Introduction to Indian Knowledge Systems

a Humanities and Social Sciences elective course
at Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, January-April 2021

Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar’s Humanities and Social Sciences discipline is offering 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 eminent scholars, 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) in normal times, and to students anywhere for this 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/) and are 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-deśī 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 **tentative topics**:

- To be finalized and announced shortly.

**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).

**Lectures**: Starting 13 January 2021, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. (The schedule of lectures will be shared shortly on the course’s website.)

**Venue**: online (Zoom link to be shared with registrants).

**Website**: [http://iks.iitgn.ac.in/](http://iks.iitgn.ac.in/) The website will be updated regularly; please consult it frequently to follow our announcements on the next lectures, vacations, etc.

**To register for the course (if you are not from IIT Gandhinagar)**: Please visit and our website and register by filling the online registration form.

**Course coordinators & contact**: Michel Danino & Mana Shah. For all information, contact iks@iitgn.ac.in.

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