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Indian Knowledge System (IKS)

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Preface

It's my proud privilege to share the Indian Knowledge, Culture, Ancient Indian Tradition and Practices, Education system which has led to development of rich and varied culture which we represent today. My goal is to introduce readers, especially students, to the wisdom of Indian philosophy, science, art, literature, and social practices. We explore how these traditions have shaped Indian culture and continue to offer valuable lessons today.

I have written this book in a straightforward and easy-to-understand way, making complex ideas easy to understand. Each chapter covers a different aspect of India's knowledge systems, aiming to provide a clear and engaging introduction to these important topics.

I want to thank everyone who supported me in my work, including scholars who have preserved old material and made the material available for future generations, teachers, and my friends and family. Special thanks to Prabhakar Publication for taking the efforts to make this book available for the students in short span of time. I hope this book helps you appreciate the depth and beauty of India's intellectual heritage.

Thank you for joining us on this journey of exploring our own country.

- Author

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MODULE - 1

Introduction to Indian Knowledge Systems

What is IKS :-

Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) cover the wide range of knowledge developed in India over thousands of years. This includes everything from philosophy and science to arts, literature, medicine, and governance. IKS isn't just about old texts or historical practices; it represents a complete way of understanding life and the universe. In this view, the material and spiritual aspects of life are closely connected.

IKS includes both ancient Indian ideas and their practical uses in daily life. This means understanding health through Ayurvedic principles, learning about the universe from the Upanishads, exploring math and astronomy, and appreciating classical music and dance. Overall, Indian Knowledge Systems provide valuable insights and guidance for living a meaningful and balanced life.

Definition :-

Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) are a collection of traditional knowledge and wisdom developed in the Indian subcontinent over millennia. They encompass various fields such as philosophy, science, arts, medicine, and governance, reflecting a holistic approach to understanding life and the universe where spiritual and material dimensions are interconnected.

Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) refer to the diverse body of knowledge and practices originating from ancient India. This includes insights from classical texts, scientific discoveries, artistic traditions, and practical methodologies in areas like health and governance, offering a comprehensive framework for understanding and navigating both the physical and spiritual aspects of life.

The Need for Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)

Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) include the wisdom, sciences, arts, and traditions that have been part of India for thousands of years. Learning about IKS is important for many reasons:

1. Preserving Our Culture:

Cultural Identity: IKS helps us understand and keep our unique culture alive. It connects us to our past and helps us understand our roots, traditions, and values.

Knowledge Transfer: By learning about IKS, we can keep the knowledge and practices of our ancestors alive for future generations.

2. Improving Education:

Balanced Learning: IKS focuses on a balanced approach to education that includes mind, body, and spirit. It teaches us values and ethics, which are important for personal growth and good character.

Different Perspectives: Including IKS in our studies gives us different ways of thinking and learning. It adds more depth and diversity to our education.

3. Promoting Sustainable Living:

Environmental Wisdom: IKS includes a lot of knowledge about living in harmony with nature. It teaches us how to take care of the environment, which is important for solving today's environmental problems.

Traditional Medicine: Systems like Ayurveda offer natural ways to stay healthy, emphasizing prevention and a holistic approach to well-being.

4. Enhancing Scientific Knowledge:

Ancient Contributions: IKS includes early advancements in fields like mathematics, astronomy, and engineering. Learning about these can inspire new ideas and innovations today.

Different Methods: IKS also provides unique methods of thinking and solving problems, which can be useful in modern science and technology.

5. Teaching Values and Ethics:

Moral Lessons: Many IKS texts teach about right and wrong, duty, and how to live a good life. These teachings help us build a strong moral foundation.

Community Harmony: Ideas like “the world is one family” encourage peace, cooperation, and unity among people.

6. Encouraging Creative Learning:

Interdisciplinary Approach: IKS naturally combines different subjects like art, science, and philosophy. This helps students learn to think creatively and see connections between different fields.

Learning in Context: Understanding IKS requires knowing the history and culture behind it, which makes learning more meaningful and comprehensive.

7. Supporting National and Global Goals:

Cultural Exchange: IKS can help share India’s rich culture with the world, promoting understanding and respect between different cultures.

National Pride: Learning about IKS can help us feel proud of our heritage and contribute to a stronger national identity.

8. Innovating Modern Practices:

Architecture and Design: Ancient knowledge like Vastu Shastra can inspire modern building practices that are more eco-friendly.

