

# Indic Knowledge Systems – I

MA (Sanskrit)

**Course Category: Foundation**

**Schedule of Offering: Semester I**

**Course Credit Structure: [4]**

- **Lecture** : 3 Hours per week
- **Tutorial** : 1 Hour per week
- **Practical** : None

**Contact Hours per week: 4 Hours per week**

## Instructors:

Dr. Vinayak Rajat Bhat  
Vidwan Nagendra Pavana R N

## Class Schedule

- *Monday (01.30 to 2.30), Wednesday (11.45 to 12.45), Thursday (01.30 to 2.30), Friday (02.35 to 3.45)*

## 1. Introduction

As human beings march in their journey towards progress, through newer developments, they need to be guided by a core set of ideals and principle of living. In today's context, these paradigms of living are stemming from recent ideas originating from the western world. While we have been making progress there is also a wide-spread understanding that for every new solution and idea that we discover, we introduce more and more challenges and problems arising out of them. This potentially raises the need to look for alternative paradigms for the emerging world order. Indic Knowledge Systems (**IKS**) can potentially offer ideas for developing new paradigms for the world order. A knowledge of IKS is the first step in this process. The Chinmaya University addresses this requirement through a two-part foundational course.

IKS constitute a vast majority of literature spanning across multiple perspectives. This includes ideas on fundamental premises related to one's living as laid out in the Vedas, components of knowledge that help us develop a correct understanding of the Vedic literature, *Purāṇas*, *Darśaṇas*, *Smṛtis*, Upa Vedas and many more. This is typically referred to as *Caturdaśa-vidyāsthānam*. This course outline covers one part of this knowledge tradition and the rest is covered in the second course.

## 2. Objectives

The course design seeks to address the following issues:

- To introduce to the students the overall organization of IKS
- To develop an appreciation among the students the role and importance of Veda, Vedāṅgas, Upa Vedas and Purāṇas
- To show case the multi-dimensional nature of IKS and their importance in the contemporary society
- To motivate the students to take up a detailed study of some of these topics and explore their application potential

## 3. Pre-requisites

There are no pre-requisites for this course as it is introductory in nature. Some rudimentary understanding of Sanskrit and familiarity with Devanagari script will be useful.

## 4. Readings

There is no text book for this course. However, a set of readings have been identified under each module of the course. Students will be required to access these reading material from the library repository and assemble a set of readings for their personal use.

## 5. Session-wise Schedule of the Course

Session No.	Date	Topic
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Module 1		Introduction to IKS
1	Jul. 27, 2018	Course details, What is IKS?
2	Jul. 30, 2018	Organization of IKS – चतुर्दश-विद्यास्थानं
3	Aug. 01, 2018	Relevance to Modern day knowledge systems
	Aug. 02, 2018	Tutorial

Module 2		Śruti (Vedas) – The Knowledge Architecture & Relevance
4	Aug. 03, 2018	Introduction to Vedas: Role, Importance
5	Aug. 06, 2018	Broad Classifications of Vedas, its relevance
6	Aug. 08, 2018	Components of the Vedic literature, organization
	Aug. 09, 2018	Tutorial
7	Aug. 10, 2018	Commentaries on Vedas, a brief introduction

8	Aug. 13, 2018	Textual study thru one or two passages
9	Aug. 16, 2018	Use in ancient times; their relevance in present day
	Aug. 17, 2018	<i>Tutorial</i>

<b>Module 3</b>		<b>Six Vedāngas</b>
10	Aug. 20, 2018	Role of the Vedāngas in the study of the Veda, components, notion of Vedapuruṣa
11	Aug. 22, 2018	Overview of all the six Vedāngas: Essential aspects; Seminal works
12	Aug 23, 2018	Sikṣa – The Science & its importance
	Aug. 27, 2018	<i>Tutorial</i>
13	Aug. 29, 2018	Introduction to Vyākaraṇa
14	Aug. 30, 2018	Components of Vyakarana
15	Aug. 31, 2018	Nirukta – Its role in studying Vedic literature
	Sep. 03, 2018	<i>Tutorial</i>
16	Sep. 10, 2018	Practical application of Nirukta principles
17	Sep. 12, 2018	Chandas and its relevance
18	Sep. 14, 2018	Use of Chandas in the Vedic literature
	Sep. 17, 2018	<i>Tutorial</i>
19	Sep. 19, 2018	Use of Chandas in the kavya and other genres of literature
20	Sep. 20, 2018	Kalpa Sūtras: An overview
21	Sep. 21, 2018	Kalpa Sūtras: Applications
	Sep. 24, 2018	<i>Tutorial</i>
22	Sep. 26, 2018	Jyotiṣa – The Vedic perspective
23	Sep. 27, 2018	Importance of Jyotiṣa & its use: Vedic and Contemporary
24	Sep. 28, 2018	Contribution of the Padaśāstra & Vākyaśāstra to entire IKS
	Oct. 01, 2018	<i>Tutorial</i>

