



Announcement of a Humanities and Social Sciences Course
Introduction to Indian Knowledge Systems
at Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, January-April 2017

Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar's Humanities and Social Sciences discipline is offering a new edition of its elective course on **Introduction to Indian Knowledge Systems** (IKS), from January to April 2017. This course is path-breaking in the following respects:

- It explores India's intellectual, literary, artistic, scientific and technological knowledge traditions, offering an insider's perspective on Indian civilization.
- It is taught collectively by several eminent scholars from various parts of India, besides a few IIT Gandhinagar faculty members.
- It provides enough time for teacher-student interaction.
- It is open to participation of students from other institutions in Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar (upon registration).
- Its sessions are video-recorded and will be shared on the Internet.

The theme of this second edition of the course will be: **How did ancient Indian society perceive and depict itself?** Modern scholarship generally approaches ancient Indian society on the basis of contemporary theories; this course will attempt to look at it on its own terms, drawing data from a wide range of sources, including archaeology, epigraphy, literature, folk tales, travellers' accounts....

The course is open to anyone seriously interested in understanding and studying Indian knowledge systems. Anyone can audit it for free after registering with the course coordinators (see below). Those interested in crediting the course and receiving a certificate at the end should apply here: <http://www.iitgn.ac.in/non-degree.htm>

Classes: Starting 9 January 2017, Mondays and Tuesdays 2 to 4 p.m. (See details in the Schedule below.)

Venue: Academic Block 1, auditorium 002 at IIT Gandhinagar, Palaj Campus, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Website: <http://iks.iitgn.ac.in/> (to be updated regularly).

To register for the course (if you are not from IIT Gandhinagar): Please send your name and institutional affiliation to the course coordinators: Michel Danino (micheldanino@iitgn.ac.in) & Dr. Payel C. Mukherjee (payel.c.mukherjee@gmail.com).

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Schedule of Lectures

- 9 January** Did premodern India have a sense of history? A new take on an old question – **Michel Danino** (IIT Gandhinagar)
- 10 January** Travellers' accounts on Indian society: (1) The Portuguese – Prof. **Srinivas Reddy** (IIT Gandhinagar)
- 17 January** Indian society seen through Buddhist literature and inscriptions – Prof. **K.K. Thaplyal** (formerly of Lucknow University)
- 23 January** Guilds in ancient India – Prof. **K.K. Thaplyal**
- 24 January** Village life in ancient India – Prof. **K.K. Thaplyal**
- 30 January** Our Founding Fathers: Archaeology and the Constitution of India | Fishing and sailing communities: the bedrock of India's maritime activity – Prof. **Himanshu Prabha Ray** (formerly of Jawaharlal Nehru University)
- 31 January** 'Reading' coastal monuments and cultural diversity | Inscriptions across the oceans – Prof. **Himanshu Prabha Ray**
- 7 February** Glimpses of Harappan society – Dr. **V.N. Prabhakar** (IIT Gandhinagar)
- 6 & 7 March** Women in epigraphs: Exploring power, empowerment and dependence – Prof. **Susmita Basu Majumdar** (University of Calcutta)
- 14 March** Did 'tribes' exist in early Indian society? Ancient concepts of 'mainstream' and 'marginal' – **Michel Danino**
- 20 & 21 March** Social structure in early Indian literature as seen through epigraphy – Prof. **Suchandra Ghosh** (University of Calcutta)
- 27 March** Indian society seen through the Bhakti movement – Prof. **Srinivas Reddy**
- 28 March** Screening of documentary films on little-known aspects of Indian culture and society (1)
- 3 April** Travellers' accounts on Indian society: (2) The French – **Michel Danino**
- 4 April** Indian society seen through folk and other stories: the social context reflected by India's storytelling traditions – Prof. **Srinivas Reddy**
- 10 & 11 April** Early Tamil Society through literature, epigraphy and archaeology – Dr. **V. Selvakumar** (Tamil University, Thanjavur)
- 17 April** Screening of documentary films on little-known aspects of Indian culture and society (2)
- 18 April** Sufism in Sindh – Prof. **Rita Kothari** (IIT Gandhinagar)