

**THE PARADIGM SHIFT IN INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS:
REALIZING THE VISION OF VIKSIT BHARAT 2047
THROUGH NEP 2020**

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Introduction-

Indian Knowledge Systems are representative of a wide, varied intellectual tradition flourishing in India since time immemorial. Relatedly, many of these intellectual traditions pertain to fields such as science, mathematics, medicine, astronomy, philosophy, art, architecture, and governance that have their roots in the ancient texts of the Vedas, Upanishads, and Puranas, among other classical literature. The richness of IKS lies in its holistic approach, underlining the connectivity of humans with nature, society, and the cosmos. It has the potential to stir up sustainable living, ethical governance, human well-being, and spiritual growth on many aspects that even now are relevant to the present global challenges.

The National Education Policy, 2020, issued by the Government of India, is a turning point for India's education policy. For decades, Indian education had been couched in colonial educative frameworks that denied indigenous wisdom and their rich cultural heritage. The NEP 2020 aims to bring in this balance through a paradigm shift in integrating IKS with existing education. It becomes an important factor for solving the specific needs and dreams of the country while making its students competent enough to survive in the modern globe. The NEP 2020 envisions an education system that, besides infusing technical skills and knowledge among the citizens, will develop the most profound respect for India's rich intellectual and cultural heritage. One of the crucial objectives of NEP 2020 is the contribution to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 a developed and Self-reliant India at a time when the country would be celebrating 100 years of independence. It has also recognized that while marching on the path of development, it is imperative that the journey shall have to be imbibed in the cultural identity of India, besides embracing technological and scientific advancement. NEP 2020 aims at bringing forth a generation of students skilled in all the latest disciplines, yet aware of their rich heritage, which can offer innovative solutions that draw on both traditional and modern knowledge systems.

IKS integration in education promotes holistic learning in which students will develop critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities with ancient knowledge. The revised curriculum in NEP 2020 has included the classical Indian languages, ancient literature, traditional sciences, and ethics from IKS. Further, the policy encourages research and innovation based on IKS in Ayurveda, Yoga, sustainable agriculture, and traditional architecture that could help India contribute toward the attainment of goals for sustainable development and global leadership in these identified areas.

Thus, the paradigm shift caused by NEP 2020 is a strategic movement toward the realization of Viksit Bharat 2047, where modern strides and traditional wisdom will go hand in hand to nurture growth, inclusivity, and sustainability.

Objective of IKS-

The major aim of the Indian Knowledge Systems is to preserve and promote the rich heritage of traditional knowledge of India in the fields of science, philosophies, medicines, mathematics, and the arts. IKS attempts to integrate such wisdom into modern education in order to achieve all-round development-intellectual, emotional, physical, and spiritual. It envisages the creation of cultural and historical awareness that instills pride in ancient Indian contributions to global knowledge, living in harmony with nature in a sustainable manner. Furthermore, IKS promotes research and innovation through the application of traditional practices and philosophies to contemporary challenges for a balanced, sustainable future of India and the world.

IKS cell:

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is a novel cell under the Ministry of Education (MoE) at AICTE, New Delhi. It is established for encouraging inter-disciplinary research on all aspects of IKS and for preservation and dissemination of IKS for further research and applications in society. It will actively engage for spreading the rich heritage of our country and traditional knowledge in the field of Arts and literature, Agriculture, Basic Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Architecture, Management, Economics, etc.

Functions of IKS Division-

The main function of IKS division is to facilitate and coordinate IKS based/related inter and trans-disciplinary work done by various institutions in India and abroad including

universities, institutions of national importance, R&D laboratories and different ministries and inspire private sector organizations to engage with it. The second important function is to establish, guide and monitor subject-wise interdisciplinary research groups comprising of researchers from institutes, centers and individuals. Also, to create and promote popularization schemes, to facilitate funding of various projects and develop mechanisms to undertake research and to make policy recommendations wherever required for the promotion of IKS.

Vision:

To promote interdisciplinary research on all aspects of 'Indian Knowledge Systems', preserve and disseminate 'Indian Knowledge Systems' for further research and societal applications.

