



School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies (SSIS)



Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi, India

CALL FOR PAPERS

Sanskrit and Indic Studies: Retrospect and Prospect

(Explorations in Philosophy, History and Culture)

Three-Day National Seminar

1 – 3 October 2026

Organised as part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of
the School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies



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ABOUT THE SEMINAR

The intellectual traditions of India represent one of the world's most extensive and continuous engagements with questions concerning knowledge, consciousness, language, reality, society, aesthetics, polity, history and human flourishing. Sanskrit has occupied a particularly significant place within this intellectual landscape, serving for centuries as a major language of philosophical reflection, scientific inquiry, literary creativity, cultural expression and scholarly communication. At the same time, the wider field of Indic Studies encompasses the plurality of languages, textual traditions, regional knowledge systems and cultural practices through which the civilisational experience of India has been articulated and transmitted.

The completion of twenty-five years of the School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies (SSIS), Jawaharlal Nehru University, offers an important occasion for both retrospective reflection and prospective inquiry. As part of its Silver Jubilee Celebrations, the School proposes to organise a three-day seminar titled "Sanskrit and Indic Studies: Retrospect and Prospect (Explorations in Philosophy, History and Culture)" from 1 to 3 October 2026.

The seminar seeks to examine the historical development, intellectual foundations and contemporary significance of Sanskrit and Indic Studies while simultaneously exploring their future possibilities. The idea of "retrospect" invites scholars to revisit the texts, thinkers, institutions, debates and methodologies that have shaped Indian intellectual traditions as well as the modern academic study of these traditions. "Prospect," in turn, calls for a critical consideration of emerging directions, interdisciplinary possibilities, new methodologies and institutional frameworks through which Sanskrit and Indic Studies may contribute to contemporary scholarship.

Indian philosophical traditions developed sophisticated approaches to ontology, epistemology, logic, language, consciousness, ethics and aesthetics. Traditions of Śaivism, Vaiṣṇavism, Nyāya, Vaiśeṣika, Sāṅkhya, Yoga, Mīmāṃsā, Vedānta, Buddhist and Jaina thought, alongside numerous other intellectual currents, generated sustained debates concerning the nature and means of knowledge. Their conceptual vocabularies continue to offer significant possibilities for dialogue with contemporary philosophy, cognitive studies, linguistics, ethics, and other disciplines.



Equally significant is the historical dimension of Indic Studies. Texts, inscriptions, manuscripts, commentarial traditions, oral narratives, regional archives, and material culture collectively preserve multiple layers of India's historical experience. Revisiting these sources through rigorous and interdisciplinary methodologies can contribute to a more nuanced understanding of intellectual, social, and cultural histories. The seminar therefore seeks to encourage conversations between textual scholarship, historiography, archaeology, epigraphy, manuscriptology, and related fields.

Culture constitutes another important dimension of this inquiry. Indian knowledge traditions have never remained confined exclusively to textual or scholastic domains. Their ideas have travelled through poetry, kāvya, theatre, music, dance, architecture, sculpture, storytelling and diverse regional traditions. The relationship between śāstra and prayoga, textual knowledge and lived practice, therefore provides an important framework for understanding the continuity and transformation of Indic civilisation.

The contemporary study of Sanskrit and Indic knowledge traditions also requires methodological reflection. Manuscript preservation, critical editing, translation, lexicography, digital humanities, computational methods and the creation of accessible knowledge repositories are opening new possibilities for research. At the same time, engagement with Indian Knowledge Systems within universities calls for rigorous scholarship, interdisciplinary collaboration and sustained dialogue between traditional modes of learning and contemporary academic methodologies.

The proposed seminar will bring together distinguished scholars, teachers, researchers and young academics to deliberate upon these interconnected concerns. It seeks not merely to commemorate the institutional journey of the School, but to envision the future of Sanskrit and Indic Studies as a dynamic and intellectually significant field of inquiry.



SUB-THEMES

1. Sanskrit and Indic Studies: Disciplinary Histories and Future Directions
2. Indian Philosophical Traditions: Texts, Thinkers and Perspectives
3. Epistemology, Logic and Theories of Knowledge in Indian Thought
4. Language, Meaning and the Indian Grammatical Tradition
5. Computational Linguistics and AI for Sanskrit and Indic Studies
6. Sanskrit Literature: Literary Theory
7. Indian Aesthetics: rasa, dhvani, alaṅkāra and beyond
8. Manuscripts, Epigraphy, Inscriptions and Archival Sources
9. Śāstra and Prayoga: Text, Practice and Living Knowledge Traditions
10. Nāṭyaśāstra and Indian Traditions of Theatre, Dance and Music
11. Knowledge Traditions of North-East India and their Pan-Indic Connections
12. Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali and the Multilingual Intellectual Landscape of India
13. Translation, Commentary and the Transmission of Knowledge
14. Indian Knowledge Traditions and Contemporary Humanities
15. Science, Mathematics, Astronomy, Medicine and Knowledge Traditions in Sanskrit Sources.
16. Manuscriptology, Textual Criticism and Critical Editions
17. Preservation, Documentation and Dissemination of Indic Knowledge Traditions
18. Interdisciplinary and Comparative Approaches to Indic Studies
19. Sanskrit and Regional Intellectual Traditions of India
20. Other

The seminar will particularly encourage contributions that combine rigorous engagement with primary sources with innovative methodological approaches and that contribute towards envisioning the future trajectory of Sanskrit and Indie Studies in India and beyond.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING THE ABSTRACT & FULL RESEARCH PAPER

Author's:

- Mention the author's name, co-author's name (if any), institution, email, and contact details.

Abstract:

- Title: Choose a suitable title.
- Word Limit: 250-300 words.
- Content: Include 3 to 5 keywords, problem specification, methodology, and findings of the study.
- Submission: Fill out the Google form for submission of the abstract-
<https://forms.gle/devXUXGqX3FUcN6m8>



Full Paper:

- Word Limit: 2000-4500 words.
- Structure: Include the problem of the study, review of related literature, objectives, methodology, findings, educational implications, suggestions, references, etc.
- Font for English : Use Times New Roman, 12-point font, and double spacing.
- Font for Hindi/Sanskrit : Use Nirmala UI or any other appropriate Unicode, 12-point font, and double spacing.
- Referencing Style: Follow Chicago, MLA, or APA styles for citations and bibliography.
- Submission: The submission link will be provided along with the notification of abstract acceptance.



REGISTRATION FEE:

The registration fee has to be paid and payment details will be shared after receiving the notification of acceptance of the abstract. For the same, you are requested to kindly keep checking the email regularly.

- For Students/Research Scholars: **Rs. 1000 /-**
- For Faculty or Others: **Rs. 1500/-**

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Submission of the abstract: **18 September 2026** (upto 23:59 hrs.)
- Notification of acceptance of abstract: **22 September 2026** (upto 17:00 hrs.)
- Payment of Registration Fee along with full paper submission: **28 September 2026** (up to 17:00 hrs)

NOTE:

- The registration link and fee payment details will be shared alongside the notification of abstract acceptance.
- Participants will be responsible for their own TA/DA and accommodation expenses.

FOR QUERY

- **E-mail:** dean.ssis@mail.jnu.ac.in
- **WhatsApp:** Jyoti Pattanaik (81149 61964), Prachi Thakur (8294322783)
Gaurav (7463949854), Shravan Kumar (9599114107)