

Subject Name: Introduction to Indian Knowledge Systems (UM1IKBBH01)

Unit 1: Spiritual Bharat and Introduction to IKS

- ❖ Bhartiya Concept of Spirituality: Gyaan Marg, Bhakti Marg, Karm marg, Yog Marg
- ❖ Bhartiya Spiritual Thinking Leading to Unity
- ❖ Bhartiya Philosophy of Life Derived from Shashtras and its Implications for Bhartiya Life Style
- ❖ Introduction to IKS and Its Importance
- ❖ Introduction of Various Indian Knowledge Systems

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❖ **Bhartiya Concept of Spirituality Gyaan Marg, Bhakti Marg, Karm Marg, Yog Marg**

Knowledge of God is comprised of the knowledge of eternal and temporary matters, which results in detachment from the entire realm of Maya i.e. from this world up to the abode of Brahma (creator). The path of knowledge for attaining God is called gyan marg.

✚ **Gyaan Marg**

Gyaan Marg is the path of knowledge or, more correctly, wisdom. It is the means to Enlightenment through the process of reason particularly the process of discrimination between what is real and what is not real, what is true and untrue through study and self-inquiry.

It is said to be the most difficult path because it uses the mind and intellect to go beyond them to finally realize you are one with the Divine. The Upanishads call it the “razor’s edge,” where the ego is always trying to knock us off. It requires great strength of character, will power, and brainpower. The Gyana Yogi

- Studies the spiritual texts of his/her traditions.
- Reads the words of the Great Masters.

Asks the following questions and listens to the answers without judgement or evaluation:

- Who am I
- What do I want?
- What is my purpose?
- What am I grateful for?
- Is mindful of the surrounding world
- Listens, reflects, contemplates
- Practices discernment and detachment
- Meditates and takes time each day to be silent

✚ **Bhakti Marg**

Bhakti- marg is a Sanskrit term that means the “path of devotion.” It is also called bhakti yoga. It describes one of the paths that lead to liberation and freedom from the cycle of life, death and reincarnation in Hindu philosophy. Bhakti means “love,” “devotion,” or “faithfulness.” Marg means “passage,” “path” or “route.”

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Bhakti is the yoga of devotion, ultimately to the Divine, but it can initially be a guru, your family, a friend, or anything that creates strong emotional ties. Bhakti is the path of love which removes jealousy, hatred, lust, anger, egoism, pride, and arrogance.

In the Hindu text the Bhagavad Gita, bhakti- marg is one of three spiritual paths discussed in depth, the others being jnana - marg (path of knowledge) and karma - marg (path of action).

Bhakti yoga require us to have an un-conditional devotion, in such a way that mind is always thinking of our Ishta Devata, chosen Idol, even while performing our daily activities. The best example of Bhakti Yoga is gopis in vrindavan. They were so lost into Srikrishna that when Uddhava came to pacify them with his “Brahma Dayan”, he himself got enlightened, by their love for Krishna.

Moral of the story is that, in Bhakti yoga, even though one starts with loving one god in one temple, he/she has to grow the love to the level of gopis where they see your god in each and everything, everywhere. These people will have the same shraddha everywhere be it temple, masjid, church or gurudwara or any other thing in world as there is nothing where they don't see their love, their god.

The Bhakti Yogi is some related to

- Asks what is it that I long for at the deepest level of my Being?
- Is pure in thoughts, words, and actions.
- Looks for the Divinity in the ordinary.
- Honours and respects all life.
- Purifies the heart through devotion.
- Sings, dances, chants, and listens to Divine verses.
- Surrenders by being open to everything.

 Karma Marg

Karma means “**action**” and Karma Yoga is performing action without attachment to the outcome. It is the path of selfless service (Seva). You cease to identify with the ego and all action is seen as an offering to the Divine. The heart is purified so egoism, hatred, jealousy, selfishness, and similar negative qualities vanish, creating space for humility, pure love, sympathy, tolerance, and compassion. Karma Yoga is “doing the right thing,”—the process of achieving perfection in action. It means following one's dharma (true purpose) and accepting whatever comes, without expectation of payment, thanks, or recognition.

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We take birth to spend the karma accumulated in earlier lives and while spending accumulated karma we end up creating new ones. And to spend this newly created Karma, we need to take additional births. This way the cycle of birth and death continues.

🌈 Yoga Marg

Yoga means the “Royal Path.” Just as a king maintains control over his kingdom, you must maintain control over your own “kingdom” the vast territory of your mind.

