



Centre of Excellence for Indian Knowledge Systems,

IIT Kharagpur

presents

Upaniṣadic Futures

From *Svānubhūti* to Pedagogy

An International Civilizational Conference across *Sanātana Dharma Sampradāyas*

SECTION I

viśaya | Conference Themes

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

01 • The <i>upaniṣadic</i> Panorama: From <i>jijñāsā</i> to <i>svānubhūti</i> Purpose, knowing, renunciation and disciplined first-person inquiry	02 • <i>sādhana</i> to <i>svānubhūti</i>: Pathways of Lived Transformation How sustained <i>sādhana</i> generates experiential knowledge across lived pathways.
03 • <i>svānubhūti</i> as First-Person Data: Possibilities, Fallacies and Validity Critical scrutiny of first-person experiential accounts as research data.	04 • <i>svānubhūti</i> as Knowledge: First-Person Experience, <i>śāstra</i> and Epistemic Validity When, and in what sense, can experience constitute knowledge?
05 • <i>svānubhūti</i> to <i>śikṣā</i>: Knowledge, Pedagogy and Future Education <i>śāstric</i> frameworks for transmission; curriculum, policy and the future of education.	06 • <i>upaniṣadic</i> Futures: <i>svānubhūti</i> to Contemporary and Global Pedagogy Reaching contemporary and global learners without dilution.

Overall Guidelines

Who may submit

Original abstracts for Research Papers and Posters are invited from scholars, practitioners, educators and research students engaging with Indian knowledge traditions, Consciousness studies, philosophy, psychology, education, contemplative studies and allied interdisciplinary fields.

Full research papers and posters will be invited only following acceptance of the corresponding abstracts.

Sanskrit, diacritics and transliteration

- Sanskrit and *sampradāya*-specific terms to be in IAST transliteration
- *Devanāgarī* may be written in parentheses where precision of the source term matters
- Verse citations must carry text, chapter and verse (for example, *Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad* 1.3.28).
- Embed all fonts in the submitted PDF so that diacritics survive review and typesetting intact.

Submission Timelines

Abstract submission closes 250–300 words · theme 01–06 · Research Paper or Poster	30 Nov, 2026
Notification of abstract acceptance Sent to the corresponding author	31 Dec, 2026
Full Paper / final Poster submission Full manuscript PDF (Research Paper category) or A0 portrait poster PDF (Poster category), following acceptance of the corresponding abstract.	31 Jan, 2027
Conference registration closes At least one author per accepted submission must register	26 Feb, 2027
Conference at IIT Kharagpur Poster Session on Day 2, 28 February, 2027	27-28 Feb, 2027

Note: Prior conference registration is not required for abstract submission. However, at least one author of each accepted Research Paper or Poster must register for the conference by 26 February 2027 for the abstract to be included in the Conference Abstract Book, the poster to be presented, or the research paper to be considered for publication through the conference publication pathway.

SECTION II

A. Abstract Submission – Research Papers and Posters

A1. Submission details

- Abstracts must be 250–300 words, excluding the title, author details, keywords and footnotes, and may be submitted in English, Sanskrit or Hindi, with 4–6 keywords.
- Indicate the selected conference theme (vişaya 01–06) as a footnote on the abstract document.
- Indicate the submission category — Research Paper or Poster — as a footnote on the abstract document.
- Include the title, author name(s), affiliation(s), designation(s), country, and corresponding author's email address and ORCID (if available).
- The abstract should clearly indicate the central research question, problem statement or objective; the principal argument or approach; the methodology, where applicable; and the contribution of the proposed work to the selected conference theme.
- Submit the abstract as a single PDF, named Surname_Theme01_UFSP2027.pdf (example), through Microsoft CMT.
- Abstracts will be reviewed for thematic alignment, conceptual clarity, originality, scholarly contribution and relevance to the conference.
- Notification of acceptance in the Research Paper or Poster category will be communicated to the corresponding author by 31 December 2026.

