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A Two Day International Seminar on the theme – Transforming Higher Education through Indian Knowledge System: A Global Perspective

REPORT

13.02.2026 & 14.02.2026

DES's Shri. Navalmal Firodia Law College organized A Two Day International Seminar on the theme – **Transforming Higher Education through Indian Knowledge System: A Global Perspective** on 13.02.2026 & 14.02.2026.

As Indian Knowledge System is an emerging arena of multidimensional study, the integration of IKS in Higher Education would be a transformative paradigm shift. With this noble notion, the college invited seven resource persons from different disciplines to cover the broader scope of the theme.

The **Inaugural Ceremony** of the seminar was graced by the Chief Guest, Prof.Dr. Vivek Maheshwari, Vice-Chancellor, Lakulish Yoga University, Ahmedabad & the Guest of Honour, Shri. Avinash Dharmadhikari, Founder & Director, Chanakya Mandal Pariwar, Pune, Adv. Ashok Palande, Vice-Chairman GB & Council, DES, Chairman CDC DES SNFLC, & Dr. Sunita Adhav, Principal, DES SNFLC, Pune.



Adhav



approach towards Indian knowledge system & higher education in India provided a reasonable & realistic reformative direction ahead.

Shri. Avinash Dharmadhikari, being the Guest of Honour, & the resource person for the Technical Session delivered his discourse on 'Historic Foundation of IKS' with specific citations in Vedic scriptures, Buddhist & Jain Philosophies connecting their relevance to current academics. Shri. Dharmadhikari also pivoted a foundation for further possible studies in the said area by providing a novel thought that IKS is not a trend, but an eternal value system that enables the learner to grasp, imbibe & profess the fair & just principles for a quality-life.

Technical Session -2 was delivered by Dr. Vasudev Aital, coordinator of CoE, IKS at DES Pune University. Dr. Aital discussed the foundational concepts of **zero (shunya)** and the decimal system revolutionized global calculation and paved the way for modern algebra and calculus. The scientific prowess of Bharat is also evident in **Ayurveda**, the world's oldest holistic healing system, and the advanced surgical techniques detailed in the *Sushruta Samhita*. Furthermore, he added that ancient metallurgy achieved remarkable feats, such as the corrosion-resistant **Iron Pillar of Delhi**, which showcases a mastery of chemistry that predates Western industrial methods by centuries.

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Dr. Aital also cited that in the realm of physics and cosmology, the **Vaisheshika school** proposed atomic theories (*Paramanu*) and the laws of motion existed long before the European Renaissance. This rich intellectual legacy serves as a testament to a civilization that prioritized the systematic observation of the natural world and the pursuit of universal truths.

The seminar proceeded with the Technical Session-3 after the lunch break wherein Dr. Shreenand Bapat, Registrar, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, opined about Basic Research Methodology in IKS. Dr. Shreenand Bapat, a renowned scholar emphasized that research methodology in the **Indian Knowledge System (IKS)** is rooted in the rigorous framework of **Pramana Shastra** (the science of evidence). He highlights that ancient Indian research was not merely anecdotal but relied on systematic tools like *Pratyaksha* (perception), *Anumana* (inference), and *Shabda* (authoritative testimony) to establish truth.



Dr. Bapat further added, how traditional texts utilize the **Tantrayukti**—a set of thirty-six methodological devices or "tools of composition" to ensure logical consistency and structural integrity in scientific treatises.

His approach bridges the gap between classical Sanskrit scholarship and modern analytical standards, demonstrating that

IKS follows a "Sutra-to-Bhashya" (formula to commentary) progression that encourages continuous peer review and refinement. Ultimately, he posits that IKS methodology is inherently multidisciplinary, integrating ethics, logic, and empirical observation to solve contemporary problems.

During Technical Session- 4, Mr. Pratish Ray argued that AI ethics must transcend Western "rule-based" frameworks by adopting the IKS principle of **Dharma**, which prioritizes the collective well-being (*Loka-samgraha*) over narrow algorithmic optimization. He advocated for a "Human-Centric AI" rooted in **Yogic mindfulness**, ensuring that machine intelligence remains a tool for human elevation rather than a source of cognitive displacement.