It’s the path of meditation, mantras, and techniques. The basic theme of Raja Yoga is that your perception of the Divine Self is obscured by the disturbances of the mind. If the body and mind can be made still and pure

Who is Yoga Marga designed for?

Yoga Marg is extremely intense, focused, dynamic and distinctly therapeutic in nature - especially geared towards people with chronic health conditions. However, even those in good health have found the program to be life-changing, seeing it as an opportunity to deepen their practices and bring the body and mind to a deeper level of balance, stability and harmony. This gives you an opportunity to work with your own self in a natural and non-invasive way to achieve balance.

What can you expect from Yoga Marga?

Yoga Marga is meticulously customized starting with an individual medical consultation with our highly competent medical team, trained in Siddha, Ayurveda and Allopathy, and experienced in providing holistic solutions for an array of medical conditions. The team suggests specific yogic practices, Ayurvedic therapies, traditional Indian medicines, dietary regimens and therapeutic procedures, setting a course of treatment that is tailored for you. This intervention stems from a deep understanding of the human system, using traditional and holistic ways of disease mitigation.

The Eight Limbs of Yoga

- 1. Yama:** Abstaining from harming others through wrong doing, including nonviolence, truthfulness, non-stealing, not wasting our energy, abstention from greed or hoarding
- 2. Niyamas:** Principles for our own daily lives, including purity or cleanliness, contentment, discipline, study, devotion
- 3. Asanas:** Seat or posture, yoga poses
- 4. Pranayama:** Mastering and enlivening the life force

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5. **Pratyahara:** Inner reflection
6. **Dharana:** Focused attention
7. **Dhyana:** Meditation, continuous flow
8. **Samadhi:** Freedom, liberation, enlightenment

❖ **Bhartiya spirituality thinking leading to Unity.**

Bhartiya Spirituality:

- Spirituality is the soul of Indian culture. Here the existence of soul is accepted. Therefore, the ultimate aim of man is not physical comforts but is self-realization. Radha Kumud Mukerjee, in his book, 'Hindu Civilization', has analyzed that Indian culture, which kept its personal specialties, bound the entire nation in unity in such a way that nation and culture were considered inseparable and became unanimous. Nation became culture and culture became nation. Country took the form of Spiritual World, beyond the physical world. When Indian culture originated in the times of Rigveda, then it spread with time to Saptasindhu, Bramhavarta, Aryavarta, Jumbudweepa, Bharata Varsha or India.
- Spirit is the non- material, animating and immortal part of man. According to Sri Aurobindo, Spirit is the self -existence being, with infinite power of consciousness and unconditional delight. All contacts with the Spirit or Self, the Higher Consciousness and Divine are termed as 'spiritual: For man to become divine in consciousness, and to act and live inwardly and outwardly the Divine Life, is meant what is meant by Spirituality.
- From ancient Vedic practices and yoga to modern-day meditation and mindfulness, Indian spirituality is centered on the belief that ultimate reality, or the ultimate truth, can be attained through the cultivation of inner wisdom and self-realization.
- Most Indians of all religions surveyed believe in Karma, the idea that people will reap the benefits of their good deeds, and pay the price for their bad deeds, often in their next life.

Some Aspects of Bhartiya spirituality:

- **The Practice of Yoga:** One aspect of Indian spirituality that has recently gained particular attention is the yoga practice. Yoga involves physical postures, breathing techniques, and meditation and is believed to help individuals achieve mental and physical balance and improve their overall well-being. A growing body of research

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suggests that yoga can have several psychological benefits, including reducing stress, improving mood, and increasing self-awareness

- **The Practice of Devotion:** Devotion, or bhakti, is also an important aspect of Indian spirituality. Bhakti involves devotion to a particular deity or spiritual figure and is often expressed through prayer, ritual, and devotion. This practice believed to help individuals cultivate a sense of surrender, humility, and a deeper connection to the divine.
- **The Concept of Karma:** Indian spirituality is also deeply intertwined with the concept of karma, or the belief that the actions and deeds of an individual in this life will determine their fate in future lives. This belief is often seen as a way to encourage individuals to lead virtuous and compassionate lives, as they believe their actions will have consequences in the future.

Religious Dominance:

Religion has a central place in Indian culture. Vedas, Upanishads, Purana, Mahabharata, Gita, Agama, Tripitaka, Quran and Bible affect the people of Indian culture. These books have developed optimism, theism, sacrifice, penance, restraints, good conduct, truthfulness, compassion, authenticity, friendliness, forgiveness, etc.

