



NABA BALLYGUNGE MAHAVIDYALAYA

(Formerly CHARUCHANDRA EVENING COLLEGE)

27E, Bosepukur Road, Kolkata - 700042

Email: nbmv2005@yahoo.co.in, Website: nbmahavidyalaya.in

Title of the seminar: Indian Knowledge Systems: Relevance and Application

Type: Two-Day National Level Workshop Cum Seminar

Organizers: IQAC, Bankim Sardar College, South 24 Parganas in collaboration with Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya, Kolkata & Debra Thana Sahid Kshudiram Smriti Mahavidyalaya (Autonomous), Midnapore

Date: 29th and 30th November, 2024

Venue: Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark

Seminar Objectives:

The main objectives behind organizing this workshop cum seminar were –

- To introduce and popularize the IKS to all higher education institute in West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand Orissa and the North Eastern states and conduct academic discourse on this subject amongst the interested stakeholders.
- To emphasize participation from schools - Principal and Faculty - for appraising them with roles and objectives of IKS awakening pertaining to the students during their upbringing while in the school. It would help in designing and development of IKS curriculum for secondary school electives for early exposure.
- To spread the vast knowledge about various aspects of IKS and its practical applications to the principals and teachers - of colleges and schools - towards introducing the subject to the students.
- To provide platform for practitioners and researchers to present their works and insights on different fields of IKS through research papers.

After a brief introduction to the relevance and importance of Indian Knowledge System in a world of rapid globalization, the comperes Dr Suchandra Biswas, IQAC Coordinator, Bankim Sardar College and Dr Anwesha Sengupta, Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya initiated the programme.

The Inaugural session began with the chanting of shanti mantra by Sri Surajit Bhattacharya, Retired Teacher, David Sassoon High School, Canning. He sang the incantation “*Om sahanaavvatu/ Sah nau bhunaktu/ Sah veeryan karvaav hai/ Tejaswi naavadhitamastu maa vidvishaav hai*” followed by a song by Swami Chandikananda – “*bajao bajao abar bajao, bajao bina ei bharate*”.

Principal

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After these inaugural songs, the principal of Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya, Dr. Ayantika Ghosh welcomed the august gathering with the welcome speech. She thanked the President of the Governing Body of Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya, Janab Javed Ahmed Khan (*in absentia*) for his help in organizing the event. After the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, students of Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya Barsha Mondal, Subhajit Kayal and Taniya Gazi sang *Sangachhadhwang sangbadadhwang* mellifluously.



Barsha Mondal, Subhajit Kayal and Taniya Gazi of Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya, 5th semester students sing *Sangachhatang*



Sri Surajit Bhattacharya, Retired Teacher, David Sassoon High School, Canning sang *Sahanang bhabatu*

The inaugural address was delivered by the Guest-of-Honour of the event - Swami Supurnananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Kolkata. His in-depth analysis of different aspects of IKS, philosophy and socio-economic relevance touched one and all. Following this speech, the theme of the seminar was introduced by the principal of Bankim Sardar College, Dr. Tilak Chatterjee. He thanked Sri Paresh Ram Das (*in absentia*), president of the Governing Body of Bankim Sardar College for his extensive support in every stage of the programme. The chairperson of the Governing Body of Debra Thana Sahid Khudiram Smriti Mahavidyalaya (autonomous) beautifully explained the sustainable development aspect of IKS regarding its application in agriculture and protection of the environment in the era of global warming.

