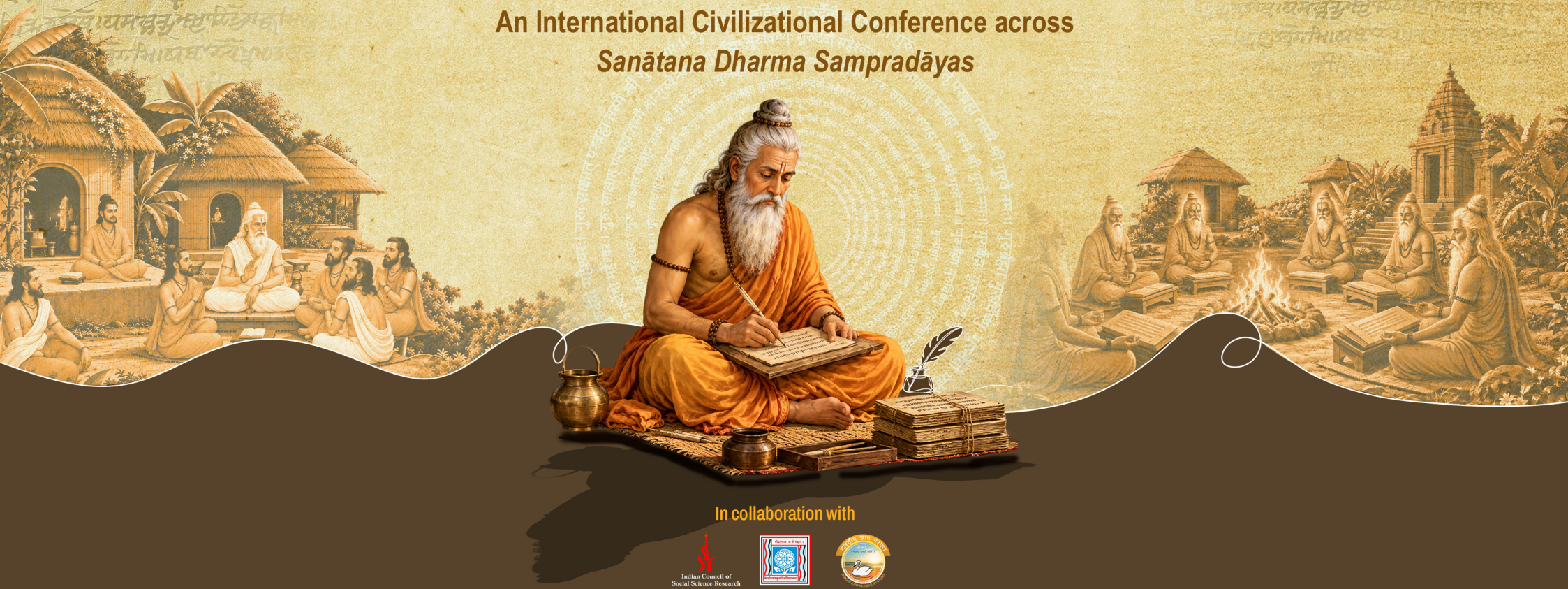
भारतीयज्ञानप्रणाली-उत्कृष्टताकेन्द्रम्
भारतीयप्रौद्योगिकीसंस्थानम्, खड़गपुरम्

presents

Upaniṣadic Futures

From *Svānubhūti* to Pedagogy

An International Civilizational Conference across *Sanātana Dharma Sampradāyas*



In collaboration with

Indian Council of Social Science Research

27–28 February, 2027

Netaji Auditorium
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

pṛṣṭhabhūmi

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE





Upaniṣadic Futures: From *Svānubhūti* to Pedagogy emerges from a sustained research programme developed through three nationally funded projects (November, 2023 – March, 2027) under the aegis of the Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy (SRIC) Cell, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur — supported by the Indian Knowledge System Division of the Ministry of Education, the Indian Council of Social Science Research, and the Faculty Start-up Research Grants, Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy, IIT Kharagpur.

Despite major advances in explaining cognitive and neural processes, the subjective character of conscious experience continues to pose a distinctive explanatory challenge. Alongside the question of how such experience can be explained lies another: how might it be accessed and examined systematically in its own right? These questions gave particular relevance to disciplined first-person inquiry and provided an important conceptual impetus for the study of *svānubhūti* undertaken through the research programmes.

calaccitram

A short film drawn from the research corpus that underlies the conference

Those Who Let Go

Lived Wisdom from the Renunciate Traditions of *sanātana dharma* — Consciousness, cognition and *niṣkāma sevā*.

youtube.com/watch?v=Q27ShjNasMw

Through this research trajectory, a civilizational-scale first-person archive has been developed through engagement with approximately one hundred and eighty renunciate *sādhakas* across nine *sanātana dharma sampradāyas* — the Baul Tradition, Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS), Chinmaya Mission, ISKCON, Nirmal Ashram, Ramakrishna Order, Sri Sarada Math, The Art of Living, and Yogoda Satsanga Society of India. The archive brings together first-person experiential narratives, longitudinal ethnographic observations and audio-visual documentation, engaging with renunciation, *sādhanā*, *śāstric* grounding, transformations in Consciousness, cognition, and the emergence of *niṣkāma sevā*.