➤ **Unity:**

Unity is not Combination, it is a Realization .It is not the combination of many; it is the realization of oneness.

➤ **Spiritual principles of unity:**

Our minds can be a link to Spirit through these 12 capacities: wisdom, love, strength, faith, imagination, order, understanding, will, power, zeal, release, and life itself. We can paint the life we want by focusing on, understanding, and cultivating these 12 spiritual powers.

Unity of Diversity Importance

Unity in diversity is essential for a country in many ways such as,

➤ **National Integration**

It is easy to split people with various viewpoints and opinions, so unity in variety is essential for a country. It is complicated to destroy a nation if people are united despite their differences. The country's inhabitants' agreement is critical to the country's peace and prosperity.

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Because a united nation will constantly go forward on the path of development, unity in diversity is critical to the country's success.

➤ Recognition in the World

A diverse yet united country adds value to the nation and is well-liked worldwide. It provides an example for all nations by highlighting the ideals and morals of individuals who respect and support one another despite their many backgrounds and cultures.

➤ Peace

Internal conflicts can be sparked by diversity, but unity in diversity is critical for ensuring peaceful coexistence among individuals of many cultures and origins.\

 **Advantages of Unity in Diversity**

- Individuals' morale in the workplace, company, and community improves when united in diversity
- It aids in expanding collaboration, partnerships, and interpersonal interactions, boosting performance, work quality, productivity, and lifestyle
- This allows communication to thrive even in the most challenging situations
- It is easier to control conflicts when people are kept away from social evils
- It encourages good human connections and safeguards everyone's equal rights
- India benefits from tourism because of its unity in diversity
- Tourists from all over the world are attracted to people from diverse walks of life, cultures, beliefs, and clothes
- This results in the practice of national unity among the world's peoples, even though they are so different from one another
- It strengthens and enhances the country's rich heritage and India's cultural heritage

 **Factors Influencing Unity in Diversity**

- Unity in Geography: Rivers, mountains, plateaus, deserts, and other landforms.
- The Racial Unity: There are many races in India, such as Aryas, Dravidas, Northeast tribal race, and others.
- The unity in language: Around 1600 languages in India mainly originated from the ancient language Sanskrit.
- The Religion and caste Unity: India has many religions and caste.
- Example: Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, and others.

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❖ **Bhartiya Philosophy of Life Derived from shashtras and its Implication for Bhartiya Life Style**

🌈 **Introduction Bhartiya Philosophy:**

Philosophy is the root of all knowledge. It is considered as mother of all sciences. Philosophy has interpreted man and his various activities in a comprehensive manner. It helps to coordinate the various activities of the individuals and the society. It helps us to understand the significance of all human experience. “It explores the basic source and aims of life. It asks and tries to answer the deepest questions to life. It clarifies life and the basic values of life. This clarity is very essential because it provides us with the wisdom to face the challenges of life. Wisdom is the supreme instrument in the hands of man in the struggle for his successful existence.

🌈 **Broad Overview of Disciplines in Indian Knowledge System:**

The Indian knowledge system encompasses a broad range of disciplines that have been developed and explored over centuries. Here is a broad overview of some key disciplines within the Indian knowledge system.

- 1. Philosophy and Metaphysics:** Indian philosophy delves (dig, search) into fundamental questions about the nature of reality, consciousness, and the self. Schools of thought such as Vedanta, (Upanishad) Yoga, Nyaya, Vaisheshika, (particular) Samkhya, (numbers) and Mimamsa (reflection, critical investigation) explore topics like the nature of the self, the existence of God, perception, logic, and the nature of knowledge.
- 2. Spirituality and Yoga:** Spirituality is deeply intertwined with the Indian knowledge system. It involves the exploration of inner experiences, self-realization, and the pursuit of spiritual liberation or enlightenment (moksha). Practices such as meditation, and contemplation (attention) are integral to this discipline.
- 3. Science and Mathematics:** Ancient India made significant contributions to scientific and mathematical knowledge. Indian mathematicians developed concepts such as zero, the decimal (in base of 10, DASANS) system and the numeral system that is now universally used. Astronomy, including the calculation of planetary positions, and other scientific disciplines were also explored.
- 4. Literature and Arts:** Indian literature showcases a rich tapestry of literary traditions, including Sanskrit epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, classical poetry, and philosophical treatises. Various forms of performing arts, including classical dance forms

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like Bharatanatyam Kathak and Odissi, along with music and theatre, are celebrated aspects of Indian culture.