For the abstract format, refer to Annexure A1.

B. Poster

B1. Submission Details

Posters are invited only from authors whose abstracts have been accepted in the **Poster category**. The final poster must be submitted by **31 January 2027** through the Microsoft CMT portal.

- Poster dimensions: All posters must be prepared in A0 size, portrait orientation (841 × 1189 mm). Authors are requested to adhere strictly to these dimensions.
- Language: Posters may be presented in English, Sanskrit or Hindi. Sanskrit terminology must follow the transliteration and diacritical conventions specified in Section I.
- Poster identification: Each poster must prominently display the title, author name(s), affiliation(s), and selected conference theme (vişaya 01–06).
- Suggested content structure: Context and central research question; conceptual or śāstric grounding; approach or methodology, where applicable; findings or principal argument; implications for pedagogy, practice or further inquiry; and key references.
- Readability: Poster text must be legible from approximately 1.5 metres. Recommended font sizes are 72–100 pt for the title, 36–48 pt for section headings, and a minimum of 24 pt for body text. Prefer clear diagrams, illustrations, conceptual models, and concise captions over dense paragraphs.

- Images and illustrations: Images must have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi at final printed size. Authors are responsible for obtaining permission to reproduce third-party material.
- File format: Submit the final poster as a single A0 portrait PDF, with all fonts embedded, using the filename Surname_Theme01_UFSP2027_Poster.pdf (example).
- Printing and display: Poster presenters must arrange for printing their posters and bring them to the conference venue. Mounting support will be provided by the organizers.
- Poster presentation: At least one author must be present at the poster throughout the designated poster session on 28 February 2027 and must be a registered conference delegate.

For an illustrative poster layout, refer to Annexure B1

C. Research Paper

C1. Submission Details

- Full manuscripts are invited only from authors whose abstracts have been accepted in the Research Paper category. The deadline for full manuscript submission is 31 January 2027, through the Microsoft CMT portal.
- There will be no oral presentations of submitted research papers during the conference. Full manuscripts submitted following abstract acceptance will undergo a separate scholarly review process. Selected manuscripts may be considered for publication through an appropriate scholarly publication pathway, subject to further editorial evaluation and applicable publication requirements. Acceptance of an abstract or submission of a full manuscript does not guarantee publication.
- Language: Manuscripts may be submitted in English, Sanskrit or Hindi. Sanskrit terminology, diacritics and transliteration must follow the conventions specified in Section I.
- Manuscript format: Authors must follow the conference-prescribed manuscript structure illustrated in Annexure C1, together with the submission specifications outlined in these guidelines. Publication-specific formatting requirements, where applicable, will be communicated subsequently to authors whose manuscripts are selected for further consideration.
- Length: Manuscripts must be 8–12 pages, inclusive of figures, tables and references.
- First page: The manuscript must include, in the prescribed order, the title, author name(s), affiliation(s), postal address(es), corresponding author's email address, abstract and keywords.
- Organize the manuscript using a clear and consistent heading hierarchy, with a maximum of three levels.
- Formatting: Manuscripts must adhere to the prescribed formatting requirements. Submissions that do not comply with the conference guidelines may be returned for correction or declined without further review.

C1.1. References, Figures and Tables

- References: References must follow a consistent academic citation style, with complete bibliographic details. Authors must ensure consistency between in-text citations and the reference list.
- Figures and tables: All figures and tables must be numbered consecutively, appropriately captioned, and referred to in the manuscript. Figure captions should appear below figures and table captions above tables.
- Image quality: Photographs and halftone illustrations should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi, and line drawings 600 dpi, at final printed size. Authors are responsible for obtaining necessary permissions for third-party material.
- Equations and units: Equations, where applicable, should be numbered consecutively. SI units should be used for scientific measurements.
- Sanskrit sources: Citations from primary *śāstric* texts must identify the source and relevant textual location, including chapter, section, *sūtra* or verse number, as applicable. Transliteration and *Devanāgarī* conventions must follow Section I.

C1.2. Originality, ethics and submission

- Originality: Manuscripts must represent original scholarly work, must not have been published previously, and must not be under simultaneous consideration for publication elsewhere. All sources must be appropriately acknowledged. Submissions may be screened for plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct.
- Research ethics: Research involving human participants must comply with applicable institutional and disciplinary ethical requirements. Authors must report relevant ethics approval or exemption, where applicable, and confirm that informed consent was obtained. Research involving *sādhakas*, *sampradāyas* and traditional knowledge communities must ensure respectful representation, confidentiality where appropriate, and responsible interpretation of experiential accounts.
- Submission format: Submit the manuscript as a single PDF through Microsoft CMT, using the filename Surname_Theme01_UFSP2027_Paper.pdf (example).
- Review and publication: Full manuscripts will undergo a separate scholarly review process. Selected manuscripts may be considered for publication through an appropriate scholarly publication pathway, subject to editorial assessment, applicable publication requirements and subsequent publication arrangements. No publication is guaranteed.
- Editable files: Authors of manuscripts selected for further publication consideration may be requested to provide editable source files (.docx or .tex) and supplementary materials, where applicable.
- Registration: At least one author of each accepted abstract in the Research Paper category must register for the conference by 26 February 2027 for the abstract to be included in the Conference Abstract Book and the corresponding full manuscript to remain eligible for publication consideration.
- File integrity: Submitted PDF files must be readable, searchable and free from password protection or restrictions that prevent scholarly review. All Sanskrit characters, diacritics, figures and tables must render correctly.
- Use of AI-assisted tools: Authors remain fully responsible for the originality, accuracy, scholarly integrity and appropriate attribution of their submissions. Any substantive use of generative AI tools in preparing the scholarly content must be disclosed. AI-

generated material must not be presented as independently verified research evidence, and AI tools cannot be listed as authors.

For the illustrative manuscript format, refer to Annexure C1.

HOW TO SEND YOUR WORK

- All submissions — abstracts, full papers and final posters — are received through Microsoft CMT: <https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/UFSP2027>
- Registration for the Conference is at: <https://erp.iitkgp.ac.in/CEP/courses.htm>
- Conference enquiries: upanishadicfutures@iks.iitkgp.ac.in | <https://iitkgpcoeiks.in/upanisadicfutures>

Annexure A1 — Abstract Reference Page

UFSP 2027 ABSTRACT REFERENCE PAGE

Title of the Research Paper/ Poster

Author Name¹, Author Name²

¹ Designation, Department / Centre, Institution, Country

² Designation, Department / Centre, Institution, Country

Corresponding author: name@example.com

ORCID: 0000-0000-0000-0000 (if available)

Abstract

Write the abstract in 250–300 words, excluding the title, author details, keywords and footnotes. Abstracts may be submitted in English, Sanskrit or Hindi. The abstract should clearly indicate the central research question, problem statement or objective; the principal argument or approach; the methodology, where applicable; and the contribution of the proposed work to the selected conference theme.

Keywords: keyword 1, keyword 2, keyword 3, keyword 4, keyword 5 (4–6 keywords)

Submission format

Submit the abstract as a single PDF named Surname_Theme01_UFSP2027.pdf through Microsoft CMT.

Review and Notification

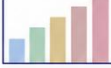
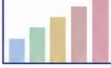
Abstracts will be reviewed for thematic alignment, conceptual clarity, originality, scholarly contribution and relevance to the conference. Notification of acceptance will be communicated to the corresponding author by 31 December 2026.

1 Conference viṣaya (01–06): _____

2 Submission category: Research Poster or Paper (please specify).

Annexure B1 — Poster Reference Page

The following layout is provided as a visual reference. Authors may adapt the organization of their posters according to the nature of their contribution, provided that the poster complies with the A0 portrait dimensions, identification requirements, readability specifications and other submission guidelines outlined in Section II(B).

UFSP 2027 <i>Ideas from Our Knowledge Traditions for a More Humane Future</i>		 DIALOGUE INSIGHT APPLICATION	
Title of the Poster <i>(in English / Sanskrit / Hindi)</i> A. B. Sharma¹, C. D. Rao² and E. F. Iyer³ ¹ Department of Philosophy, Nalanda University, India ² Centre for Indic Studies, University of Melbourne, Australia ³ Department of Sanskrit, Banaras Hindu University, India Corresponding author: absharma@nalanda.ac.in ORCID: 0000-0002-1234-5678 (if available)			
Conference Theme (01–06): [Name of the Theme] <i>(Please write the theme number and name here)</i>			
1. Context and Research Question Briefly introduce the context, background and significance of the study. Research Question <i>State the central question here.</i>	1. Sandarbhaḥ evaṃ Śodhapraśnaḥ Adhyayanasya sandarbhaḥ, prṣṭhabhūmim ca tatra asya mahatvam saikṣepena prastutayet. Śodhapraśnaḥ <i>Mukhyaḥ prāśnaḥ atra likhyantām.</i>	1. संदर्भ एवं शोध प्रश्न अध्ययन के संदर्भ, पृष्ठभूमि और उसके महत्व को संक्षेप में प्रस्तुत करें। शोध प्रश्न यहाँ मुख्य प्रश्न लिखें।	  
2. Conceptual or Śāstric Grounding Present key concepts, theoretical framework or śāstric foundations relevant to the study.	2. Saṃkalpanātmakam vā Śāstriyam Ādhārah Adhyayanasya sambandīnaḥ mukhya-vicārān, siddhāntikam racanām vā śāstriyam ādhārah prastutayet.	2. वैचारिक या शास्त्रीय आधार अध्ययन से संबंधित प्रमुख अवधारणाओं, सैद्धांतिक रूपरेखा या शास्त्रीय आधारों को प्रस्तुत करें।	  
3. Approach or Method Describe the approach, methodology, sources or framework used. Texts / Sources → Method → Analysis → Scope	3. Paddhatiḥ or Upāyah Adhyayane upayuktām paddhatiṃ, saṃśodhana-vidhiṃ, srotām vā racanām prastutayet. Granthāḥ / Srotāḥ → Paddhatiḥ → Viśeṣaṇam → Paridhauḥ	3. शोध पद्धति या कार्यविधि अध्ययन में प्रयुक्त पद्धति, कार्यविधि, स्रोतों या रूपरेखा का विवरण दें। ग्रन्थ/स्रोत → पद्धति → विश्लेषण → परिधि	  
4. Findings or Argument Present key findings or the main argument.  - Key point 1 - Key point 2 - Key point 3 - Key point 4	4. Pramukhāni Phalāni vā Tarkāḥ Mukhyaṃ phalāniṃ vā pradhānam tarkam prastutayet.  - Mukhya bindu 1 - Mukhya bindu 2 - Mukhya bindu 3 - Mukhya bindu 4	4. प्रमुख निष्कर्ष या तर्क मुख्य निष्कर्षों या प्रमुख तर्कों को प्रस्तुत करें।  - मुख्य बिंदु 1 - मुख्य बिंदु 2 - मुख्य बिंदु 3 - मुख्य बिंदु 4	  
5. Implications Discuss implications for pedagogy, practice or further inquiry.  - Implication 1 - Implication 2 - Implication 3	5. Parināmāḥ vā Prāyojanāni Adhyāpanam, prayogaṃ vā bhaviṣya saṃśodhanāyaḥ diśi parināman prastutayet.  - Parināma 1 - Parināma 2 - Parināma 3	6. निहितार्थ या उपयोगिता शिक्षण, व्यवहार या आगे के अनुसंधान के लिए निहितार्थों पर चर्चा करें।  - निहितार्थ 1 - निहितार्थ 2 - निहितार्थ 3	  
6. Key References List key references (in the preferred style).  - Author. Title. Publisher, Year. - Author. Title. Publisher, Year. - Author. Title. Publisher, Year. - Author. Title. Publisher, Year. - Author. Title. Publisher, Year.	6. Mukhya Sandarbhaḥ Pramukhāḥ sandarbhaḥ (icchita-śailiṃ) likhyantām.  - Lekhakaḥ, Granthasya nāma, Prakāśakaḥ, Varṣaḥ. - Lekhakaḥ, Granthasya nāma, Prakāśakaḥ, Varṣaḥ. - Lekhakaḥ, Granthasya nāma, Prakāśakaḥ, Varṣaḥ. - Lekhakaḥ, Granthasya nāma, Prakāśakaḥ, Varṣaḥ. - Lekhakaḥ, Granthasya nāma, Prakāśakaḥ, Varṣaḥ.	6. प्रमुख संदर्भ मुख्य संदर्भ (अपेक्षित शैली में) लिखें।  - लेखक। पुस्तक का नाम। प्रकाशक, वर्ष। - लेखक। पुस्तक का नाम। प्रकाशक, वर्ष। - लेखक। पुस्तक का नाम। प्रकाशक, वर्ष। - लेखक। पुस्तक का नाम। प्रकाशक, वर्ष। - लेखक। पुस्तक का नाम। प्रकाशक, वर्ष।	  

Annexure C1 — Illustrative Manuscript Format

The following layout illustrates the suggested structure of a research manuscript. Section headings and organization may be adapted to the nature of the contribution, including conceptual, textual, empirical, experiential, methodological or pedagogical research. Citation and formatting requirements specific to the eventual publication pathway, where applicable, will be communicated subsequently.

Title of the Paper in Title Case

A. B. Sharma¹ and C. D. Rao²

¹ Department of Philosophy, Nalanda University, Rajgir 803116, India

² Centre for Indic Studies, University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC 3010, Australia
absharma@nalanda.ac.in, cdrao@unimelb.edu.au

Abstract. This is a sample abstract to illustrate the formatting of the manuscript. The abstract should briefly present the background, aim, methodology, key findings and significance of the study. It should be a concise summary of the main content of the paper.

Keywords: Keyword 1 · Keyword 2 · Keyword 3 · Keyword 4

1 Introduction

This section introduces the topic, its context and significance. The text here is only a sample to show the appearance of the manuscript. Please replace it with your own content.

1.1 Background and Context

This subsection can be used to provide additional background, review relevant literature and establish the context of the study.

2 Conceptual or Śāstric Grounding

This section may present the key concepts, theoretical framework or śāstric grounding relevant to the study. Citations and references should follow a consistent academic citation style, with complete bibliographic details.

3 Method / Approach

This section describes the methodology, sources or approach adopted in the study.

3.1 Data and Analysis

Use subsections as appropriate, following the template's heading hierarchy.

$$E = mc^2 \quad (1)$$

Equations should be numbered consecutively, as shown in Eq. (1).



Fig. 1. Example of a figure with caption below the figure.

Table 1. Example of a table with caption above the table.

Parameter	Value 1	Value 2
Item A	10	20
Item B	30	40
Item C	50	60

4 Findings and Discussion

Present the key findings or main argument of the study. Discuss their implications in relation to the research question.

5 Conclusion

Summarise the main points and suggest directions for future inquiry.

References

1. Author, A. *Title of the Book*. Publisher, Place (Year).
2. Author, B. *Title of the Article*. *Journal Name* 12, 34–56 (Year).
3. Author, C. *Title of the Chapter*. In: Editor (ed.) *Title of the Book*, pp. 78–102. Publisher, Place (Year).