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Lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Swami Supurnananda, and principal of Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya Dr Ayantika Ghosh and principal of Bankim Sardar College Dr Tilak Chatterjee



Inaugural address by Swami Supurnanda on Indian Knowledge Systems



Dr Ayantika Ghosh, Principal, Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya, addressing the audience



Dr Tilak Chatterjee, Principal, Bankim Sardar College, addressing the audience

Ghosh

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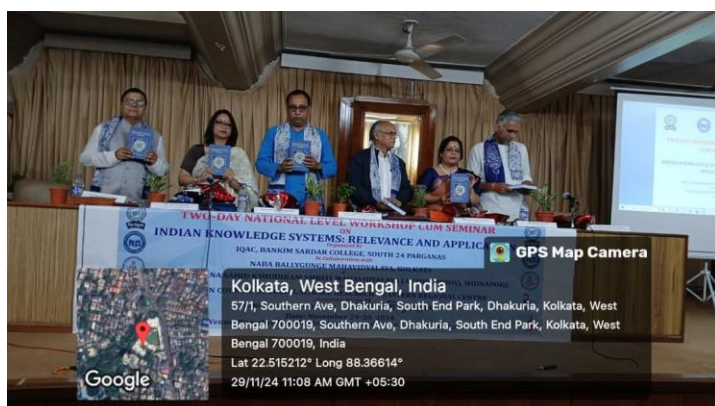
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The proceedings of the seminar were published as an edited volume with ISBN number from a national-level publisher and it was released during this session. The book is a collection of essays on various avenues that Indian Knowledge Systems have opened from Economics and Mathematics to Literature, Religion and Pedagogy.



The book *Indian Knowledge Systems: Heritage, Contemporary Relevance and Future Pathways* released in the seminar cum workshop on 29th November 2024

The keynote address was delivered by the Chief-Guest of the event, Dr. Bharat Dash of Sri Sri University. He is a master- trainer on IKS and one of the national-level mentors of IKS – certified and recognized by the IKS division of Ministry of Education, Government of India. His insightful lecture located the position of IKS in higher education pedagogy. College faculties were deeply benefitted from this lecture regarding the relevance of IKS to UGC and NEP 2020.



Dr Bharat Dash mesmerized the audience with his brilliant lecture on the relevance of IKS in curriculum in higher education in India

The first technical session began with invited lecture from Avelo Roy, Managing Director & Startup Mentor, Kolkata Ventures. Titled *Gyaan To Vigyaan - Transforming Knowledge To Practice.*, the lecture manifested how IKS can be incorporated into entrepreneurship to provide unique competitive edge by blending traditional knowledge with modern business practices.

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The second technical session consisted of three invited lectures.

Sayantan Roy, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, Jhargram Raj College subtly presented the trajectories of mathematical science in Ancient India and its ramifications in Modern Western Mathematics. One could relate to his mention of Aryabhatta, Bhaskara, Brahmagupta, Pingala and Euclid, Pythagoras, Fibonacci, Boole and how modern mathematical theorems draw from ancient Indian Knowledge system in Geometry, Trigonometry, Arithmetic and Algebra.

The next resource person was Dr Rajeshwar Mukherjee, Teaching Fellow, School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions, Nalanda University presented the discourse of consciousness in its material and non-material dimensions. In his words, IKS presents pervasive reality transcending the physical body and mind, which is manifested in major Indian schools of thought like Vedanta, Samkhya and Yoga.

The final presenter of the session was Dr Kuntal Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Department of Yoga, Manipur University whose presentation was titled *Health and Wellbeing in Perspective of Yoga and Ayurveda*. His detailed explanation of Yoga and Ayurveda explored many hitherto unknown perspectives of IKS.



Sayantan Roy presenting his insightful lecture on aspects of Mathematics in IKS in the seminar on 29.11.2024



Avelo Roy presenting on IKS and entrepreneurship in the national seminar cum workshop on 29.11.2024



Dr Rajeshwar Mukherjee presenting on Philosophy and IKS in the seminar on 29.11.2024



Dr Kuntal Ghosh's riveting lecture on Yoga and IKS in the seminar on 29.11.2024

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The second day (30th November 2024) began with a mellifluous rendition of baul song by Prof Indrashish Banerjee.