- 5. Medicine and Ayurveda:** The Indian knowledge system includes the ancient medical ayurveda, which emphasizes holistic well-being and a balance between body, mind and spirit. Ayurveda encompasses areas such as herbal medicine, dietetics, massage, and lifestyle practices for maintaining health and treating diseases.
- 6. Social Sciences and Ethics:** Indian knowledge system incorporates (mix, blend) social sciences and ethical principles. Texts like Arthashastra by Chanakya (Kautilya) discuss politics, economics, and governance. Manusmriti provides guidelines for social conduct and moral principles, while Dharma Shastras explore concepts of duty, righteousness, and social order.
- 7. Linguistics and Grammar:** The study of language and grammar holds a prominent place in Indian knowledge. Sanskrit, the ancient language of India, is considered sacred and has been a vehicle for transmitting knowledge across various disciplines. Panini's work (Sanskrit grammarian, father of Indian linguistics and literature) on Sanskrit grammar is highly regarded.
- 8. Environmental Sciences and Ecology:** Indian knowledge systems have long recognized the interdependence between human beings and the environment. Traditional ecological (organism and environment) knowledge and practices, such as sustainable agriculture and herbal medicine, have been integral to Indian culture.

These disciplines within the Indian knowledge system are interconnected, and the boundaries between them are often blurred. They provide a comprehensive framework for understanding the world, human existence, and the pursuit (stick to something) of knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual growth.

Indian Knowledge System Based Approaches on Knowledge Paradigms (model):

The Indian knowledge system encompasses diverse approaches and paradigms (model) when it comes to understanding and acquiring knowledge. These approaches are rooted in the unique philosophical, spiritual, and cultural traditions of India. Here are some key knowledge paradigms within the Indian knowledge system:

- 1. Intuitive (spontaneous) and Experiential Knowledge:** The Indian knowledge system places a strong emphasis on intuitive and experiential knowledge. It recognizes that direct personal experience and inner realization can provide deep insights and understanding.

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Practices such as meditation, yoga, and contemplation are seen as means to access higher states of consciousness and gain direct experiential knowledge.

- 2. Oral Tradition and Guru-Shishya Parampara:** The transmission of knowledge in the Indian context has often relied on the oral tradition and the Guru-Shishya (teacher-disciple) relationship. Knowledge is passed down through generations through direct instruction, personal guidance, and experiential learning under the guidance of a knowledgeable teacher or guru.
- 3. Textual and Scriptural Knowledge:** Texts and scriptures play a crucial role in the Indian knowledge system. Ancient texts like the Vedas, Upanishads, epics, and philosophical treatises are considered authoritative sources of knowledge. These texts are studied interpreted, and contemplated upon to gain insights into various aspects of life, philosophy, spirituality and practical disciplines.
- 4. Dialectical Inquiry (reasoning, exchange of argument- investigation) and Debate:** The Indian knowledge system encourages dialectical inquiry, debate, and critical thinking. Intellectual debates and philosophical discussions are valued as a means to explore different viewpoints, clarify concepts, and arrive at deeper understanding. The tradition of shastrartha (philosophical debate) exemplifies this approach.
- 5. Synthesis and Integration:** The Indian knowledge system emphasizes the synthesis and integration of different perspectives, disciplines, and approaches. It seeks to find harmony and unity in diverse knowledge systems, recognizing the interconnectedness of various branches of knowledge. This integrative approach allows for a holistic understanding of reality and fosters a comprehensive (broad) worldview.
- 6. Ethical and Moral Foundations:** The Indian knowledge system recognizes the importance of ethical and moral values in the pursuit and application of knowledge. Concepts like dharma (duty/righteousness), ahimsa (nonviolence), and karma (action and its consequences) guide ethical conduct a moral principle in the acquisition and utilization of knowledge.
- 7. Transcendental (supernatural) and Immanent (internal, subjective) Perspectives:** The Indian knowledge system embraces both transcendental and immanent perspectives. It acknowledges the existence of a transcendent reality beyond the physical world while also recognizing the divine presence within all aspects of creation. This dual perspective influences the understanding of knowledge, reality, and the nature of consciousness

 **Indian Knowledge System in Ancient India and in Modern India:**

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The Indian knowledge system has undergone significant transformations from ancient India to modern India. While certain foundational aspects have persisted, there are notable differences in how knowledge is understood, acquired, and applied. Here is a comparison of the Indian knowledge system in ancient India and modern India:

Ancient India (up to around the medieval period)