The conference represents the next stage of this research trajectory: bringing the accumulated corpus into a wider interdisciplinary, institutional and civilizational dialogue. At its centre is a fundamental question: how might first-person experiential knowledge — *svānubhūti* — enter into meaningful conversation with contemporary academic, scientific, pedagogical and societal knowledge frameworks?

The conference will serve as a platform for knowledge validation and interdisciplinary deliberation, bringing renunciate practitioners, scholars, scientists, psychologists, educationists, policymakers, institutional leaders and publication stakeholders into dialogue around the research corpus. Through their respective experiential and disciplinary lenses, participants will examine the questions that different knowledge domains bring to this body of experiential knowledge; the insights and further questions that may emerge from it; and the interdisciplinary research, pedagogical, publication and dissemination pathways that may follow.

Across two days, the deliberations shall move systematically from the presentation and examination of the research archive to interdisciplinary inquiry, thematic consolidation, knowledge translation and publication planning — with a continuing orientation towards education, wellbeing and societal application.

viṣaya

SESSION THEMES

1 **The *upaniṣadic* Panorama: From *jijñāsā* to *svānubhūti***

Purpose, knowing, renunciation and disciplined first-person inquiry.

2 ***sādhanā* to *svānubhūti*: Pathways of Lived Transformation**

How sustained *sādhanā* generates experiential knowledge across lived pathways.

3 ***svānubhūti* as First-Person Data: Possibilities, Fallacies and Validity**

Critical scrutiny of first-person experiential accounts as research data.

4 ***svānubhūti* as Knowledge: First- Person Experience, *śāstra* and Epistemic Validity**

When, and in what sense, can experience constitute knowledge?

5 ***svānubhūti* to *śikṣā*: Knowledge, Pedagogy and Future Education**

śāstric frameworks for transmission; curriculum, policy and the future of education.

6 ***upaniṣadic* Futures: *svānubhūti* to Contemporary and Global Pedagogy**

Reaching contemporary and global learners without dilution.



anusūcī *

SCHEDULE



DAY 1

Saturday, 27 February 2027

upaniṣadic* vision to lived *svānubhūti

8:00 - 8:50 AM	**Registration**
9:00 - 9:20 AM	**INAUGURAL SESSION** Lamp lighting
9:20 –10:00 AM	***svāgatam* and *pṛṣṭhabhūmi***
10:05 – 10:55 AM	**Session 1** • The *upaniṣadic* panorama: from *jijñāsā* to *svānubhūti* • *upaniṣadic sādhana:* from Knowing to Experiencing
11:00 – 11:25 AM	***alpāhāra***
11:30 AM –1:25 PM	**Session 2** *sādhanā* to *svānubhūti*: pathways of lived transformation
1:30 – 2:45 PM	***paṅkti bhojana*** Traditional community lunch
3:00 – 5:10 PM	**Session 3** *svānubhūti* as first-person data: possibilities, fallacies and validity
5:15 – 6:15 PM	***alpāhāra* and *virāma***
6:30 – 7:45 PM	***upaniṣad raṅgamañcaḥ*** Special theatrical presentation

DAY 2

Sunday, 28 February 2027

***svānubhūti* as knowledge | Building pedagogy**

9:00 – 11:10 AM	**Session 4** *svānubhūti* as knowledge*:* first-person experience, *śāstra* and epistemic validity
11:10 – 11:40 AM	***alpāhāra***
11:45 AM – 1:55 PM	**Session 5** *svānubhūti* to *śikṣā:* knowledge, pedagogy and future education
2:00 – 3:15 PM	***paṅkti bhojana* & poster presentation** Traditional community lunch and poster publication interactions
3:30 – 4:30 PM	**Session 6** *upaniṣadic* futures*: svānubhūti* to contemporary and global pedagogy
4:30 – 5:00 PM	***alpāhāra***
5:00 – 6:00 PM	**Final co-creation *sabhā* - from *svānubhūti* to pedagogy** co-creating the publication matrix & roadmap
6:00 – 6:30 PM	Valedictory session

