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IKSHA Launches Talk Series with Focus on Harmonising Indian Knowledge Systems and AI



NEW DELHI: IKSHA launched its Talk Series with an inaugural programme titled "Harmonising IKS and AI: The Dawn of a New Era" at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, on September 16, 2026. The initiative seeks to foster dialogue on contemporary issues relating to Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), emerging technologies and the evolving relationship between human beings and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Shri Nitin Seth, Co-founder and CEO of Incedo, delivered the inaugural talk, exploring the rapidly evolving AI landscape and its implications for humanity, work and society. Drawing on his presentation, Human Edge in the AI Age, he emphasised that the true promise of AI lies not merely in developing increasingly capable machines, but also in enabling human beings to cultivate wisdom, judgement, creativity, consciousness and meaningful problem-solving.

A key focus of the address was the changing nature of work and the opportunities emerging in the AI era. While AI is expected to transform many existing roles, Seth highlighted the growing scope for entrepreneurship, innovation and new forms of work as the technology increasingly takes over routine and cognitive tasks. He stressed that organisa-tions must rethink their workflows and approaches to value creation rather than treat AI merely as another technological tool.

The talk also explored the human and philosophical dimensions of technological advancement. Connecting the evolving capa bilities of AI with different dimensions of the human self, Seth underscored the need to nurture qualities that distinguish human beings. He presented his POSSIBLE Framework– comprising Problem-solving, Openness, Spirituality, Sports, Impact, Balance, Leadership and Entrepreneurship–as a practical roadmap for developing the "human edge" in an AI-driven world.

Concluding his address, Seth reflected on the choices facing humanity as AI continues to advance. He called for a conscious, purposeful and responsible approach to technological change, emphasising that AI should be harnessed not merely to improve efficiency but also to promote human development and contribute to a more meaning ful future.

The programme was attended by around 150 participants, including distinguished guests, faculty members, research scholars and students. Those present included Shri J. Nandakumar, Shri Manohar Shinde, Shri Shrikant Kumar, Shri Sampadananda Mishra, the Dean of Computer Science at JNU, and several other members of the university faculty.

Registration Opens for IKSHA Sangama 2026



KOLLAM: Registration has opened for IKSHA Sangama 2026, scheduled to be held from December 25 to 27 at Amritapuri, Kollam, Kerala. The three-day gathering aims to bring together noble minds, including scholars, researchers, traditional practitioners, artists, educators and sādhakas, for meaningful dialogue and engagement with Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS).

The event seeks to create a space where participants come together not merely to present ideas but also to listen, reflect and learn from diverse perspectives and traditions. The deliberations are expected to reflect the growing confidence that Indian Knowledge Systems are no longer a niche pursuit but an evolving movement with the potential to address contemporary global challenges.

The last date for registration is November 11, 2026. Interested participants are encouraged to register before the deadline.

Reimagining the World through Indian Knowledge Systems

Taking IKS to the World: A Conversation with Dr. Manohar Shinde



Dr. Manohar Shinde, M.D., Ph.D. Psychiatry, was on the teaching clinical faculty of UCLA & USA schools of Medicine and at the "Institute for contemporary psychoanalysis" (ICP). He has also served as a Medical Director in many institutions in Glendale, Los Angeles. Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. Shinde has dedicated himself to philanthropy and community development, positively impacting thousands of lives. As Chief Patron of IKSHA (Indian Knowledge System and Heritage Association), Dr. Shinde provides guidance and support to initiatives dedicated to advancing Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS). His engagement with civilizational and academic forums, including initiatives associated with the Dharma Civilization Foundation and Hindu studies programmes, reflects his commitment to bringing India's intellectual and cultural heritage into contemporary academic discourse.

Through his professional experience, philanthropic leadership, and commitment to India's civilisational legacy, Dr. Shinde represents a bridge between modern academic engagement and the enduring wisdom of Indian traditions. In this conversation, Dr. Shinde reflects on the global relevance of Indian Knowledge Systems and shares what inspired him to transform his vision for IKS into a sustained movement after returning to India.

