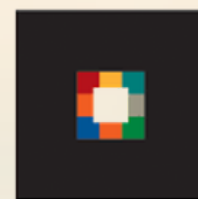




Centre for  
Culture,  
Language and  
Traditions



**SNUAC**

Seoul National University Asia Center  
서울대학교아시아연구소

**Centre for Studies on Culture, Language, and Traditions  
Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai**

**Directorate of Archaeology, Archive, and Museum  
Government of Chhattisgarh**

**&**

**Center for South Asian Studies  
Seoul National University Asia Center**

**present**

# **INTELLECTUAL TRADITIONS OF INDIA: SOCIETY, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE**

**An international conference**

**19 – 21 November 2026**

**Call for Papers**

## Concept Note

An intellectual tradition is often approached as philosophical systems, literary canons, bodies of texts, aesthetic theories, and knowledge systems. When we think of the intellectual traditions of India, its complex and varied culture and heritage, both built and intangible, serve as a crucial marker for understanding the past. These traditions are as comprehensible in material and spatial form—such as built environments that signify social codes—as they are in everyday practices that endure as intangible heritage. These historical shifts continue to inform the present, where heritage-building today—through conservation, planning, and public memory—re-contextualises and gives new socio-cultural lives to inherited ideas and practices.

This multidisciplinary conference proposes to analyse India's intellectual traditions at the intersection of India's culture(s) and heritage, treating these not as separate domains but as mutually constitutive registers that convey a pattern of pluralistic intellectual tradition. The conference foregrounds culture as a networked pattern of living of all segments of society. We encourage readings of intellectual traditions across multiple archives and time periods, from ancient to medieval to modern India, and welcome works grounded in textual sources—philosophical and literary texts, treatises, grammars, inscriptions, administrative, and contemporary records—as well as studies centred around the built environment, spatial practices, and material culture. In doing so, we are mindful of neither reducing the past cultures to text alone nor treating material culture as mute artefacts. Instead, we explore how ideas and practices are produced, transmitted, embodied, and spatialised, how they move between elite and popular domains, and how heritage is curated and presented within contemporary debates.



We invite papers that sharpen our understanding of these themes through a diverse and inclusive scholarship, highlighting dynamics of gender, caste, and community in constituting these intellectual traditions.

This conference aims to evolve an interpretive methodological framework that situates India's intellectual traditions, cultural pasts, and heritage practices as intertwined ways of knowing that continue to shape and are shaped by the present. Interested participants may consider the following as thematic guideposts, deploying a diverse range of textual, archival, epigraphical, archaeological, and folkloric sources to arrive at rooted understandings of intellectual traditions in India:

- Bhashas, aesthetics, and cultural identity
- Translation and transcreation across Indian languages
- Folklore and ecological wisdom
- Recentring gender in historiography
- Gender roles and spatial organisation
- Desire and sexuality in artistic traditions
- Love and social relations in India
- Gender fluidity in kinship systems
- Caste and the politics of epistemology
- Intergenerational knowledge and performing arts
- Materialities of knowledge transmission
- Historical perspectives on heritage conservation
- Built environment as cultural archive
- Vernacular architectural practices and lived experience
- Indigenous modes of urban planning
- Port cities and cultural transactions
- Imagining societies through travel writings
- Archiving and heritage conservation in the digital age



## **Intended participants:**

This conference is designed to foster dialogue across disciplinary boundaries in pursuit of a more granular understanding of what constitutes intellectual tradition in the Indian context. We welcome faculty and research scholars in literature, cultural studies, history, archaeology, architecture, philosophy, anthropology, and sociology to apply.

## **How to apply?**

Please submit a 350-word abstract with your bio note in a single document in the [google form](#).



Scan the QR Code  
to apply

## **Registration:**

Registration fee for participants based in India will be ₹2000 for faculty members and ₹1000 for affiliated research scholars and independent scholars currently not in service. For participants based outside India, it will be \$50 for faculty members and \$25 for affiliated research scholars and independent scholars currently not in service. Registration will cover in-campus accommodation at IIT Bhilai on a double-occupancy basis and meals for all days of the conference.

## **Venue:**

Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai, District Durg, Chhattisgarh 491002.



## **Important Dates:**

- Application period: 15 June 2026 – 31 July 2026
- Intimation of selection: 31 August 2026
- Registration period: 1 September – 30 September 2026
- Submission of working draft: 31 October 2026
- Conference: 19 – 21 November 2026

## **Conference Committee:**

- Dr Anubhav Pradhan, Associate Head, Centre for Studies on Culture, Language, and Traditions, Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai
- Dr Sruthi Vinayan, Convenor, Centre for Studies on Culture, Language, and Traditions, Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai
- Dr Ritika Verma, Member, Centre for Studies on Culture, Language, and Traditions, Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai
- Dr Pratap Chand Parakh, Deputy Director, Directorate of Archaeology, Archive, and Museum, Government of Chhattisgarh
- Shri Prabhat Kumar Singh, Archaeologist, Directorate of Archaeology, Archive, and Museum, Government of Chhattisgarh
- Dr Aditi Singh, Senior Researcher, Center for South Asian Studies, Seoul National University Asia Center
- Dr Seongho Choi, Senior Researcher, Center for South Asian Studies, Seoul National University Asia Center

## **Contact details:**

In case of any queries, please feel free to write to us at [cclt@iitbhilai.ac.in](mailto:cclt@iitbhilai.ac.in).