Understanding IKS-

The vast spectrum of traditional knowledge relating to ancient sciences and arts, literature, philosophy, health systems like Ayurveda and Yoga, architecture-building principles represented by Vastu Shastra, and governance principles represented by the Arthashastra come under the broad rubric of IKS. They represent eternal wisdom pertaining to sustainable living, holistic education, spirituality, and interconnectedness with nature.

The core values that IKS upholds are knowing that knowledge is self-realization and societal progress, with values of integrity, empathy, and sustainability that become important parts for development in present times.

Mission of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)

Preservation of Traditional Wisdom: Documentation and preservation of traditional knowledge-ancient texts, practices, and cultural traditions.

Cultural Enrichment: Enshrining the rich cultural heritage of India into educational and social systems for promotion and celebration.

Wholesome Education: The use of IKS would enrich the art of education in ushering in all-round development-intellectual, emotional, physical, and spiritual.

Sustainable Development: Applications of traditional knowledge in solving many of the problems faced nowadays with sustainability.

Innovation through Tradition: Encourage interdisciplinary research and innovation with the integration of IKS into modern science and technology.

Ethical and Moral Values: Instruct character, empathy, and responsibility by using values from IKS in creating ethical awareness among the students.

Global Recognition and Dialogue: Present India as a model for the integration of traditional wisdom into modern advancement through cross-cultural understanding.

Empowerment and Self-Reliance: Empower communities and individuals for active roles in using traditional knowledge for economic development and improved standards of living.

Indian Knowledge System In Education-

Integration of IKS at all levels of education would, therefore, enhance learning, fusing concepts of old with modern ways of teaching and learning. IKS is an encompassing approach that covers traditional sciences, arts, philosophy, and cultural practices for holistic development: intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. In this way, by embedding IKS into the curriculum while teaching classical literature, traditional mathematics, and sustainable practices, for instance, students would come closer to knowing their cultural history and everyday knowledge. Integration of IKS, therefore, promotes experiential learning based on traditional means of yoga and meditation, enhances critical thinking in which historical and contemporary knowledge will be related to each other, and sponsors interdisciplinary research toward dealing with contemporary problems using traditional perspectives. Training of teachers and development of resources are also considered paramount for implementing IKS successfully so that the facilitator is able to communicate this rich knowledge while aligning it with contemporary educational standards. Overall, IKS in education not only serves to preserve and celebrate cultural heritage but also equips students with a balanced and innovative perspective toward life, making them prepared to contribute meaningfully to the world in a globalized scenario.

Viksit Bharat 2047: A Vision for a Developed India

The vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 aspired to make India self-reliant, globally competitive, inclusive, and technologically advanced on its 100th anniversary of independence. This vision rests on certain pillars, such as:

1. Economic Growth and Innovation
2. Social Equality and Justice
3. Cultural Preservation and Innovation
4. Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship

To realize this, there is now an increasing awareness of the need to combine modern education and technology with age-old wisdom from IKS in providing holistic solutions to contemporary issues.

The Paradigm Shift in NEP 2020-

NEP 2020 marks the beginning of a shift away from the erstwhile colonial, Eurocentric model to one that is more indigenized, inclusive, and learner-centered. In this context, paradigm shift refers to the light of some key changes that become vital, including.

Integration of Indian Knowledge Systems into the Curriculum:

NEP 2020 lays emphasis on the integration of IKS into the mainstream at all levels-classical Indian languages are to be taught, ancient literature, traditional sciences, and philosophies. It advocates the study of texts: Vedas, Upanishads, and ancient Indian contributions related to mathematics, astronomy, and medicine.

All-inclusive Multidisciplinary Learning:

It encourages multidisciplinary learning and therefore enables students to study both modern sciences and traditional Indian knowledge. For example, a student studying environmental science might learn practices for sustainability from ancient Indian texts, which then can be combined with solutions for modern days.

Reviving Traditional Arts and Crafts-

NEP 2020 advocates the promotion and preservation of India's rich cultural heritage. Traditional arts, crafts, music, and theatre are being introduced within the ambit of formal education so that students grow up to appreciate and further carry forward the rich cultural heritage of the country.

Emphasis on Holistic and Value-Based Education:

Character-building, moral values, and critical thinking are also certain focal aspects in NEP 2020, matching the ethical principles of IKS. The holistic approach of IKS should be focused on the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual development of the students, which corresponds to the educational vision of NEP 2020.