- 1. Emphasis on Scriptures:** Ancient Indian knowledge system placed a strong emphasis on sacred texts and scriptures. The Vedas, Upanishads, and other philosophical treatises were considered authoritative sources of knowledge. Knowledge was primarily transmitted through oral tradition and the GuruShishya Parampara (teacher-disciple tradition).
- 2. Integration of Philosophy and Spirituality:** Ancient Indian knowledge system seamlessly (constant) integrated philosophy and spirituality. The pursuit of knowledge was seen as a means to attain spiritual realization and liberation (moksha). Various philosophical schools and spiritual practices like Yoga, meditation, and contemplation (attention) Explored as pathways to higher states of consciousness.
- 3. Guru-Centric Learning:** Education was centred on the guru (teacher) in ancient India. Students lived in gurukuls (residential schools) and received holistic education encompassing various disciplines. The guru's guidance and considered vital in the acquisition of knowledge.
- 4. Interdisciplinary Approach:** The Indian knowledge system in ancient India embraced an interdisciplinary approach. Different branches of knowledge, such as philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, medicine, and arts, were interconnected and studied together. This holistic approach fostered a comprehensive (broad) understanding of the world.

❖ Introduction to IKS and Its Importance

- Our culture is greatly influenced by the body of knowledge and literary traditions that have come before. The cultural practices will be rudely startled if the underlying knowledge systems are suddenly removed from society.
- The Bhartiya approach promotes the well-being of all and is sustainable. In order to show the rest of the world how to do things the "Indian way," one must recapture the complete knowledge base of our cultural legacy. Future generations of scholars must be educated for them to set an example for the rest of the world and represent our magnificent civilisation.

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- The orderly transmission of information from one generation to the next is known as the Indian knowledge (information) System (IKS). IKS is a collective range of Indian Knowledge that has shown in structured ways of knowing.
- Instead of being just a tradition, it is a well-organized system and process of information transfer. The Upanishads, Vedas, and Upvedas are all a part of the Indian Knowledge System, which is composed of Vedic literature.
- The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) has developed over thousands of years. It has a variety of beaches including those related to astronomy, ayurveda, and yoga (health and wellbeing), mathematics, computing, languages, linguistics, metallurgy, rasa-shastra, public administration, and war technology. Among others, management science.

