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U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University
Sector-F, Shantipuram, Phaphamau,
Prayagraj
www.uprtou.ac.in



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Vice Chancellor, UPRTOU

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Convener

Prof. Ananda Nand Tripathi

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Dr. Sunil Kumar**

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National Seminar

on

Shaping Bharatiya Model of Development and Governance through Indian Knowledge System: Emerging Perspective and Insights

(15th & 16th May 2026)

Organised by:

**U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University
Prayagraj**

Sponsored by:

ICSSR, New Delhi.

To

Convener

Prof. Ananda Nand Tripathi

Department of Political Science
School of Social Sciences

Venue of Event

**Tilak Shashtrarth Shabhagar Saraswati Parisar
U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University
Sector--F, Shantipuram, Phaphamau, Prayagraj
Contact: 7525048133, 008, 034, 043**

About the seminar:

The pursuit of sustainable development, efficient government, and cultural revival have become national priorities in India at this pivotal moment. There is a rising desire in using indigenous intellectual traditions to create a distinctively Bharatiya model of development and governance. As the nation negotiates the problems of globalisation, technological change, ecological issues, and socioeconomic inequality. In light of this, the National Seminar on "Shaping Bharatiya Model of Development and Governance through Indian Knowledge System: Emerging Perspective and Insights" aims to investigate the Indian Knowledge System's (IKS) philosophical underpinnings, practical applicability, and modern applications in order to redefine India's development trajectory.

A comprehensive collection of ancient knowledge that has been gathered over many centuries. The Indian Knowledge System covers a wide range of disciplines, including philosophy, economics, politics, medicine, architecture, environmental science, education, and ethics. IKS takes a holistic approach to the world, grounded in the idea of harmony—between the individual and society, between society and nature, between material advancement and spiritual well-being, and between ethics and governance—in contrast to Western frameworks that are divided into discrete areas. The Vedas, Upanishads, Smritis, Dharmashastras, Arthashastra, Buddhist and Jain traditions, mediaeval administrative models, and regional knowledge practices are just a few of the sources that provide insights into ethical statecraft, sustainable living, and participatory government.

Examining Bharatiya frameworks provides a welcome and much-needed alternative at a time when global developmental models are being criticized for their ecological imbalance, social injustices, and overemphasis on the market. A moral and intellectual foundation for inclusive governance is offered by concepts such as Dharma (righteous duty), Nyaya (justice), Lokasamgraha (community welfare), Swaraj (self-governance), Pancha Mahabhuta-based environmental ethics, and Sarvodaya (upliftment of all).

Furthermore, indigenous methods of decentralised, context-specific, and participatory development are exhibited by traditional community organisations such as panchayats, guilds, temple-oriented welfare structures, water management systems, and agricultural practices.

Objectives of Seminar:

- To explore the philosophical foundations of the Bharatiya model of development and governance derived from the Indian Knowledge System (IKS).
- To analyse the relevance of classical Indian texts, traditions, and indigenous practices in shaping contemporary development frameworks.
- To examine the role of IKS in promoting inclusive, ethical, and sustainable governance models suited to India's socio-cultural context.
- To identify traditional ecological knowledge, community-based practices, and indigenous technologies that contribute to sustainable development.
- To assess the potential of IKS-based approaches in addressing present-day challenges such as environmental degradation, social inequalities, and governance deficits.
- To evaluate the implications of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) for main streaming IKS in academic, administrative, and developmental domains.
- To provide a platform for researchers, scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to share contemporary perspectives, empirical evidence, and case studies.
- To promote interdisciplinary research that integrates traditional knowledge systems with modern scientific and technological innovations.
- To formulate policy recommendations for embedding IKS principles into governance structures, developmental planning, and institutional frameworks.

- To encourage intellectual dialogue aimed at shaping a holistic, culturally rooted, and future-ready Bharatiya model of development.

Main Theme:

- Bharatiya Model of Development and governance through Indian knowledge system: emerging prospective and insights.