Agriculture and Water Management: Traditional farming and water management techniques can help us create more sustainable agricultural systems.

Conclusion

Understanding Indian Knowledge Systems is not just about learning the past. It’s about using this wisdom to improve our lives today and in the future. It helps us appreciate our culture, learn in a balanced way, and find new solutions to modern problems.

Objectives of IKS :-

The objectives of studying Indian Knowledge Systems are multi-faceted, aimed at both preserving this rich heritage and applying its timeless wisdom to contemporary challenges. Here are the key objectives:

1. Keeping Knowledge Alive
2. Understanding Life in Its Fullness
3. Making Knowledge Useful Every Day
4. Celebrating Our Cultural Richness
5. Growing Both Intellectually and Spiritually
6. Connecting the Dots
7. Innovating with Tradition
8. Living Sustainably
9. Binding Tradition and Modernity

1. Keeping Knowledge Alive:

Objective: To ensure that the rich wall-hanging of India's ancient wisdom is preserved and shared with future generations.

Details: IKS is about keeping alive the stories, practices, and teachings that have been handed down through centuries. Whether it's through ancient texts or oral traditions, the goal is to make sure this treasure trove of knowledge continues to inspire and guide us.

2. Understanding Life in Its Fullness:

Objective : To help us see the big picture of life, where our physical health, mental well-being, and spiritual growth are all interconnected.

Details : IKS shows us that health isn't just about treating symptoms it's about nurturing our whole selves. For instance, Ayurveda doesn't just heal the body; it also supports the mind and spirit, helping us live in harmony with ourselves and the world.

3. Making Knowledge Useful Every Day:

Objective: To offer practical advice that makes our daily lives easier and more fulfilling.

Details: From Ayurvedic remedies for health to ancient governance principles for leadership, IKS provides practical solutions that we can use in our everyday lives. It's about taking ancient wisdom and making it relevant for today's world.

4. Celebrating Our Cultural Richness:

Objective: To honor and promote the diverse cultural heritage of India through its various knowledge systems.

Details: IKS includes our traditional arts, literature, music, and dance. By exploring these cultural treasures, we not only celebrate our past but also keep our rich heritage alive and vibrant.

5. Growing Both Intellectually and Spiritually:

Objective: To encourage personal growth that nurtures both our minds and our souls.

Details: Whether through the deep insights of the Upanishads or the practical teachings of Yoga, IKS offers pathways to intellectual enrichment and spiritual awakening. It's about growing as individuals and connecting with something greater.

6. Connecting the Dots:

○ **Objective:** To weave together knowledge from different fields into a unified understanding.

○ **Details:** IKS isn't just about separate pieces of wisdom; it's about seeing how everything fits together. For example, Vedic mathematics blends numerical concepts with philosophical ideas, showing us how interconnected our knowledge can be.

7. Innovating with Tradition:

Objective: To apply timeless wisdom to solve modern problems and adapt to changing times.

Details: IKS isn't static—it evolves. By applying ancient knowledge to today's challenges, like using traditional medicine in contemporary healthcare, we find innovative solutions that respect our past while addressing our present needs.

8. Living Sustainably:

Objective: To promote ways of living that respect and protect our environment.

Details: Many aspects of IKS teach us to live in balance with nature. From sustainable farming practices to respecting natural resources, these teachings guide us towards a more eco-friendly and harmonious way of life.

9. Binding Tradition and Modernity :

Objective: To foster collaboration between traditional knowledge and modern science.

Details: IKS encourages researchers and scholars to work together, combining ancient wisdom with cutting-edge science. This collaboration leads to new insights and innovations, enriching both our traditional and modern worlds.

In essence, Indian Knowledge Systems are about connecting with a deep reservoir of wisdom that helps us navigate both our personal journeys and our shared world, blending the old and the new in meaningful ways.

Comparing Indian Knowledge Systems with Western knowledge systems

Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) differ from Western knowledge systems in several key ways, shaped by different cultural, philosophical, and historical backgrounds. Here are the six main differences:

1. Holistic vs. Analytical Approach
2. Role of Spirituality
3. Emphasis on Ethics and Morality
4. Practical Application of Knowledge
5. Philosophical Foundations
6. Education Methods

1. Holistic vs. Analytical Approach:

IKS: Indian Knowledge Systems focus on seeing the world as a whole, connecting physical, spiritual, and moral aspects