<b>Module 4</b>		<b>The Upa Vedas</b>
25	Oct. 03, 2018	Upa Vedas: Introduction, Essential texts & teachers
26	Oct. 04, 2018	Arthaśāstra: Overview;
27	Oct. 05, 2018	Arthaśāstra: Issues addressed in Kauṭilya's work; Relevance
	Oct. 08, 2018	<i>Tutorial</i>
28	Oct. 10, 2018	Concept of leadership in Arthaśāstra
29	Oct. 11, 2018	Āyurveda: Science of holistic health;
30	Oct. 12, 2018	Textual study of Indriyopakramaṇīyozdhyāyaḥ
	Oct. 15, 2018	<i>Tutorial</i>
31	Oct. 17, 2018	Introduction to Tridośa theory
32	Oct. 22, 2018	Āyurveda: Issues Addressed
33	Oct. 24, 2018	Dhanurveda: Gleanings from various texts and lessons for modern times

	Oct. 25, 2018	<i>Tutorial</i>
34	Oct. 26, 2018	Sthāpatyaveda: Gleanings from Āgamas; Iconography & Temple Architecture;
35	Nov. 08, 2018	Vāstuvidyā; Architecture pertaining to residential buildings
36	Nov. 09, 2018	Gandharva Veda: Gleanings from Bharata's Nāṭya śāstra
	Nov. 12, 2018	<i>Tutorial</i>
37	Nov. 14, 2018	Various types of plays in Bharata's Nāṭya śāstra
38	Nov.15, 2018	Sangīta śāstra: Overview, Music; Musical Instruments

Module 5		Purāṇas
39	Nov. 16, 2018	Purāṇalakṣaṇa: Pañca and Daśa Lakṣaṇas; Classification: Purāṇas-Mahāpurāṇas-Upapurāṇas-Sthalapurāṇas
	Nov. 19, 2018	<i>Tutorial</i> , Textual study of some portions from Purāṇa-1
40	Nov. 21, 2018	Important Upākhyānas from the Purāṇas
41	Nov. 22, 2018	Itihāsas: Differences between them and Purāṇas, common aspects
42	Nov. 23, 2018	Purāṇas role in development of individuals & society Societal values and principles in Purāṇas
	Nov. 26, 2018	<i>Tutorial</i> , Textual study from Bhagavata Mahapurana
43	Nov. 28, 2018	Areas of contemporary applications of IKS

Module 6		Conclusions
44	Nov. 29, 2018	Areas of contemporary Applications & uses
45	Nov. 30, 2018	Concluding thoughts on IKS

## 6. Module-wise topics

### Module 1: Introduction to IKS – 3 Sessions

#### Objectives:

- To set a stage for understanding the architecture of the Ancient Indian Knowledge Systems
- To develop an overall understanding of their role and relevance to the contemporary society

#### Topics:

- What is IKS?
- Organization of IKS – चतुर्दश-विद्यास्थानं
- Relevance to Modern day knowledge systems

## Module 2: Śruti (Vedas) – The Knowledge Architecture & Relevance – 6 Sessions

### Objectives:

- To introduce the role of Vedas as the primary basis for IKS
- To develop a rudimentary understanding of the components of the Vedas, their organization and subject matter discussed in them

### Topics:

- The Vedas as the basis of IKS
- Historicity of the Veda: Traditional and Modern views
- Broad Divisions of the Veda: Mantra, Brāhmaṇa, Āraṇyaka, Upaniṣad; Śākhās; Understanding Karmakāṇḍa–Jñānakāṇḍa: their purpose, message (Yajña – Jñāna) and use in ancient times; their relevance in the present day
- Renowned commentaries on the Veda; an introduction to their niceties through selected textual study