Sub Themes:

Philosophical Foundations of the Bharatiya Development Model

- Dharma, Nyaya, and Lokasamgraha as guiding principles
- Indic worldviews and their relevance to modern governance
- Ethical leadership in classical Indian thought

Governance Traditions in Indian Knowledge System

- Kautilya's Arthashastra and models of statecraft
- Decentralized governance: Panchayati Raj, local institutions, and community participation
- Indigenous conflict resolution and justice systems

Indian Knowledge System and Sustainable Development

- Traditional ecological knowledge and environmental stewardship
- Indigenous water management, agriculture, and biodiversity conservation
- Circular economy and resource management in IKS
- Sacred groves and conservation of natural resources through indigenous knowledge

Socio-Economic Structures in Bharatiya Thought

- Community-centric development practices
- Indigenous models of trade, markets, and livelihoods
- Gandhian perspectives on Swaraj, trusteeship, and rural development

Health, Wellness, and Public Policy through IKS

- Ayurveda, Naturopathy, Yoga, and integrative health models
- Holistic wellness frameworks and public health governance
- Traditional nutrition systems and preventive health care

Education, Knowledge Transmission, and NEP 2020

- Ancient Indian education systems- Gurukul, Tols, Pathshalas
- Pedagogical practices in IKS and their contemporary relevance
- Strategies for integrating IKS into modern curriculum and research
- Significance of monasteries in imparting, education, values, knowledge and philosophical thought

Science, Technology, and Innovation in IKS

- Traditional knowledge in astronomy, mathematics, metallurgy, and architecture
- Indigenous technologies and their modern adaptations
- Vāstu, town planning, and sustainable design principles

Culture, Values, and Social Harmony

- Role of literature, arts, and culture in nation-building
- Bharatiya values and their impact on social cohesion
- Indigenous festivals, rituals, and collective identity
- Socio-cultural and economic manifestation and significance of sacredscapes

Policy Perspectives for a Bharatiya Development Model

- Relevance of IKS in contemporary policymaking
- Integrating indigenous principles into environmental, economic, and social policies
- Roadmap for institutionalizing IKS in governance systems

Case Studies and Best Practices

- Successful integration of IKS in modern governance or development projects
- Community-led initiatives rooted in traditional knowledge
- Comparative perspectives with global indigenous models

Participants / Delegates:

The participants includes academicians, university and college teachers, students, research scholars, policymakers, bureaucrats, development practitioners, officials and representatives of civil society organizations, members of the corporate and private sector, as well as media professionals.

About the University

U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU), established in 1999 and headquartered in the historic city of Prayagraj, stands as a cornerstone of distance education in Northern India, specifically designed to democratize access to higher learning for diverse segments of society. Named after the distinguished Bharat Ratna recipient Rajarshi Purushottam Das Tandon, the university operates under the principle of "reaching the unreached," providing a flexible academic environment for working professionals, rural students, and those who cannot attend traditional full-time colleges due to geographical or financial constraints. As a public state university, it is fully recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Distance Education Bureau (DEB), ensuring that the degrees, diplomas, and certificates it awards are legally equivalent to those from conventional universities for the purposes of employment and further studies. The institution's academic structure is organized into nine specialized schools—ranging from Humanities and Social Sciences to Vocational Studies and Health Sciences—offering a massive catalog of over 120 programs that include traditional bachelor's and master's degrees alongside modern vocational diplomas and awareness-level certificates. One of the university's greatest strengths is its massive network of over 1,400 study centers and 12 regional centers spread across the state, which act as local hubs for student support, counseling, and examinations. UPRTOU has embraced the digital era by implementing the Samarth ERP portal for streamlined admissions and launching the e-GYANSANGAM repository to provide students with high-quality Self Learning Material (SLM) and Open Educational Resources (OER). The university has recently gained significant national recognition, achieving a prestigious "B+" grade from NAAC and ranking third among open universities in the NIRF 2025 rankings, reflecting its commitment to quality pedagogy and administrative transparency. Students benefit from an inclusive admission policy that features two cycles—January and July—allowing for maximum flexibility in career planning. While most undergraduate and postgraduate admissions are merit-based, the university maintains high academic standards through rigorous entrance examinations for specialized professional courses like B.Ed. Beyond mere academic instruction, UPRTOU plays a vital social role by offering specialized programs in areas like rural development, human rights, and women's empowerment, thereby contributing to the socio-economic upliftment of Uttar Pradesh. By blending traditional values with modern distance-learning methodologies, the university continues to serve as a vital lifeline for lifelong learners, ensuring that education remains a right rather than a privilege, regardless of an individual's age or location.

Call for Paper

Full research paper along with abstract on the above mentioned trust areas should be typed using MS-Word, New Times Roman 12Pt/Kruti Dev-010 14pt. and sent through email on polsc.uprtou@gmail.com

Last date for Abstract Submission: 05 May 2026 (300-500 word)

Full paper submission : 10 May 2026

Best Paper Presentation Award

The Best Paper Presentation Award will be presented to outstanding participants in each category.

Accommodation

University has its own guest house in the campus which will be available for the outstation delegates on first come first serve basis as per university norms.