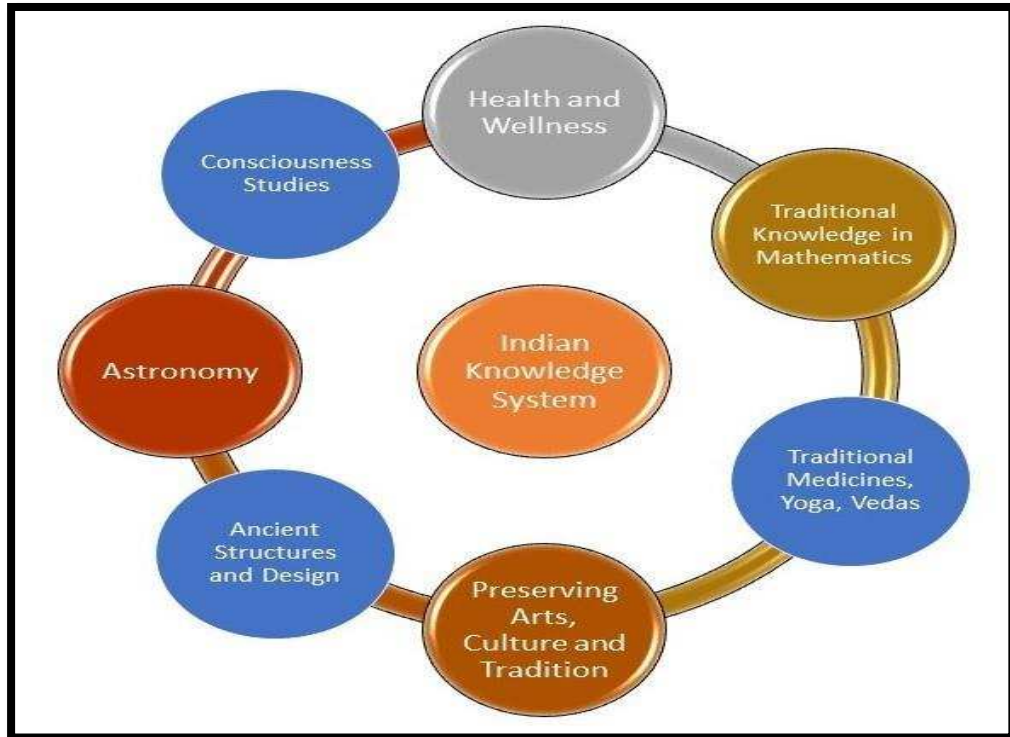
Components of Indian Knowledge System

- Jnan, Vignan, and Jeevan Darshan are the three components of the Indian Knowledge Systems, which have developed through experience, observation, experimentation, and thorough analysis.
- This tradition of validating and putting into practice has had an impact on all facets of our society, including education, the arts, administration, law, justice, health, manufacturing, and commerce. This has affected not just other languages that were passed down orally and creatively, but also the classical languages of Bharat.
- The term "knowledge of India" in this context refers to information about ancient India, its achievements, and difficulties, as well as an understanding of India's future objectives regarding education, health, the environment, and indeed all facets of life.
 - **Jnan:** In Indian philosophy and religions, "knowledge" is referred to as jnan. Jnan is conceived as a cognitive event that is recognized when it occurs. It is understanding that is inextricably linked to all experiences of reality, particularly whole or holy reality (Brahman).
Hinduism's "sacred knowledge," or jnana, can be broadly divided into two categories: religious knowledge (dharmika jnanam), and worldly or material knowledge (vastu, vishaya jnanam). Dharma is promoted by religious knowledge (Dharmika Jnanam), which brings about peace, contentment, and order.
 - **Vignan:** Respect for knowledge or Science
 - **Jeevan Darshan:** The principles that underpin our behaviour are human values and life values. Through chapters that not only invoke the spiritual sense of the phrases

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but also focus on providing a perspective, you can learn about the significance and purpose of our human values and acquire life lessons.

🌈 Scope of Indian Knowledge System



1. **Well-being:** The comprehensive approach to well-being is emphasized in the traditional Indian medical system known as Ayurveda.
2. **Stress management:** Yoga is a comprehensive approach to internal, physical, and spiritual well-being that has its roots in ancient India. It comprises ways like asanas (postures), pranayama (breath control), and contemplation that have been shown to lower stress, promote internal health, and increase general heartiness.
3. **Sustainable living:** Indian knowledge systems emphasized the interdependence of all beings to attain sustainable living practices including the idea of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family).
4. **Spiritual Growth:** Spiritual Growth perceptivity into the nature of reality, mindfulness, and the tone are handed by Indian knowledge systems like Vedanta, a philosophical frame grounded on the ancient books known as the Vedas.
5. **Innovation:** Science has historically been advanced by Indian knowledge systems in disciplines like mathematics, astronomy, and metallurgy. Ancient Indian generalities like zero, the decimal system, and trigonometry are still extensively used in current wisdom.

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and technology, demonstrating the significance of Indian knowledge systems in fostering invention and advancement.

Importance of Indian Knowledge System

- Indian knowledge systems have a strong foundation in Indian culture, philosophy, and spirituality and have evolved through thousands of years. These knowledge systems, including Ayurveda, Yoga, Vedanta, and Vedic sciences, are still applicable in the modern world in several ways.
- The IKS has the potential to complement and enrich contemporary higher education by providing a more comprehensive understanding of human knowledge, civilization, and cultural heritage and bringing benefits to students, academia, and society at large.
- The main goal of learning from the past and integrating Indian Knowledge Systems is to make sure that our ancient knowledge systems, which are represented by an unbroken tradition of knowledge transmission and offer a distinctive perspective (Bhratiya Drishti), are used to address India's current and future challenges in relation to education, health, the environment, and in general all facets of life.

Aspects (Feature) of Indian Knowledge System

Indian disciplinary formations include fields as diverse as philosophy, architecture, grammar, mathematics, astronomy, metrics, sociology (dharmaśāstra), economy and polity (arthaśāstra), ethics (nītiśāstra), geography, logic, military science, weaponry, agriculture, mining, trade and commerce, metallurgy, mining, shipbuilding, medicine, poetics, biology, and veterinary science.

Objectives of Indian Knowledge System

Promote and enable further research to address the societal challenges faced today in several areas including holistic health, psychology, neuroscience, nature, environment, and sustainable development.

Role of Indian Knowledge System

Indian knowledge systems have developed through thousands of years with a solid base in Indian culture, philosophy, and spirituality. Ayurveda, Yoga, Vedanta, and the Vedic sciences are all knowledge systems that have applications in the present world.

- **Ayurveda:** The 'Holistic medicine and wellness' focus of IKS includes Ayurveda. Yoga and the Indian traditional healthcare system known as Ayurveda are regarded as soft power tools (Nature journal).

