

Indian Knowledge System in 21st Century: Tradition Meets Innovation

Edited by

Dr. Nandini Sharma

Associate Professor & Head

Department of Business Administration

S. S. Jain Subodh PG College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Aarti Chopra

Associate Professor, Faculty of Management and Commerce

Poornima University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

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A special note of gratitude is reserved for our esteemed chapter contributors. Their scholarship, insights, and commitment to the theme of the Indian Knowledge System have added immense value to this book. Without their intellectual contributions, this work would not have reached its present depth and diversity.

We also express our appreciation to the academic reviewers, mentors, and advisory members whose constructive feedback helped refine the content and elevate its quality.

This book is not just a compilation of chapters, but a collective dream of preserving, interpreting, and innovating upon India’s ancient wisdom in the context of modern times. We hope it sparks dialogue, research, and renewed respect for our rich intellectual traditions.

With gratitude

Dr. Nandini Sharma
Dr. Aarti Chopra

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. Shiv Shankar Sain

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Commerce, Gyandeeep P.G. College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Sunita Saini

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Commerce, Vedic Kanya P.G. College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Prof. (Dr.) Krishna Gupta

Professor and Head, Dept. of EAFM, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Agrawal

Professor, Head and Dean of Commerce (Retd.), University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Prof. (Dr.) Renu Joshi

Principal, S S Jain Subodh PG College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Kanika Bhanot

Assistant Professor, Department of History, S.S. Jain Subodh P.G. College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Mr. Daksh Puri

IITM, Janakpuri, Delhi

Dr. Suprithy Paliwal

Professor & Head, Department of Psychology, Garden City University, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Dr. Anupam Gupta

Assistant Professor, S.S. Jain Subodh P.G. College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Sonia Bajaj

Assistant Professor, S.S. Jain Subodh P.G. College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Muktak Vyas

Professor, Poornima University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Sanjhali Jain

Research Scholar, IIS (Deemed to be) University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Anshul Sharma

Associate Professor, Head, Department of History, S.S. Jain Subodh PG College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Chitra Rathore

Associate Professor & HOD, Department of EAFM, S.S. Jain Subodh P.G. College (Autonomous), Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Manisha Soni

Assistant Professor, S.S. Jain Subodh P.G College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Chandani Sharma

Assistant Professor, S.S. Jain Subodh P.G College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Manita Bhagtani

Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, S S Jain Subodh PG College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Tripti Vijaywargia

Assistant Professor, Business Administration, S. S. Jain Subodh PG College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Nitin Verma

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, PCTE Group of Institutes, I.K. Gujral Punjab Technical University, Near Baddowal Cantt, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

Shreya Dwivedi

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, PCTE Group of Institutes, I.K. Gujral Punjab Technical University, Near Baddowal Cantt, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

Rajni Dhiman

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, PCTE Group of Institutes, I.K. Gujral Punjab Technical University, Near Baddowal Cantt, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

Dr. Gaurav Malpani

Professor and Head, Faculty of Management and Commerce, Poornima University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Ravi Kant Modi

Professor and Dean, School of Commerce & Management, Nirwan University
Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Devendra Kumar Sharma

Associate Professor & Dean, Faculty of Commerce, S. S. Jain Subodh P.G.
College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Samta Jain

Assistant Professor, S.S. Jain Subodh PG College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Anupam Pareek

Assistant Professor, Poornima University Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Pawan Sharma

Associate Professor, Department of Public Administration, S.S. Jain Subodh
PG College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Poonam

Department of Business Administration, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur,
Rajasthan, India

Dr. Gauri Dhingra

Associate Professor, Department of Business Administration, S.S. Jain
Subodh P.G. College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Priti Gupta

Associate Professor, Department of Business Administration, S.S. Jain
Subodh P.G. College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

PREFACE

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is not just a repository of historical facts or ancient rituals, it is a living, breathing framework that continues to shape India's intellectual, scientific, cultural, and spiritual ethos. The 21st century has witnessed a resurgence of interest in IKS, not only as a matter of heritage but also as a vital contributor to global discourse in sustainability, innovation, and ethical leadership.

This book, *Indian Knowledge System in 21st Century: Tradition Meets Innovation*, is a collective effort to explore how time-honored Indian traditions intersect with contemporary challenges and opportunities. It traverses through various themes; from the scientific acumen of ancient India to managerial insights from the Bhagavad Gita; from the rich cultural traditions that foster resilience and identity, to leadership styles rooted in our epics and scriptures.

Our objective has not been to merely document history, but to contextualize it, to interpret these wisdom traditions through the lens of present-day applicability. The book's chapters weave together narratives that highlight how IKS can inform modern disciplines like education, governance, business, health, and technology.

We are immensely grateful to the scholars, practitioners, and educators who have contributed to this volume with a shared passion and purpose. Their work enriches the ongoing discourse and opens avenues for further research and reflection.