### Readings:

- **Swami Tejomayananda. (1994).** “The Karma Kāṇḍa”, Chapter IV in Hindu Culture: An Introduction, Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, pp 30 – 40.
- **Swami Tejomayananda. (1994).** “The Jñāna Kāṇḍa”, Chapter V in Hindu Culture: An Introduction, Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, pp 41 – 51.
- **Swami Harshananda.** “A bird’s eye view of vedas”. R K Math. Bangalore. [Http://rkmathbangalore.org/Books/ABirdsEyeViewOfTheVedas.pdf](http://rkmathbangalore.org/Books/ABirdsEyeViewOfTheVedas.pdf). *Last accessed on May 10, 2018.*
- **Kashyap, R.L. (2003).** “Introduction to Rig Veda” in Secrets of Rig Veda: First 121 Suktas, *Sri Aurobindo Kapāli Sāstry Institute of Vedic Culture*, pp 1 – 44.
- **Archak, K.B. (2012).** “The Brahmana Literature”, Chapter VIII in Essentials of Vedic Literature, Kaveri Books, New Delhi, pp 271 – 301.
- **Archak, K.B. (2012).** “The Āraṇyakas and Upaniṣads”, Chapter IX in Essentials of Vedic Literature, Kaveri Books, New Delhi, pp 302 – 329.
- **Shashi Prabha Kumar. (2002).** “Bhumisukta of the Atharvaveda”, in Vedic Traditions and Modern Crisis, (Ed.), Pushpendara Kumar, Eastern Book Linkers, Delhi, pp 10 – 22.

## Module 3: Six Vedāṅgas – 15 Sessions

### Objectives:

- To introduce the role of in developing a correct understanding of the Vedic literature
- To provide an overview of the Vedāṅgas and introduce to the main works pertaining to this literature

### Topics:

- The assistive role of the Vedāṅgas in the study of the Veda; the Vedāṅgas constituting the Veda-puruṣa
- Overview of all the six Vedāṅgas: Essential aspects; Various seminal works
- Contribution to the world pool of knowledge; the special contribution of the Padaśāstra and Vākyaśāstra to the entire IKS
- Modern discoveries in ancient works pertaining to the Vedāṅga

### Readings:

- **Bhate, S. (2002).** “Pāṇini’s grammar: An over view”, Chapter 2 in Panini, *Sahitya Academy*, New Delhi, pp 6 - 11.
- **Bhate, S. (2002).** “The form of Pāṇini’s grammar”, Chapter 3 in Panini, *Sahitya Academy*, New Delhi, pp 12 - 18.
- Sanskrit Prosody, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanskrit\\_prosody](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanskrit_prosody). Last accessed on May 10, 2018.
- **Sarup, L. (2015).** “The Nighaṇṭu and the Nirukta of Śrī Yāskācārya”, *Motilal Banarsidass Publishers*. pp 13 – 14, 49 – 50, and selected portions from 53 – 69.
- **Bhagwat, B. (2009).** “Kalpa-Vedāṅga: Origin & Development”, *Adarsha Sanskrit Shoda Samsthan, Pune*, Selected portions from the book.
- **Vartak, P.V. (1995).** “Veda and Jyotish”, Part II, Chapter 2, in *Issues in Veda and Astrology*, H Pandya (Ed.), pp 65 – 73.
- **Sundaram, A.V. (1995).** “Astrology: Its usefulness and Limitations in Modern Times”, Part II, Chapter 9, in *Issues in Veda and Astrology*, H Pandya (Ed.), pp 129 – 135.
- **Archak, K.B. (2012).** “The Vedāṅga Literature”, Chapter VIII in *Essentials of Vedic Literature*, Kaveri Books, New Delhi, pp 330 – 391.