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In this age of globalization, where lifestyle and dietary eating patterns are quickly changing, we are opening the door to a few new illnesses that pose a threat to our health. In order to provide complete, non-reductionist, and holistic healthcare in such a situation, it is necessary to investigate and establish the relationships among various Indian traditional sciences.

Ayurveda discusses holistic healthcare that is customized, preventative, protective, promotive, predictive, and participatory. It also addresses physical, mental, spiritual, and social well-being.

- **Yoga:** Yoga is an ancient Indian science for knowledge that dates back more than 5000 Years. The word "Yoga" came from the Sanskrit word "yuj" which means "to unite or integrate." Yoga then is about the union of a person's own consciousness and the universal consciousness.
- **Vedanta:** The Vedas, the first piece of religious literature in India, are referred to be the "conclusion" (anta) of Vedanta in Sanskrit. It pertains to the school that developed from the study (mimamsa), as well as the Upanishads, which were elaborations of the Vedas.
- **Vedic Science:** Jyotish (vedic astrology, the science of time), Ayurveda (the science of healing), Tantra (the understanding of the universal patterns of energies underlying the visible and invisible worlds, including the science of mantras, yantra, and sacred myths), Vastu (the science of space and placement), and finally, the science of Yoga and Vedanta philosophy, are all considered to be part of the vedic sciences.

All above, Indian academic systems cover a wide range of subjects, including philosophy, architecture, grammar, mathematics, astronomy, metrics, sociology (dharmastra), economics and politics (arthastra), ethics (nitishastra), geography, logic, military science, weaponry, agriculture, mining, trade and commerce, metallurgy, mining, and more.

Advantages of Indian Knowledge System

The IKS can enhance and supplement current higher education by giving students, academics, and society at large a more thorough understanding of human knowledge, civilization, and cultural legacy.

Introduction of Various Indian Knowledge Systems

Historical Developments of Indian Knowledge System:

The historical developments of the Indian knowledge system span several millennia and have been shaped by diverse influences, interactions, and intellectual advancements. Here are some

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key historical developments that have contributed to the evolution of the Indian knowledge system.

- 1. Vedic Period (1500 BCE (before Christ era)- 500 BCE):** The foundations of the Indian knowledge system can be traced back to the Vedic period, characterized by the composition of the Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda, and Atharvaveda. These texts contain hymns, rituals, and philosophical speculations that form the basis of early Indian thought.
- 2. Upanishadic Period (800 BCE-200 BCE):** The Upanishads, philosophical texts composed during this period, delve (dig,2. Upanishadic Period (800 BCE200 BCE): search) into profound questions about the nature of reality, the self, and the ultimate truth. Concepts like Brahman (theultimate reality) and Atman (the individual self) are explored, forming the basis for later philosophical systems.
- 3. Early Philosophical Schools (500 BCE - 200 BCE):** During this period, various philosophical schools emerged, including Vedanta, Yoga, Nyaya, Vaisheshika. Samkhya, and Mimamsa. These schools developed their unique perspectives on metaphysics (branch of philosophy studying fundamental principles), epistemology (branch of philosophy dealing withstudy, theory of knowledge), logic, and ethics, contributing to the diverse tapestry (with complex detail) of Indian philosophy.
- 4. Golden Age of Indian Science and Mathematics (300 BCE - 1200 CE):** India witnessed remarkable advancements in science and mathematics during this period. Mathematicians like Aryabhata, (first of the major mathematician-astronomers from the classical age of Indian mathematics and Indian astronomy) Brahmagupta, (Indian mathematician and astronomer. He is the author of two early works on mathematics and astronomy) and Bhaskara (leading mathematician of the 12th century, who wrote the first work with full and systematic use of the decimal number system) made significant contributions to algebra, (combined numbers and symbols, BIJGANIT) geometry. (Deals with spatial relationship, BHUMITI) trigonometry, (deals with sides and angles, TRIKONMITI) and number theory. Indian astronomers made important observations of celestial bodies and developed sophisticated mathematical models for calculating planetary positions.
- 5. Buddhist and Jain Philosophical Traditions (6th century BCE onwards):** The rise of Buddhism and Jainism introduced new philosophical perspectives and ethical systems. Buddhist philosophy emphasized concepts like impermanence, suffering, and the path to enlightenment, while Jain philosophy emphasized non-violence, karma theory, and the

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pursuit of liberation. (Salvation, setting free)

