further emphasized the integration of Indian Knowledge Systems into higher education and research, creating new opportunities for scholarly engagement with indigenous intellectual traditions. Simultaneously, global discourses on sustainability, decolonization of knowledge, cultural diversity and alternative development paradigms have highlighted the significance of non-Western knowledge traditions. Against this backdrop, the proposed International Conference seeks to provide an interdisciplinary platform for critically examining the philosophical foundations,


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contemporary relevance and global significance of Indian Knowledge Traditions and the thought of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay. The conference aims to foster dialogue among scholars, researchers, faculty members, policymakers and practitioners while promoting innovative research on India's intellectual heritage and its contribution to contemporary global challenges.

Following sub-themes of international conference

1. Philosophical Foundations of Indian Knowledge Traditions

- Vedic and Upanishadic Thought
- Indian Epistemology and Ethics
- Dharma, Culture and Civilizational Values

2. Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Integral Humanism

- Conceptual Foundations of Integral Humanism
- Cultural Nationalism and Civilizational Identity
- Antyodaya and Social Harmony

3. Indian Knowledge Traditions and Sustainable Development

- Ecological Wisdom in Indian Thought
- Environmental Ethics and Climate Responsibility
- Indigenous Approaches to Sustainability

4. Governance, Economy and Public Policy

- Decentralization and Participatory Governance
- Self-Reliance and Local Economies
- Ethical Governance and Public Leadership

5. Indian Knowledge Systems and Education

- NEP 2020 and Indian Knowledge Systems
- Decolonization of Knowledge
- Traditional Pedagogy and Contemporary Education

6. Science, Technology and Indigenous Knowledge

- Traditional Scientific Knowledge in India
- Health, Ayurveda Yoga and Well-being
- Innovation through Indigenous Knowledge Systems

7. Global Perspectives and Comparative Discourses

- Indigenous Knowledge Systems Across Cultures
- Integral Humanism and Global Development Debates
- Peace, Harmony and Intercultural Dialogue

8. Contemporary Relevance of Indian Civilizational Thought


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- Human-Centred Development
- Social Justice and Inclusive Growth
- Ethics, Values and the Future of Humanity

9. Indian Diaspora and the Global Dissemination of Indian Knowledge Traditions

- Preservation and Transmission of Indian Knowledge Systems Abroad
- Diasporic Experiences and Cultural Identity Formation
- Indian Diaspora and Intercultural Dialogue

Guidelines for submission: -

- ❖ Author(s) should mention their designation, institutional affiliation and contact details in the papers.
- ❖ The Paper should begin with the title, a short abstract and a list of keywords.
- ❖ The Paper should be typed in MS Word, Times New Roman, 12-font size and 1.5 line spacing.
- ❖ Reference should be in APA style.
- ❖ The Abstract should be limited up to 300 words only and the full paper should be between 3000-5000 words.

Submit your abstracts and full papers on this email: iktpddu.bhuconf2026@gmail.com

Important Dates:

Final Abstract Submission Deadline: 05/08/2026

Deadline of Registration: 10/08/2026

Full Conference Paper Submission: 10/08/2026

Registration Fee: Rs. 500

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/gv373Hae8hVaQTXv6>

Account Details:

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Accommodation will be provided to the paper presenters and participants. Please provide your details of arrival beforehand on Google form, travel expenses will be reimbursed as per norms. The conference will take place in Person/ Offline mode only.

For any query, contact- iktpddu.bhuconf2026@gmail.com


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