Introduction to Indian Knowledge Systems
A Humanities and Social Sciences elective course
at Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, India, January-April 2021

Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar’s HSS discipline offers the fifth edition of its elective course, Introduction to Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), from January to April 2021. 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 distinguished scholars, besides a few IIT Gandhinagar resource persons.
- It is open to participation of students from other institutions in Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar (upon registration) in normal times, and to students anywhere for this 2021 online edition.
- Its sessions are video-recorded and shared later on the course’s website and on YouTube (videos for the previous four editions are online at http://iks.iitgn.ac.in/). The recorded lectures are currently being transcribed for publication.

The theme of this edition is The Indian Web of Arts and Aesthetics. Indian aesthetics emerged not only from a theoretical framework based on certain fundamental concepts (such as those codified in Nātyaśāstra), but also from diverse regional traditional practices: the much discussed mārga-deśi or classical-folk dialogue. Eventually, this dual stream led to the emergence of classical art forms and literature genres endowed with a recognizable Indianness, or pan-Indianness. Eminent scholars, practitioners and cultural proponents will explore those processes and how they contributed to the cultural integration of Indian civilization.
Instructors (in alphabetical order) and topics (some titles are still tentative):

- **Prof Lokesh Chandra** — Buddhism’s spread in and beyond India
- **Prof Michel Danino** — Mahabharata: India’s first anthropological project | Pan-Indianess of Ramayana
- **Dr R Ganesh** — Introduction to Indian poetics
- **Dr Bharat Gupt** — The practice of ancient Indian theatre
- **Prof Kapil Kapoor** — Nāṭyaśāstra and its pan-Indian legacy | Indian linguistic tradition
- **Dr Shonaleeka Kaul** — Aesthetics of poetry and pleasure
- **Dr Nanditha Krishna** — Indian painting
- **Dr R Nagaswamy** — Tamil-Sanskrit interface
- **Ms Ankita Nair** — Kerala performing arts
- **Prof VN Prabhakar** — Indian architecture
- **Prof Srinivas Reddy** — Indian music: interplay of classical and folk traditions
- **Ms Mana Shah** — Chronicling History: The Indian Way
- **Dr Padma Subrahmanyanam** — Indian dance and national unity

The course is open to anyone interested in India’s knowledge systems and cultural heritage.

**Lectures:** Starting 13 January 2021, on most Wednesdays and Thursdays (and occasionally on Mondays) from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. The full schedule of lectures will be shared shortly on our website. This semester’s lectures will be online and livestreamed on IIT Gandhinagar’s YouTube channel (to receive automatic notifications through email, subscribe to the channel).

**Website:** [http://iks.iitgn.ac.in/](http://iks.iitgn.ac.in/) The website will be regularly updated with announcements on forthcoming lectures and speakers, changes of schedule, etc. Registering for the course will enable you to receive regular updates through email.

**Course coordinators & contact:** Michel Danino & Mana Shah. For any queries, contact [iks@iitgn.ac.in](mailto:iks@iitgn.ac.in).

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