



Introduction to Indian Knowledge Systems

A Humanities and Social Sciences elective course
at Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, India, January-April 2022

Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar's Humanities and Social Sciences discipline is offering the sixth edition of its elective course, **Introduction to Indian Knowledge Systems** (IKS), from January to April 2022. 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 resource persons.
- 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 2022 edition conducted in hybrid mode.
- 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 **Precolonial India's Treasure House of Literatures**. India is renowned the world over for its treasure house of literatures going back several millennia. Not only do we find in precolonial India a great diversity of languages, from pan-Indian Sanskrit to hundreds of regional languages, but also there is a bewildering variety of themes, literary techniques, and sociocultural functions. This "literaturescape" deeply impacted the Indian landmass at all levels and was one of the main instruments in the shaping of Indian civilization.

Instructors (in alphabetical order) and **topics** (some titles are still tentative):

- **Ms Arya Adityan** — Sacred Geography
- **Prof J R Bhattacharya** — Prakrit Literature
- **Prof Hamida Chopra** — Urdu Literature
- **Prof Kapil Kapoor** — Indian Literature
- **Mr Bhaskaramenon Krishnakumar** — Malayalam Literature
- **Ms Ankita Nair** — Technical Literature on Performing Arts
- **Isaikkavi Ramanan (Mr T A Venkateswaran)** — Tamil Literature
- **Prof K Ramasubramanian** — *Kavya* Literature
- **Prof Srinivas Reddy** — Telugu Literature
- **Ms Mana Shah** — Jain *Itihasa* Literature
- **Ms Shivani Sharma** — Classical Literature in Comics and Graphic Novels
- **Prof Diti Vyas** — Children's Literature

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 2022, generally on Thursdays and Fridays from 5:05 to 6:00 pm. (The schedule of lectures will be shared shortly on the course's website.)

Venue: Online to begin with; if the course goes offline, the venue will be Academic Block 1 / 102.

Website: <http://iks.iitgn.ac.in/> The website will be updated regularly; please consult it frequently to follow our announcements on the next lectures, links, changes of schedule, etc.

To register for the course (*if you are not from IIT Gandhinagar*): Please visit our website and register by filling the online registration form (in one of the right-side frames).

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

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