



**GANGADHAR MEHER UNIVERSITY
SAMBALPUR, ODISHA**

**National Seminar
on**

“Indian Knowledge System: Concepts, Sources and Significance”

Venue: Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur

Dates: 25 July 2026

Chief Patron

Professor Byomakesh Tripathy

Vice Chancellor

Convener

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Organised by

Centre for Indian Knowledge System

Gangadhar Meher University

About Gangadhar Meher University

Gangadhar Meher University (GMU), Sambalpur, was established on 30 May 2015 through a Government of Odisha order (No. 11598/HE dated 30.05.2015). This marked the fulfilment of a long-cherished aspiration of the people of Western Odisha for a premier institution of higher learning. The University evolved from the erstwhile Gangadhar Meher Autonomous College, with the entire teaching and non-teaching staff transitioning to the new University to continue their academic and administrative responsibilities, and University appointments were made in due course.

The transformation of this institution into a University is a significant milestone in its rich history, which dates back to pre-Independence India. Originally founded as Sambalpur College in 1944 by local intellectuals and administrators, it was renamed in 1949 after the eminent Odia poet Gangadhar Meher. The introduction of the science stream in 1957 and postgraduate programmes in subsequent years led to its being granted autonomous status in 1964 and again in 1991. The College received recognition as a College with Potential for Excellence (CPE) by the University Grants Commission and was accredited with an 'A' grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in 2005 and again in 2015. In 2025, the institution was accredited with an 'A' grade by NAAC in its first cycle as a University.

GMU has consistently expanded to meet the evolving educational needs of the region. With a strong student community of over 6,400 students enrolled in 26 postgraduate, 28 undergraduate, and 23 Ph.D. programmes, the University boasts robust infrastructure, including e-governance systems, a well-stocked e-resource-enabled library, an IT Skill Centre, a Central Instrumentation Facility, four IT labs, nine hostels, a 1200-seat auditorium, a three-storeyed utility centre, sports facilities, and a developing second campus.

GMU actively promotes regional knowledge systems and the rich cultural heritage of Sambalpur and Western Odisha, positioning itself as a hub of local intellectual and cultural resurgence. The University is committed to the implementation of the New Education Policy, with a special emphasis on the Indian Knowledge System (IKS), the promotion of multidisciplinary learning, the development of employable skills, the advancement of cutting-edge research, and outreach to marginalised and tribal communities.

Aligned with the national vision of Vikshit Bharat @2047, GMU strives to contribute to inclusive, sustainable, and knowledge-driven development through its academic, research, and community engagement initiatives under the visionary leadership of its Vice-Chancellor.

About the Seminar

India possesses one of the world's oldest and most comprehensive knowledge traditions, developed over thousands of years through the prehistoric, protohistoric, and historic periods. This vast intellectual heritage is preserved in literary, philosophical, scientific, artistic, and technological traditions that have significantly contributed to the development of human civilization.

The primary sources of the Indian Knowledge System include the Vedas, Vedangas, Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita, Puranas, Smritis, Buddhist and Jain literature

in Pali and Prakrit, classical Sanskrit texts, and a rich corpus of regional literatures. Together, these works embody profound insights into philosophy, ethics, education, governance, medicine, astronomy, mathematics, linguistics, ecology, and social organization.

Equally significant are India's traditional knowledge practices reflected in metallurgy, agriculture, architecture, water management, handicrafts, textiles, bamboo and wood crafts, pottery, indigenous medicine, ethnoscience, and other traditional technologies. These practices demonstrate remarkable scientific understanding and sustainable approaches developed through generations of community experience.

In the contemporary era, marked by globalization, privatization, and rapid technological transformation, there is an urgent need to identify, document, preserve, and reinterpret these knowledge traditions. Such efforts are essential not only for safeguarding India's cultural heritage but also for promoting sustainable development, innovation, and interdisciplinary research.

The proposed seminar seeks to provide an academic platform for scholars, teachers, researchers, students, and practitioners to deliberate upon the concepts, sources, and contemporary relevance of the Indian Knowledge System, with special emphasis on Odisha's rich intellectual and cultural heritage. The seminar also aligns with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which advocates the integration of Indian Knowledge Systems into higher education.

Objectives

- To introduce the foundational concepts and sources of the Indian Knowledge System.
- To explore the relevance of indigenous knowledge traditions in contemporary society.
- To promote interdisciplinary research on Indian Knowledge Systems.
- To document and disseminate traditional knowledge and technologies of Odisha.
- To encourage dialogue among academicians, researchers, and practitioners working in the field of IKS.

Sub-themes

- Indian Knowledge System: Concepts and Sources
- Literature, Oral Traditions and Indigenous Knowledge
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
- Ethnoscience and Indigenous Scientific Practices
- Traditional Technologies and Sustainable Development
- Indigenous Metallurgy and Material Technologies
- Traditional Textiles, Woodcraft and Bamboo Craft
- Tribal Art, Culture and Craft Traditions
- Traditional Healing Systems and Ayurveda
- Traditional Technologies of Odisha
- Craft Knowledge and Material Culture
- Any other area related to Indian Knowledge Systems

Invited Speakers

1. Prof. K. K. Mishra, Former Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University of Culture (Chief Guest)
2. Prof. B.B. Malik, Vice-Chancellor, Rajendra University (Guest of Honour)
3. Prof. (Dr) Narasingha Charan Panda, Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput
4. Prof. Satrughna Panigrahi, Chairman, PG Council, Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Visvavidyalaya, Puri
5. Prof. Bijay Satpathy, Former Professor and Head, Dept. of Odia, Utkal University
6. Dr. D. B. Garnayak, Superintendent of Archaeology, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Kolkata Circle
7. Dr. Sunil Kumar Patnaik, Former Director (Research), Dept. of Culture, Govt of Odisha
8. Dr. Basanta Kumar Mahanta, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Anthropology and Tribal Studies, MSCB University, Baripada
9. Dr. Madan Mohan Padhi, Former Director General, Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of AYUSH, Govt of India
10. Prof. Brahmananda Mahapatra, Ayurveda Chair, University of Latvia, Riga, Latvia
11. Dr Shyam Sundar Dhar, Former Reader of Odia, Govt. of Odisha
12. Dr. Rajendra Padhi, Central University of Odisha, Koraput

Target Participants

- Academicians, faculty members, and researchers
- Research scholars and students
- Practitioners, traditional knowledge holders, artisans, cultural experts, and professionals interested in Indian Knowledge Systems and allied disciplines.

Submission Guidelines

- **Abstract:** 300 words max, with author's full name, affiliation, postal address, email, and contact number.
- **Full Paper:** 5000–6000 words (including tables, figures, references).
- **Format:** MS Word, Times New Roman, Font Size 12, 1.5 line spacing, A4 size.
- **Email submissions to:** iks@gmuniversity.ac.in

Important Dates

- **Abstract Submission Deadline:** 17 July 2026
- **Abstract Acceptance Notification:** 20 July 2026

*Accepted presentations are required to submit full papers.

For Further Details Contact:

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