How has your background as a Swayamsevak of Sangh shaped your approach to institution-building?

The foundational values instilled by the Sangh taught me that any monumental mission must never be centered on an individual, but rather anchored in a collective vision and a higher civilizational purpose. Selflessness, discipline, consistency, and the spirit of carrying everyone along are the greatest gifts of this training. When we build institutions, they are not merely physical spaces or administrative frameworks; they are living carriers of a civilizational ethos. These core principles have consistently inspired me to build sustainable institutions rooted in indigenous values that foster positive societal transformation.

What did your experience with the Dharma Civilization Foundation (DCF) teach you about the global relevance of IKS?

Living and working in the United States for years, and engaging with civilizational discourse through initiatives like the Dharma Civilization Foundation in USA, made me realize that while the modern Western world excels materially, it faces deep psychological,

existential, and spiritual vacuums. It is actively searching for holistic frameworks, and it looks toward India's ancient knowledge traditions with great anticipation. Yoga, Vedanta, and the Dharmic worldview are not merely historical relics; they offer timeless solutions to the complex crises confronting modern humanity. My experiences abroad demonstrated that there is a global hunger for studying India's civilizational insights.

What motivated you to build IKS as a sustained movement after returning to India?

Following my commitment to work in Bharat for 3.5 years, I was suggested by Shri. Dattatreya Hosabale, the Sarkaryavah of RSS, to focus on strengthening the IKS movement. It was very evident that our own indigenous knowledge systems had suffered decades of systematic neglect, and reviving them as an alternative to dominant paradigms across multiple domains was an important imperative of our times. Drawing from my experience overseas, I recognized that we cannot merely take pride in our ancient past on an emotional level; that heritage must be formally mainstreamed into global knowledge production and modern academia. Transforming the pursuit of our traditional knowledge from fragmented study into a vibrant, robust, and structured intellectual movement through platforms like IKSHA became my core mission.

How did you address the initial challenges when NEP 2020 opened up opportunities for IKS?

While NEP 2020 opened up an unprecedented window of opportunity, the initial challenges were twofold: first, the lingering risk of IKS being viewed narrowly as ritualistic or archaic, and second, the technical challenge of institutionalizing it academically through collaboration with individuals and institutions in India and abroad. Our strategy has been clear: to establish an ecosystem for rigorous capacity building, supporting future-generation scholarship. Even though there has been a large number of conferences and teacher training efforts in the IKS space, there was not always adequate attention to quality, rigor, and pursuit of excellence.

What was the objective of your extensive visits to universities over the past three years?

The primary objective of this extensive travel was to foster a nationwide intellectual networking regarding IKS by engaging stakeholders across academia, business, and government. These interactions revealed that young researchers and professors across the country are remarkably eager to re-examine their civilizational heritage. What they needed was structural institutional support, rigorous research frameworks, and collaborative networks—a reality strongly validated by these nationwide engagements. Hence we decided to focus on in-depth scholarship and credible new knowledge production. In December 2023 in December 2023, an IKS Sangama was held in Pune with over 80 serious IKS stakeholders, helping foster a broader IKS ecosystem, community fraternity, and collaborative spirit.

How did you bring together diverse scholars to build a meaningful IKS ecosystem?

No large-scale movement is ever built by a single individual; it requires weaving a dedicated Vidya Parivara (family of scholars) connecting experts across diverse domains. I was aware of the value of collaborative networking. Through domain-specific working groups, we identified, engaged, and united brilliant minds from science, technology, history, literature, and philosophy around a shared civilizational vision. When personal egos are set aside in service of a collective intellectual mission, a resilient ecosystem naturally takes shape.

What are the flagship programmes and initiatives of IKSHA?

