

Bankura University



Two-Day International Seminar

On

Indigenous Knowledge System and Contextualizing Indian Political Realm

24th & 25th March, 2026

Organised by

The Department of Political Science

Main Campus, Bankura, Block - II

P.O.: Purandarpur, Dist.: Bankura, Pin – 722155

West Bengal, India

India's indigenous knowledge system (IKS) represent centuries of accumulated wisdom rooted in diverse linguistic, philosophical, cultural and ecological traditions. The systemic inquiry to Indian tradition could have an immense influence on the evolution of modern understanding. This system offers alternative epistemologies and methodologies able to challenge West-centric models of knowledge, governance and even the way of life. Despite their richness and relevance, IKS have largely remained peripheral in mainstream political pedagogy and praxis.

In the context of postcolonial India, there is of course a growing concern to decolonize the West centric approach and incorporate indigenous framework that will be reflective of India's own intellectual tradition. From Kautilya's Arthashastra to Gandhi's Swaraj, and from tribal governance models to Panchayat Raj institutions, indigenous political thought could offer valuable insights in issues like sustainable governance, decentralization, ethics and participatory democracy.

From the journey of decolonization to postmodern trajectories, the Indian socio-political thought and theories are immensely set the pathways for empowerment of the marginalized sections, throughout the world. Reference to the indigens, such systemic inquiry can lead to the de-westernization and could initiate the process to look political thought and its conceptualizations from 'within'. By this way, ideas of women empowerment, voices of Dalits and empowering the marginalized could perhaps be traced into the Indic cultural system. Even the understanding of egalitarian society in relation to decentralization of governance could be found into the indigenous knowledge system.

Such accumulative wisdom is not only guiding principle for political thought but also intriguing in the policy dimensions that may profoundly impacting global stage of politics. Concepts like Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, ahimsa parama dharma and Atithi Devo Bhava can be rudimentary understanding for peace and coexistence in the multilateral world order.

This seminar aims to explore how IKS could inform, enrich and transform the praxis (practice) and pedagogy (teaching/learning) of politics in Indian academia and policymaking. It will provide a critical platform for scholars, educators, practitioners and students to reimaging the contours of political theory and practice through the lens of India's indigenous intellectual tradition.

Objectives of the National Conference

- To examine the relevance and role of Indian indigenous knowledge systems in shaping political thought and practice.
- To assess how indigenous framework can reshape political pedagogy in Indian Context.
- To explore alternative political epistemologies rooted in local cultures, languages, and governance systems.
- To promote interdisciplinary approaches by connecting political science with philosophy, sociology, anthropology, and cultural studies.
- To encourage policy-oriented discourse on integrating IKS into political institutions and public governance.

Call for Papers

The International Seminar intends to address but not limited to the following sub-themes

- Indigenous political thought in classical Indian texts
- Decolonizing political theories and concepts according to Indian context.
- Panchayat Raj and tribal governance: Case studies and implications.
- Gandhian, Ambedkarite, Leftist and other indigenous approaches to self-rule.
- Epistemic justice and plural knowledge systems in political theory
- Oral traditions, storytelling and political socialization
- Women, gender and indigenous political Institutes and agency
- Environmental governance and indigenous ecological wisdom
- Resistance, movements and political mobilization through indigenous framework.

Guidelines

- Registration is mandatory for participation in the International Seminar.
- Abstract should be (not more than 200 words) with 2-3 key words.
- Full paper within 2500 words with proper format and abstract within 200 words limit must be followed and should be sent to silsekhar600@gmail.com / pranata1993@gmail.com

- Selection of Papers for presentation is limited and selected paper presenters will be informed in due time.
- Selection of Papers for publication is limited and selected paper presenters will be informed in due time for submission of full paper plagiarism free.
- For Registration and Abstract submission please follow the LINK:
<https://forms.gle/Z6JYfzy8kbJ2jbTu7>

Important Dates

- Last date of Registration: 18/03/2026.
- Last date of Abstract Submission: 16/03/2026.

Book Proposal

After the completion of the seminar, selected papers will be published in a book with ISBN.

REGISTRATION FEES (RS.)	
Faculty	600/-
Research Scholar/ Independent Scholar	400/-
Students	100/-

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Convenor and Organising Secretary

Ms Pranata Bhattacharyya
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Technical Support

Mr. Sudip Roy
System Administrator, Bankura University

Venue

The International Seminar will be held in blended mode (Virtual/ In- person) in the Department of Political Science, Bankura University

Location Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/VdgkVKkdXZXbbZ2g9>