IKS Research:

NEP 2020 advocates for extensive research in the Indian Knowledge Systems. In fact, the policy supports establishing IKS research centers and encourages students to undertake research projects in subjects such as traditional medicine, sustainable agriculture, and architecture that can offer modern solutions to global challenges.

Achieving Viksit Bharat 2047 through IKS and NEP 2020-

The integration of IKS into education through NEP 2020 presents the way to achieve Viksit Bharat. Some of the ways it contributes to the development of a Viksit Bharat are as follows:

Traditional Knowledge and Sustainable Development:

IKS amply enlightens the concept of sustainability as a process of living together in harmony with nature. Incorporation of traditional procedures into modern science and technology further encourages agriculture practices, techniques of water conservation, and architectural features that bring ecological sustainability and lead India to meet its commitment toward sustainable development goals.

Holistic Health and Well-being:

This revival of traditional systems such as Ayurveda and Yoga will complement modern health care with a more holistic approach toward well-being. As a consequence, this will result in the population's overall health, which is all-important toward the development of the nation.

Cultural Revival and Global Leadership-

This will, in turn, allow India to take up the mantle of world leadership in cultural diplomacy through the promotion of its rich cultural heritage along with IKS. NEP-2020 thus aspires for a generation to be proud of Indian history and knowledge systems, yet be open to learning from the global advancements.

Self-Reliance and Economic Growth-

Encouragement of research in IKS will lead to innovations in the traditional industries of textiles, handicrafts, and herbal medicine for creating new economic opportunities. This aligns with the government vision to achieve Atmanirbhar Bharat or self-reliant India.

Inclusive and Equitable Education:

Inclusion of NEP 2020 also has a targeted policy that makes sure the rural and other backward sections have an opportunity to better expose themselves to education, matching their cultural ethos. Such a concept will instill a sense of belonging and national unity, which is considered a highly essential constituent for social harmony in a developed nation.

Challenges and the Way Forward-

While the prospect of its integration into mainstream education is therefore promising, challenges still remain on updated curricula, training of teachers, and modernization of traditional knowledge to turn it relevant for today's global challenges. There is a need, too,

for interdisciplinary research in order to bridge the gap between ancient knowledge and modern science. This paradigm shift is, however, going to rhyme with policy coordination, educational instructor collaboration, research cooperation, and institutional adaptation so that IKS is actually integrated within various education systems without losing its essence.

Conclusion-

The NEP 2020, therefore, integrates Indian Knowledge Systems into modern education to bring a paradigm shift at the right time. Invention and rapid adaption of technology, coupled with globalization, drive this world today. Reconnecting with ancient Indian wisdom opens up certain opportunities that are inimitable in consolidating positions pertaining to challenges born out of modernity, and in preserving the ancient and rich cultural heritage of the country. IKS thus provides an integrated platform where intellectual, spiritual, and practical knowledge get combined to turn the system of education into one that helps in the integral growth of a person capable of servicing society at large. In this direction, NEP 2020 has recognized the importance of a holistic education that instills in students critical thinking, creativity, and ethical values from India's tradition. The holistic approach is in congruence with the bigger vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 to see a developed, self-reliant India during its centennial anniversary of independence. Traditional knowledge systems, from Ayurveda and Yoga to environmental management through sustainable agriculture, carry valuable insights for achieving sustainable development, health and wellness, and innovation at large. The emergence of IKS is very much forward-looking; thus, an effort is made to syncretise ancient wisdom with modern-day enlightenment. Inclusion of IKS helps in encouraging interdisciplinary research, innovation, and practical applications that could contribute towards the solution to the problems in health, agriculture, architecture, and environmental conservation—all key sectors for sustainable development.

This can be done only when there is updating of the curriculum to include IKS, training of educators in IKS, and relevance and access of ancient knowledge to the younger generation. Integration of traditional knowledge, indigenous knowledge, and modern scientific knowledge would call for collective efforts at the level of policymaker, educator, researcher, and student community. The Indian Knowledge Systems under NEP 2020 enshrine a paradigm shift and shall form the bedrock for the journey toward making India self-reliant, innovative, and culturally enriched by the year 2047.

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