## Module 4: The Upa Vedas – 14 Sessions

### Objectives:

- To introduce the four Upa Vedas and their contributions to IKS
- To develop an appreciation of the application domains and potential of Upa Vedas in contemporary settings

### Topics:

- Overview of the four Upa Vedas – derived from the four Vedas; the essential texts, teachers
- Ayurveda: Science of holistic health; Issues Addressed; Basic philosophy
- Dhanurveda: Gleanings from various texts and lessons for modern times - basic information

- Gandharvaveda: Gleanings from Bharata's Nāṭyaśāstra- Abhinava Gupta's thoughts; Nārādīya śikṣā; Sangīta śāstra Overview; Nṛṭya-Gāṇa-Vādyā; Music; Musical Instruments
- Arthaśāstra: Overview; Issues addressed in Kauṭilya's work; Relevance
- Sthāpatya-veda: Vāstuvidyā; Gleanings from various Āgamas; Iconography and Temple Architecture; Architecture pertaining to residential buildings

### Readings:

- **Vasant Lad (1996)**, "Ayurveda: A Brief Introduction and Guide", (*whole article*).
- **Ramachandrudu P. (2010)**, "Glimpse into Kautilya's Arthashastra", (pp: 1-37), Sanskrit Academy, Hyderabad.
- "Sthapatya Veda – An introductory note".  
[http://www.worldlibrary.org/articles/stahpatya\\_veda](http://www.worldlibrary.org/articles/stahpatya_veda). Last accessed on Dec. 8, 2016.
- **Gaur, N.A. (2009)**. "Ideal Village Planning" Chapter 2 in *Sthāpatya Ved-Vāstu Śāstra*, New Age Books, pp 26 – 39.
- **Amita, S. (1998)**. "Design of Settlements in the Vaastu Shastras", *Journal of Cultural Geography*, **17** (2), pp 27 – 41.

### Module 5: Purāṇas – 5 Sessions

#### Objectives:

- To introduce the critical role Purāṇas as a knowledge system play in development of individuals and the society
- To provide an overview of the Purāṇas , their constituents, organization and structure
- To briefly introduce to the philosophical thoughts and other perspectives in this literature

#### Topics:

- Purāṇa-Lakṣana (Pañcalakṣaṇa & Daśalakṣaṇa) and categorisations: Purāṇas-Mahāpurāṇa-Upapurāṇas-Sthalapurāṇas
- The encyclopedic nature of the Paurāṇika literature, purpose served, important Upākhyānas from the Purāṇas
- Purāṇas as a source of important philosophical thoughts; historical & geographical details
- Understanding Paurāṇic style by textual study of some portions from Bhāgavata etc.
- Translations, Philosophical Interpretations, Abridgements, and Encyclopedias and others works on the Purāṇas
- Contemporary application potential

### Readings:

- **Swami Tejomayananda. (1994).** “The Purāṇas”, Chapter XVIII in Hindu Culture: An Introduction, Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, pp 157 – 163.
- **Pusalker, A.D. (1955).** “Introduction” in Studies in Epics and Purāṇas, (Eds.) KM Munshi and N Chandrashekara Aiyer, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, pp xliii – lxviii.
- An introduction to Purāṇas, Extracted from Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puranas>. Last accessed on January 4, 2018.
- **Swami Ranganathananda, (2010).** “The Central Theme of Śrīmad Bhāgavatam”, Advaita Ashrama, pp 5 – 15, 18 – 22, 25 – 28, 46 – 56.
- **Kantawala, S.G. (1999).** “Purāṇas: Source of Ancient Indian History & Culture”, Chapter 11 in Studies in Purāṇas, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, pp 58 – 169.
- Selected readings from Bhāgavata Mahāpurāṇa and Agni Purāṇa

### Module 6: Conclusions – 2 sessions

#### Objectives:

- To sensitise to the students the contemporary usefulness of the literature
- To encourage the students to explore specific areas for contemporary application of some of the topics discussed in the course
- To summarise the literature covered in the course in a concise manner

#### Topics:

- Areas of contemporary Applications & uses
- Concluding thoughts on IKS – I

#### Readings:

- **Shashi Prabha Kumar. (2002).** “Indian Feminism in Vedic Perspective”, in Vedic Traditions and Modern Crisis, (Ed.), Pushpendara Kumar, Eastern Book Linkers, Delhi, pp 95 – 110.
- **Meister, M.W. (1985).** “Measurement and Proportion in Hindu Temple Architecture”, Interdisciplinary Science Reviews, **10** (3), pp 248 – 258.

## 7. Pedagogy

The teaching methodology will be primarily lecture oriented. In class discussions, talks by experts and student presentations based on some related work will supplement the learning process.



## 8. Evaluation Pattern

- Student Submissions (Group Work) : 20 Marks
- Class Participation thru presentations : 15 Marks
- Mid-term Examination : 25 Marks
- End-Term Examination : 40 Marks
- Total : 100 Marks