** The programme schedule, session composition and speaker allocation are subject to change.*

उपनिषद् रङ्गमञ्चः
upaniṣad raṅgamañcaḥ

प्रस्तावितनाट्यप्रस्तुतिः

अन्तर्यानम्
antaryānam

आत्मान्वेषण यात्रा : जिज्ञासा → स्वानुभूति → शिक्षा

प्रस्तुतिः संस्कृत रङ्गमण्डलम्, केन्द्रीय संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालयस्य, भोपाल परिसरः

27 February, 2027 | 6:30 - 7:45 PM



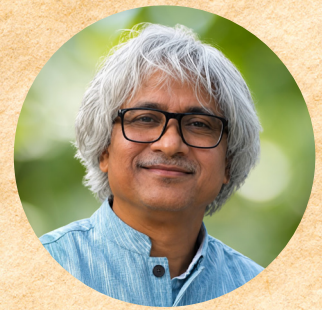
saṃpoṣaka | svāgata udbodhana

PATRONS I WELCOME ADDRESS



Prof. Suman Chakraborty

Director
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur



Prof. Surjya Kanta Pal

Dean, Research and Development
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

āmantritāḥ vaktāraḥ

INVITED SPEAKERS — INTERNATIONAL



Dr. B. Alan Wallace

Founder and President
Centre for Contemplative Research, USA



Swami Medhananda

Assistant Minister and Senior Research Fellow in Philosophy
Vedanta Society of Sacramento, California



Swami Sarvapriyananda

Minister-in-Charge
Vedanta Society of New York



Dr. Clara Seeger

Doctoral Researcher, Centre for Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience
Brunel University London, UK



Prof. Sara W Lazar

Harvard Medical School, Lazar Lab for Meditation Research
Massachusetts General Hospital, USA

āmantritāḥ vaktāraḥ

INVITED SPEAKERS — NATIONAL



Swami Advayananda
President
Chinmaya International Foundation



Mahamahopadhyaya Swami Bhadreshdas ji
Head
BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute, Akshardham, New Delhi



Pravrajika Divyanandaprana
Monastic Member
Sri Sarada Math



Prof. Ganti S. Murthy
National Coordinator, IKS Division, Ministry of Education
IIT Indore



Prof. Girishwar Misra
Formerly Head, Department of Psychology
University of Delhi



Prof. K. Ramasubramanian
Professor-in-Charge, Centre for Traditional Indian Knowledge and Skills
IIT Bombay



Prof. Laxmidhar Behera

Director
IIT Mandi



Prof. Manas Kumar Mandal

Distinguished Visiting Professor
IIT Kharagpur



Maa Parvathy Baul

Guru and Founding Acharya
Sanatan Siddhashram Adhyatmika Vishwa Vidya Satra



Sh. Raghava Krishna

Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Bṛhat



Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi

Vice-Chancellor
Central Sanskrit University,
New Delhi



Swami Shuddhidananda

adhyakṣa
Advaita Ashrama, Mayavati



śodhāhvāna

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS — RESEARCH PAPERS & POSTERS

upaniṣadic Futures: From *svānubhūti* to Pedagogy invites original abstracts from scholars, practitioners, educators and research students engaging with Indian knowledge traditions, Consciousness studies, philosophy, psychology, education, contemplative studies and allied interdisciplinary fields.

Contributions may be conceptual, textual, empirical, experiential, methodological or pedagogical, and must be situated within one of the six conference themes.

viṣaya

01 The *upaniṣadic* Panorama: From *jijñāsā* to *svānubhūti*

02 *sādhanā* to *svānubhūti*: Pathways of Lived Transformation

03 *svānubhūti* as First-Person Data: Possibilities, Fallacies and Validity

04 *svānubhūti* as Knowledge: First-Person Experience, *śāstra* and Epistemic Validity

05 *svānubhūti* to *śikṣā*: Knowledge, Pedagogy and Future Education

06 *upaniṣadic* Futures: s*vānubhūti* to Contemporary and Global Pedagogy

WHAT TO SUBMIT — RESEARCH PAPER I POSTER

Submit an abstract of **250–300 words** with: Title · Author(s) & Affiliation(s) · 4–6 Keywords · Conference Theme (01–06) · Submission Category (Research Paper / Poster).

The abstract should clearly indicate the central question, argument or objective, the approach or methodology where applicable, and its contribution to the selected conference theme. **Only abstracts are required at this stage** — detailed guidelines for full papers and posters will be communicated to authors of accepted abstracts and made available on the conference web page.