Indian Knowledge Systems and Heritage Association (IKSHA) is a Section 8 company. It operates through five major verticals that form a comprehensive, self-sustaining ecosystem:

1. **Diksha:** A flagship capacity-building initiative aiming to support 108 doctoral and postdoctoral researchers across IKS dimensions over the next 10 years to build future thought leaders.
2. **Annual Academic Conference:** Designed to foster intergenerational dialogues among academic scholars and initiate younger scholars into research. So far, two successful conferences have been organized—the first at JNU and the second at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida—with the third scheduled to be held at IIT Bombay in July 2027.
3. **IKSHA Sangam:** A vibrant forum that brings together diverse stakeholders, including practi tioners, scholars, spiritual leaders, industry experts, and government representatives. Following successful editions in Pune University and Satya Sai University, Bengaluru, the next Sangam will be hosted in Amrita University at Amritapuri (Kollam district, Kerala).
4. **Samiksha:** Our interdisciplinary meeting series designed to build multidisciplinary research collaborations between scientists, technologists, artists, and traditional scholars to address real-world challenges. A 3-day gathering of 25 traditional and 25 contemporary scholars hosted by JNU in May 2026 to foster joint research projects. A total of 22 research consortia were formed and evaluated by 15

experts, with six projects immediately receiving funding worth Rs 90 lakh.

5. **Journal of Indian Knowledge Systems (JIKS):** Published by Brill, this high-quality international journal provides a platform for publishing credible research by established and emerging IKS researchers through a rigorous peer-review process. The publication is supported by an international advisory and editorial board, with Prof. Jyotirmaya Tripathy, former Head of Humanities at IIT Madras, serving as Chief Editor.

What transformation do you hope to see in Indian education and society over the next 25 years?

Over the next 25 years, I envision an Indian higher education system and society that is completely liberated from mental colonisation. I want to see a future where our students and researchers do not simply imitate Western paradigms, but draw inspiration from our indigenous texts to position IKS as a viable alternative across multiple domains—solving contemporary global challenges like environmental sustainability, mental health, and ethical leadership through intellectual self-respect and civilizational confidence.

What is your larger vision for IKS globally, and your message for the next generation?

My vision is crystal clear: to establish a platform of excellence that positions IKS as an alternative to the dominant global paradigm. Whether through mainstreaming IKS to produce knowledge globally, training the public through immersive experiences, or building rigorous PhD and postdoctoral scholarship, the goal remains the universal welfare inherent in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. The upcoming generation of scholars and institution-builders must treat this knowledge not merely as a museum of history, but as a guiding compass for the future, carrying this civilisational beacon forward with absolute integrity and academic excellence.



IIT Bombay to Host Three-Day Conference on Indian Knowledge Systems in July 2027



MUMBAI: The Indian Knowledge Systems and Heritage Association (IKSHA), in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay), will organise the third Annual Academic Conference on Indian Knowledge Systems from July 2 to 4, 2027, at the institute's Powai campus in Mumbai.

The three-day conference, titled AAC 2027, will bring together researchers, academics, students and practitioners to examine India's traditional knowledge systems through interdisciplinary research and contemporary academic methods, according to the organisers' announcement. The programme will cover 10 thematic areas spanning philosophy, history, linguistics, governance, health, mathematics, astronomy, agriculture, ecology, arts, architecture and engineering.

The conference is intended to provide a platform for original research, critical evaluation of classical texts and dialogue between traditional scholarship and modern academic disciplines. The organisers also aim to expand collaboration among universities, research institutions and practitioners working in the field.

The first-round submission deadline is November 30, 2026. Authors are required to submit a full paper alongside an extended abstract in PDF format. Submissions must be original, unpublished and not under consideration elsewhere. Papers must be written in English and will undergo review by the conference review committee. Further information on submissions, registration and academic partnerships is available on the official AAC 2027 website. Queries may be directed to the conference secretariat at conference@theiksha.org.

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