This compilation is meant for scholars, students, policymakers, and every reader who seeks to understand how ancient insights can meet modern-day needs. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and UGC have also emphasized the revival and integration of Indian Knowledge Systems into the curriculum, reinforcing the importance of disseminating this rich heritage to students across disciplines. As editors, we hope this book inspires a deeper appreciation of India's intellectual legacy and sparks curiosity to reimagine tradition as a tool for transformation.

We thank everyone who stood by us throughout this journey and above all, we bow to the timeless spirit of *Bharatiya Gyan Parampara* that continues to guide and enlighten.

Dr. Nandini Sharma
Dr. Aarti Chopra

EDITORIAL

Indian Knowledge System in the 21st Century: Tradition Meets Tradition is a curated collection that explores the depth, diversity, and relevance of India's intellectual, cultural, and technological heritage in today's rapidly changing world. Each chapter, authored by experts in their respective fields, presents a unique perspective on how traditional wisdom continues to shape, inspire, and guide modern thought, practice, and innovation.

The First Chapter, Ancient Indian Science, Mathematics and Technology: The Pillars of Modern Knowledge, traces the foundations of contemporary advancements in Science to India's early contributions, highlighting seminal achievements that remain integral to global knowledge systems.

From historical insights to ethical leadership, **the Second Chapter**, Timeless Management Lessons from the Mahabharata, distills strategic thinking, decision-making, and human values from the epic, offering timeless tools for managers and leaders.

The Third Chapter, The Healing Harmony: Exploring the Role of Music in the Indian Knowledge System, uncovers the therapeutic and spiritual dimensions of Indian musical traditions, showing their enduring impact on mental well-being and cultural identity.

In The Significance of Dharmakshetra in Kurukshetra, **the Fourth Chapter** presents a philosophical analysis of a single shloka from the Bhagavad Gita, revealing layers of meaning relevant to personal and societal ethics.

Chapter Five, Stories of Wisdom: Panchatantra and Skills for Success, brings forward life lessons embedded in ancient tales, linking narrative wisdom to modern-day skills such as negotiation, problem-solving, and interpersonal understanding.

Economic and trade evolution takes center stage in **Chapter Six**, Barter to Blockchain, where the trajectory of India's financial systems is traced from ancient barter economies to contemporary fintech innovations.

Education is reimagined in **Chapter Seven**, Assessing the Effectiveness of Indian Knowledge Systems in the Holistic Development of Students, which examines pedagogical models that integrate intellect, ethics, and emotional growth.

Chapter Eight, Mapping Memory, navigates the interplay of tradition and modernity through a literary lens, analyzing William Dalrymple's City of Djinns to explore cultural preservation and change.

In Chapter Nine, Languages of Knowledge Dissemination in Early India, the focus shifts to how Sanskrit, Prakrit, and other languages served as powerful vehicles for transmitting ideas, traditions, and innovations.

The Tenth Chapter, Bharatiya Shiksha Parampara, links ancient Indian educational ideals to present-day classrooms, advocating for a balanced blend of traditional wisdom and modern pedagogy.

Sustainability is the heart of **Chapter Eleven**, Bridging Tradition and Technology, which demonstrates how indigenous knowledge informs modern eco-friendly practices.

Chapter Twelve, Ancient Indian Science – A Foundation for Modern STEM, draws direct parallels between historical discoveries and the core principles of today's STEM fields.

Education's evolution in the digital age is discussed in **Chapter Thirteen**, Transforming Education from 1.0 to 3.0, which merges technological advancements with the philosophical depth of the Indian Knowledge System.

Chapter Fourteen, Indian Knowledge Systems in Medicine, explores the synthesis of traditional healing systems with modern medical technologies, underscoring integrative healthcare.

Finance is revisited in **Chapter Fifteen**, Financial Wisdom from the Past, where ancient fiscal strategies and ethics are positioned alongside contemporary economic frameworks.

Chapter Sixteen, Exploring Bharat through Belief, presents faith (Āstha) as a cultural and economic driver in Indian tourism, blending spirituality with travel-based experiences.

A historical perspective is offered in **Chapter Seventeen**, Geography in the Mauryan Era, highlighting how geographical understanding shaped governance and resource management.

Corporate responsibility is examined in **Chapter Eighteen**, Tradition Meets Innovation, where CSR initiatives align with the ethics and sustainability principles of Indian Knowledge Systems.

Chapter Nineteen, Viksit Bharat through the Lens of Indian Knowledge Systems, envisions a youth-led, knowledge-based India by 2047, focusing on innovation rooted in tradition.

In Chapter Twenty, Unpacking Shabri's Story, the spiritual narrative is expanded into sociological and leadership lessons relevant to contemporary discourse.

The Concluding Chapter, The Ramayana as a Guide to Leadership and Governance, reflects on how the epic's principles can guide ethical leadership, governance, and policy-making in modern contexts.

Together, these chapters offer a multidimensional understanding of India's knowledge heritage, not as a artifact of the past, but as a living, evolving force shaping the 21st century. This volume is both a tribute to the richness of the Indian tradition and a roadmap for harnessing its wisdom in navigating the complexities of today's world.

Dr. Nandini Sharma
Dr. Aarti Chopra