FROM ABSTRACT TO FINAL SUBMISSIONS

1

SUBMIT ABSTRACT

250–300 words

viṣaya 01–06
Research paper/poster

30 November, 2026

2

ABSTRACT REVIEW

Scholarly scrutiny

Thematic alignment, relevance, conceptual clarity

3

ACCEPTANCE

Notification

31 December, 2026

4

FINAL SUBMISSION

Paper or Poster

Full manuscript or
A0 portrait poster

31 January, 2027

5

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION CLOSES

26 February, 2027

Presentation & Publication

There will be no oral presentations of submitted research papers.

Full papers submitted following abstract acceptance will undergo a separate scholarly review process. Selected full-length manuscripts will be considered for publication through the conference publication pathway.

Accepted posters will be presented during the designated poster session at the conference.

SUBMIT THROUGH MICROSOFT CMT

https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/UFSP2027

Detailed submission and author guidelines available on the conference web page.

pañjīkaraṇa

REGISTRATION & PARTICIPATION



REGISTRATION FEE

₹5,192*

per participant · all inclusive

Registration closes

26 February, 2027

*Non-refundable. Transferable only with prior written consent of organisers via email.

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES

- Conference participation · Conference kit · Lunch · Refreshments** only for 27-28 February.
- Travel and accommodation are not included in the registration fee.

***Breakfast and dinner not included*

MEANT FOR WHOM & CERTIFICATION

- Open to anyone interested, above the age of 18 years.
- Certificates of participation will be awarded to eligible registered delegates, subject to participation requirements.

Register at: erp.iitkgp.ac.in/CEP/courses.htm

ACCOMMODATION ON CAMPUS*

Modest accommodation will be facilitated by the conference organisers within the IIT Kharagpur campus, on request and subject to availability.

Halls & Hostels
shared accommodation.

Arrival
26 February, 2027, from 12:00 hours onwards

Departure
1 March, 2027, before 12:00 hours

** Accommodation charges to be paid directly by delegates to the respective accommodation facility*

WE ARE AVAILABLE

GUIDING LIGHT

Prof. Arijit De
Chairperson
CoE–IKS,
IIT Kharagpur

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, CONFERENCE CURATOR & CONVENER

Prof. Richa Chopra
Assistant Professor &
Core Faculty CoE–IKS,
IIT Kharagpur

CORE FACULTY (CoE-IKS)

Prof. Dipesh V Katira
Prof. Jayashree A Gajjam
Prof. Mahesh K

KARMAYOGINS

Ananya
Baishali
Divya
Jyoti
Rahul
Shalini
Vasundhara

saṃparka & sthāna

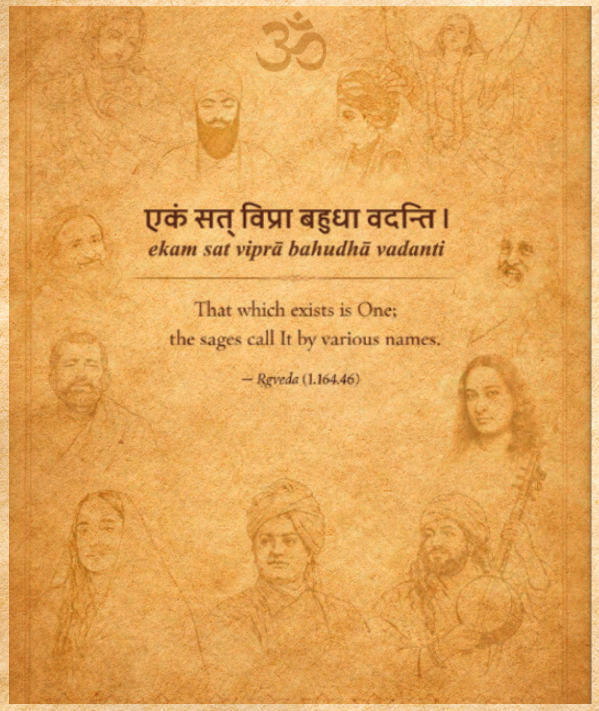
CONTACT & LOCATION

Centre of Excellence for Indian Knowledge Systems
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
Kharagpur 721302 · West Bengal · India
upanishadicfutures@iks.iitkgp.ac.in
iitkgpcoeiks.in/upanisadicfutures

REACHING IIT KHARAGPUR

By Air — Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata; approximately 130 km from IIT Kharagpur.

By Rail — Kharagpur Junction, approximately 5 km from IIT Kharagpur.


ॐ
एकं सत् विप्रा बहुधा वदन्ति।
ekam sat viprā bahudhā vadanti
That which exists is One;
the sages call It by various names.
– Rgveda (1.164.46)


INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY