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YOJANA MAGAZINE ANALYSIS

(January 2025)

(Part 1/3)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

PART 1/3

- HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS (IKS)
- DECOLONISATION OF THE MIND THROUGH INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

PART 2/3

- EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: A BUDDHIST APPROACH
- SANSKRIT AS A KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

PART 3/3

- COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO JAN AUSHADHI KENDRAS
- GLOBAL CAPABILITY CENTRES

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HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

- **Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)** represent a vast, ancient tradition that has shaped India's intellectual, cultural, and spiritual heritage.
- It combines both **spiritual** and **material** knowledge, impacting not only India but also global thought.
- In 2020, the Ministry of Education in India set up the IKS division to document and promote this rich heritage for modern times.
- As the **Isavasyopanishad** teaches, true knowledge (**vidya**) is a balance of spiritual and material understanding, which leads to a harmonious life.

CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

Holistic Knowledge

- IKS is **holistic**, meaning it integrates both **spiritual** (higher knowledge) and **material** (practical knowledge) aspects.

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- The goal of IKS is to help individuals and society live well, achieve **liberation (freedom from suffering)**, and lead a balanced life.

Continuity and Adaptability

- IKS has been **passed down orally for thousands of years before being written down** in texts like the **Vedas** and **Puranas**.
- Despite being ancient, IKS has adapted over time to meet the changing needs of society, **yet core ideas remain intact**.

KEY COMPONENTS

Vedas:

- The **Vedas** are the oldest and most important texts in IKS. They are made up of:
 - **Rigveda**
 - **Yajurveda**
 - **Samaveda**
 - **Atharvaveda**
- These texts cover a wide range of subjects, including **spirituality, rituals, governance, and natural sciences**.

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Upvedas

- The **Upvedas** are specialized knowledge systems that include:
 - **Ayurveda** (medicine)
 - **Dhanurveda** (warfare and archery)
 - **Gandharva Veda** (performing arts like music and dance)
 - **Shilpa Veda** (architecture)

Upanishads

- The **Upanishads** are philosophical texts that discuss the nature of **reality, consciousness, and liberation**.
- They introduce the concepts of **paravidya** (higher knowledge) and **aparavidya** (lower, material knowledge).

Puranas

- The **Puranas** are narrative texts that tell stories of the **creation and destruction** of the universe, and they also cover **cultural history** and societal norms.
- For example, the **Brahma Vaivarta Purana** discusses concepts that resemble modern **scientific ideas**, like **time relativity**.

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CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

a. Philosophy and Ethics

- Indian philosophy balances **spiritual** wisdom with **material** concerns.
- **The Bhagavad Gita**, a key text, provides ethical guidance on **duty**, **life**, and the importance of balance.

b. Mathematics and Astronomy

- Indian scholars like **Aryabhata**, **Varahamira**, and **Baudhyana** contributed significantly to mathematics (like **trigonometry** and **calculus**) and **astronomy** (like **time measurement** and celestial movement).

c. Medicine

- **Ayurveda** is a traditional medical system focusing on balance in the body, mind, and spirit.
- **Sushruta** is famous for his pioneering surgical techniques, including **cataract removal**.
- The **Siddha system**, practiced in Tamil Nadu, emphasizes **holistic health** with herbal treatments.

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d. Arts and Culture

- **Natya Shastra**, written by **Bharata Muni**, covers drama, music, dance, sculpture, and architecture, connecting them to **spiritual** and **religious** themes.

e. Technology and Crafts

- **Indian innovations** in fields like **metallurgy** (e.g., the **Iron Pillar of Delhi**), **weaving** (e.g., **Muga silk**), and **ceramics** from regions like Assam are famous for their advanced technology.

HISTORICAL TIMELINES & DOCUMENTATION

Oral Tradition

- For thousands of years, knowledge was passed **orally** from teacher to student, which kept it alive through generations.

Documented Texts

- The **Vedas** were written around **1500 BCE**, though they are thought to be much older.
- **Puranas** were written between **4th century BCE and 11th century CE**, documenting creation myths and the evolution of society.
- The **Ramayana** and **Mahabharata** not only tell epic stories but also offer **moral guidance**.

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CHALLENGES DURING COLONIAL PERIOD

- During British rule, IKS faced a decline in study due to the focus on **Western education**.
- This led to the **misunderstanding** and **loss** of many traditional practices and knowledge.

MODERN RELEVANCE & REVIVAL

a. Recognition and Integration

- **International Yoga Day** (June 21) is a global celebration of Indian practices like yoga, which promote **physical** and **mental health**.
- Practices like **organic farming** and **traditional medicine** are being recognized for their contributions to **sustainability** and **health**.

b. NEP 2020 and Policy Frameworks

- The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** encourages integrating **IKS** into education systems, promoting the link between **traditional knowledge** and **modern science**.
- The policy supports **interdisciplinary research**, bringing together ancient wisdom and modern technological advancements.

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c. Practical Applications

- **Sustainable architecture**, inspired by ancient practices, is gaining traction.
- **Ayurveda** and **Siddha systems** are being used for **preventive healthcare**.
- Ethical frameworks from the **Bhagavad Gita** and **Upanishads** are applied in modern issues like **business ethics** and **personal development**.

d. Interdisciplinary Research

- IKS is being used in areas like **environmental conservation**, **artificial intelligence**, and **ethical technology** to address global challenges.

e. Tribal and Regional Knowledge

- Efforts are being made to revive **local knowledge systems** from regions like **Northeast India** and **Tamil Nadu**, integrating these into the broader knowledge landscape.

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges

- **Fragmented documentation** and loss of **oral traditions** are making it hard to access and understand some parts of IKS.

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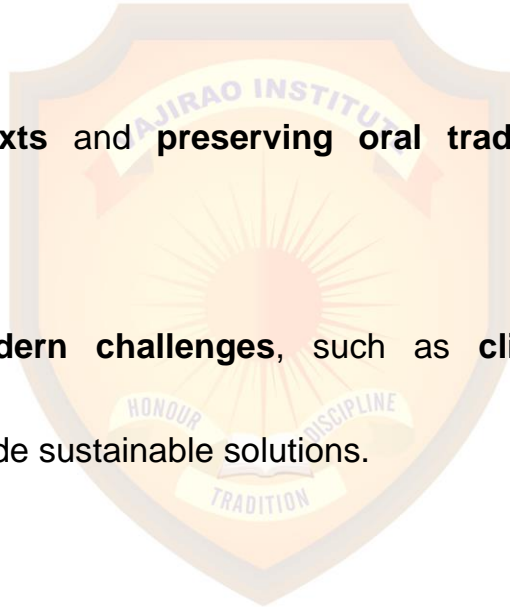


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- **Misinterpretations** and **incomplete knowledge transmission** due to colonial influence are still present.

Opportunities

- **Collaboration** between scholars, institutions, and communities can help restore and preserve IKS.
- **Digitizing ancient texts** and **preserving oral traditions** can make IKS more accessible.
- Applying IKS to **modern challenges**, such as **climate change**, **health**, and **education**, could provide sustainable solutions.



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DECOLONISATION OF MIND THROUGH IKS

Introduction

- India, known as **Gyan-Bhoomi** (Land of Knowledge), is the birthplace of rich intellectual traditions in **philosophy, science, art, medicine, and spirituality**.
- Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) form a structured framework based on ancient texts like the **Vedas, Upanishads, and Nyaya Shastra**.
- However, during colonial rule, these systems were **marginalized in favor of Eurocentric ideas**, promoting a sense of inferiority among Indians.
- **Decolonizing the mind** means reviving IKS, reshaping the way we view knowledge, and reclaiming India's intellectual identity on the world stage.

INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS THROUGH AGES

i. Ancient Period: Foundation of Knowledge

- **Philosophical Foundations:**
 - **Vedas and Upanishads:** These texts explored the **nature of existence**, the concept of the **self (Atman)**, and the ultimate reality (**Brahman**). They

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introduced ideas about both the **inner world** (spirituality) and the **outer world** (cosmos).

- **Nyaya**: A logic-based philosophy that promotes **scientific inquiry** and structured thinking, helping people understand and reason about the world.
- **Advaita Vedanta**: A philosophy that argues for the **oneness of Atman (individual soul)** and **Brahman (universal soul)**, emphasizing unity and non-duality.

- **Scientific and Mathematical Achievements:**

- **Zero and the Decimal System**: Indian mathematicians were among the first to discover **zero** as a concept, and they developed the **decimal system**, revolutionizing mathematics.
- **Ayurveda**: A holistic health system that emphasizes **prevention** and **well-being** rather than just treatment.
- **Astronomy**: Indian scholars like **Aryabhata** proposed **heliocentric theories** and made precise calculations about the movements of celestial bodies.

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- **Sustainability and Ecological Wisdom:**

- **Sustainable agriculture:** Indian knowledge systems emphasized farming practices that worked in harmony with nature's cycles of renewal.
- **Community-based resource management:** Ancient practices, such as forest and water management, were based on **sustainable and cooperative** approaches that maintained balance with the environment.

MEDIEVAL PERIOD

- **Bhakti Movement:**

- The Bhakti movement emphasized **devotion (Bhakti)** and equality, promoting **vernacular language literature** that made spirituality accessible to the masses.
- Saints like **Kabir, Guru Nanak, and Chaitanya Mahaprabhu** focused on **unity, faith, and liberation**, aiming for social harmony and a universal sense of brotherhood.

- **Jainism and Buddhism:**

- **Jainism:** Centered around the dualism of **Jiva (soul)** and **Ajiva (non-soul)**, promoting **non-violence (ahimsa)** and **self-discipline**.

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- **Buddhism:** Rejected the idea of a permanent self, focusing on the importance of **karma (action)** and ethical living as the path to liberation.

MODERN PERIOD & CHALLENGES

- **Colonial Disruption:**

- **Macaulay's Minute (1835)** aimed to replace traditional Indian education with Western models, setting up schools that focused on **Eurocentric curriculum**, and marginalizing Indian knowledge.
- During British rule, **indigenous industries** like **textiles and metallurgy** were **systematically dismantled**, and **traditional education** systems were replaced with **colonial institutions** that alienated Indians from their own heritage.

- **Modern Thinkers and Philosophers:**

- **Swami Vivekananda:** Advocated for **rational education** and a **universal religion** based on Indian humanism and spiritual ideals.
- **Sri Aurobindo:** Combined **idealism** and **pragmatism**, emphasizing **spiritual growth** through **creativity** and **practical action**.
- **Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan:** Grounded his philosophy in **Advaita Vedanta**, advocating for **truth, unity, and diversity** in philosophical and social thought.

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IMPACT OF COLONISATION ON IKS

- **Cultural Subjugation**

- Colonialism labeled Indian traditions as **inferior**, promoting Western ideals and creating a **sense of cultural subjugation**.
- Indian scholars and thinkers were often reinterpreted through a **Eurocentric lens**, like referring to **Chanakya** as "**India's Machiavelli**," which reduced his true depth and context.

- **Economic and Educational Disruption**

- Colonial policies led to the **decline of indigenous industries**, such as textiles, metallurgy, and local craftsmanship.
- **Traditional education institutions** were replaced with **colonial schools** that did not teach the **native knowledge systems**, distancing Indians from their own heritage and intellectual legacy.

- **Mental Colonization**

- **Edward Said's Orientalism:** Highlighted how the West perpetuated **stereotypes** of the East as backward, exotic, and primitive, which influenced colonial attitudes.

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- **Frantz Fanon's Colonial Alienation:** Addressed how colonized societies internalized a sense of **inferiority**, seeing their own culture and knowledge as inferior to Western ideals.

DECOLONISATION OF THE MIND THROUGH IKS

- **Reviving Cultural Identity**

- The **decolonization of the mind** begins with restoring pride in India's **intellectual traditions**. This can be done through education reforms that emphasize indigenous knowledge.
- Promoting the use of **regional languages** and encouraging **vernacular literature** will help reconnect people with their cultural roots and diverse intellectual heritage.

- **Educational Reforms**

- To decolonize education, it is necessary to incorporate **Indian philosophies, sciences, and arts** into school curricula.
- **Interdisciplinary research centers** focused on IKS should be established to promote the study of Indian thought and knowledge systems alongside Western sciences.

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- **Global Relevance of IKS**

- **Ayurveda** and **Yoga** have already become popular **global health practices**, highlighting the universality of Indian wisdom in the modern world.
- Indian **ecological practices**, such as **sustainable farming** and **water management**, can provide solutions for current environmental challenges like climate change and resource depletion.

- **Sustainability and Holistic Development**

- IKS aligns with the global **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** by emphasizing **community-based resource management** and **ethical consumerism**, promoting a **holistic approach** to development.
- Indian systems encourage **balance** between economic growth, social equity, and environmental health.

- **Philosophical Guidance**

- Indian philosophies like **Nyaya** (logic) and **Vedanta** (spiritual wisdom) offer **frameworks for ethical reasoning, mindfulness**, and a deeper understanding of existence.

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- Rediscovering this ancient wisdom can help address **modern existential challenges**, such as **mental health**, **ethical dilemmas**, and **social conflict**.

CONCLUSION

The decolonization of the Indian mind is not just about reclaiming lost heritage but also about embarking on a journey of self-realization and global intellectual leadership. By reviving and integrating Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), India can **empower** itself and the world, offering **solutions** to **sustainable development**, **health**, **ethics**, and **environmental challenges**.

This process will help India rediscover its cultural roots, contribute to global discourse, and provide valuable insights for humanity's future.

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