6. **Gupta (ancient Indian empire) Empire (4th century-6th century CE (Christ, commonEra)):**The Gupta period is often referred to as the "Golden Age of India" due to its significant contributions to various fields of knowledge. It witnessed advancements in literature, arts, science, mathematics, medicine, and administration. Scholars like Aryabhata, Kalidasa, and Varahamihira flourished during this time.
7. **Medieval (Middle Ages or medieval period, similar to the post-classical period of global history.) Period (8th century - 18th century CE):** The medieval period saw the emergence of new schools of philosophy and the development of intellectual traditions such as Sufism and Bhakti movement. Islamic influences introduced Persian and Arabic knowledge systems, leading to a fusion of ideas and the development of syncretic (combination of different) traditions.
8. **Colonial (British rule) Period (18th century - mid-20th century):** The Indian knowledge system faced significant challenges during the colonial period as European powers exerted (applied) their influence. However, this period also witnessed a rediscovery and preservation of ancient texts, a resurgence of nationalistic pride, and the emergence of scholars who reinterpreted and revitalized (give new energy) Indian knowledge traditions.
9. **Post-Independence Era (mid-20th century onwards):** After gaining independence from colonial rule, India has focused on preserving, reviving, and promoting its knowledge systems. Efforts have been made to integrate traditional knowledge with modern science and to bring Indian philosophies, arts, and practices to a global audience. Throughout history, the Indian knowledge system has evolved through the contributions of numerous philosophers, scholars, scientists, and artists.

Organization of Indian Knowledge System

The organization of the Indian knowledge system is characterized by its diverse and interconnected nature. It does not follow a rigid hierarchical structure but can be understood through several organizing principles and frameworks. Here are some ways in which the Indian knowledge system can be organized.

1. **Shastras and Texts:** Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, philosophical treatises, and texts on various subjects such as medicine

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(Ayurveda), architecture (Vaastu Shastra), and politics (Arthashastra).

2. **Darshanas (Philosophical Schools):** The Indian knowledge system comprises several philosophical schools or Darshana's that offer different perspectives on metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and the nature of reality. The six major Darshana's are Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Samkhya, Yoga, Mimamsa, and Vedanta. Each school presents its own philosophical framework and methods of inquiry.
3. **Vedangas (six auxiliary disciplines of Hinduism, developed in ancient times, connected with the study of the Vedas):** The Vedangas are auxiliary disciplines associated with the study and interpretation of the Vedas. They include Shiksha (phonetics), Vyakarana (grammar), Chanda's (prosody (poetic, rhythms)), Nirukta (etymology (origin of words)), Jyotisha (astrology/astronomy), and Kalpa (rituals). The Vedangas provide tools and guidelines for understanding and interpreting the Vedic texts.
4. **Upavedas (four upavedas: Dhanurveda (art and warfare, upaveda of Yajur Veda). Gandharva veda (art and music, upaveda of Sama veda). Shilpa veda (architecture, upaveda of Atharva veda. Ayurveda (medicine, upaveda of Rig veda)) and Upangas (four Upangas are Mimamsa, Nyaya, Purana and Dharmasastra.):** The Upavedas are secondary bodies of knowledge that complement (complete) the Vedas and focus on specific applied disciplines. They include Ayurveda (medicine), Dhanurveda (military science), Gandharva Veda (music and performing arts), and Sthapatyaveda (architecture). The Upangas encompass fields such as linguistics, poetics, and aesthetics (beauty, art).
 5. **Six Angas of Indian Learning:** These are the six limbs or aspects of traditional Indian learning, known as Shadangas (use of colour in an artistic style for creating an aesthetic sense.). They include Shiksha (phonetics), Vyakarana (grammar), Chanda's (prosody (poetic, rhythms)), Nirukta (etymology (origin of words)), Kalpa (rituals), and Jyotisha (astrology/astronomy). These disciplines provide foundational knowledge for the interpretation and application of various texts and practices.
 6. **Gurukul System:** Historically, education in the Indian knowledge system was often organized within the Gurukul system. In this system, students lived with guru (teacher) in a residential setting, where they received instruction in various disciplines, including philosophy, scriptures, arts, sciences, and practical skills.
 7. **Interdisciplinary Approach:** The Indian knowledge system emphasizes the interconnectedness of various disciplines and encourages an interdisciplinary approach. It

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recognizes that different branches of knowledge inform and influence one another, leading to a holistic understanding of the world and human existence while these are some ways to organize the Indian knowledge system, it is important to note that the system is dynamic, flexible, and has evolved over time. It incorporates (include) multiple perspectives, allowing for a comprehensive exploration of various domains of knowledge and their interrelationships.

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