The Fourth Technical Session began with an informative lecture by Sandipan Mitra, Assistant Professor, Vedanta College presented on “Durga Puja in Bengal: Knowledge Practices as Cultural Heritage”. His discourse was that Durga Puja involves transmission of different kinds of knowledges and skills among various groups of practitioners, through the hereditary practices of idol making and ‘pandal’ (pavilion) construction, where knowledges and skills are passed on within the family and occupational trade, through the hereditary vocations of ‘purohits’ (priests) and ‘dhakis’ (drummers) who are associated with the liturgical aspects of the festival, through the continuing family traditions of conducting the Durga Pujas over several generations, and through the folk art and craft traditions which are linked with the creative aspects of the festival.

Professor Abdul Kafi, Department of Bengali, Jadavpur University was the next presenter. Kafi Sir or Kafi da’s talk resonated with the Dalit sentiments. He emphasised in his talk titled “IKS and Counter Hegemony” that Indian Knowledge System is all about inclusion. It has no meaning without the voice of Chokhamela or Ravidas or Kabir. This session went against the basic conservatism and talked about incompleteness of IKS without the Dalit voices. As much as IKS pertains to a system of Karma and Yoga, it is also dismantling the Brahmanical authority and caste system, the hierarchies, as resonated in the voice of Chokhamela and Kabir.

The next speaker was Dr Bharat Dash of Sri Sri University whose talk was titled “Some Aspects of Arthashastra and Nitishastra”. Drawing the iconic example of the story of Mandavisha, the serpent from Panchatantra, whose calculative manoeuvring helped him getting all his prey, Dr Dash explained the link between commerce, economics and ethics embedded in Indian Knowledge System. The King of the frogs, sacrificed his subjects, one by one, as the food for Mandavisha in return of a jolly ride on his back with his subjects, until there was no subject left apart from him, leading to Mandavisha gobble him up. The anecdote was explained to explain business ethics, leadership, nuances of running a firm. Brainstorming among the audience, the views that came up were a true leader must prioritise their subjects’ wellbeing, over-curiosity at work may lead to undesired consequences, presence of mind can win any situation, one should look before taking a leap and so on.



The comperes: Dr Suchandra Biswas, IQAC Coordinator, Bankim Sardar College and Dr Anwesha Sengupta, Faculty, Department of English, Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya

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The speakers on 30.11.2024. Clockwise from left Dr Sandipan Mitra, Vedanta College delivering lecture, Prof Abdul Kafi, Jadavpur University, delivering lecture, Dr Tilak Chatterjee, Principal, Bankim Sardar College and Smt Bodhirupa Sinha, Principal, Patha Bhavan, Viswa Bharati in a discussion, Dr Rohini Dharmapal, RKSMVV, being felicitated, Dr Bharat Dash, Sri Sri University engaged in interacting with audience and Dr Tilak Chatterjee addressing the audience

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The fifth and final technical session began with a much-awaited discussion on IKS and pedagogy by Dr Tilak Chatterjee, Principal, Bankim Sardar College and Smt Bodhirupa Sinha, Principal, Patha Bhavan, Viswa Bharati, Shantiniketan. Titled “Embedding IKS in the School Curriculum – A Possible Roadmap”, the panel discussion touched on the possibilities of including Indian Knowledge System in history, literature, mathematics, economics, chemistry, fine arts, nutrition and life skills education at school level. It was undoubtedly an enlightening session.

The last and final lecture, delivered by Dr Rohini Dharmapal, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Vivekananda Vidyabhavan, titled “IKS & The Language of Sexuality in Ancient Indian Literature”, was as usual subversive. I traced the position of women, from Vedic age to modernity. She unabashedly discussed the purposelessness of sexual taboos and spoke on women’s sexual entity.

The two-days informative discussion came to an end, with the final research session held at Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya.



Some photos from paper presenting session at Naba Ballygunge Mhaavidyalaya in the Two-Days National Workshop Cum Seminar titled Indian Knowledge Systems: Relevance and Application on 30.11.2024

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