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By aligning AI development with the Vedic concept of **Rta** (cosmic order), Ray suggested we can create self-regulating systems that naturally respect environmental and social harmony. His approach sought to embed values like empathy and interconnectedness directly into the data structures and decision-making processes of emerging technologies.

On 14.02.2026, the second day of International Seminar began with Technical session-5 in online mode by Prof. Dr. Yashwant Pathak, *Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs*, University of South Florida (USF). Founding Member, ICCS, on the topic 'Global Perspective of Indigenous Traditions & Culture' wherein he emphasized that indigenous traditions provide a holistic framework for global prosperity by prioritizing harmony between humanity and nature over mere technological advancement. He further added that colonial systems historically dismantled these cultures, making it urgent for modern society to "shift the lens" and empower native communities to preserve their ancient wisdom and sustainable ways of life.

Prof. Dr. Vinita Gupta Chaturvedi, Associate Professor at Delhi College of Arts & Commerce Delhi University, took over for the Technical Session-6 in online mode. She explored the topic- 'Sri Aurobindo: Modern Seer of Integral Indian Knowledge System' in a lucid & poetic style wherein she emphasized Prof. Dr. Vinita Gupta Chaturvedi emphasized that Sri Aurobindo acted as a "Modern Seer" by synthesizing ancient Vedic wisdom with modern evolutionary thought, proposing that human consciousness is destined to transcend its current limitations.



She highlighted his **Integral Yoga** as a complete system that seeks not to escape the world, but to transform earthly life through the descent of the **Supramental** consciousness. Furthermore, she illustrated how his vision redefines the Indian Knowledge System as a dynamic, living force capable of harmonizing material science with spiritual realization to achieve a "divine life" on earth.

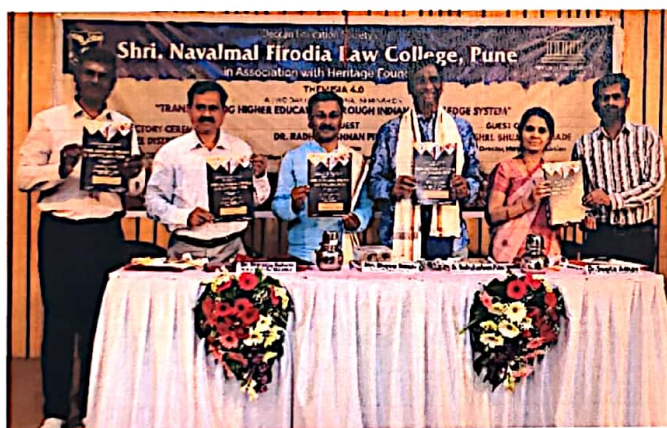
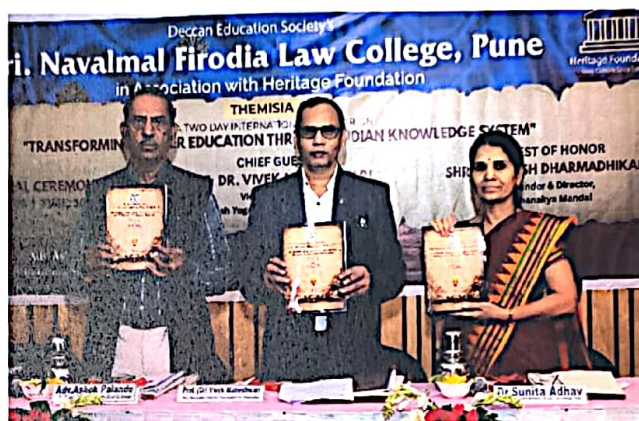
During the Technical Session-7, Prof. Dr. Pushpakumar Laxmanan emphasized that integrating IKS into modern jurisprudence is essential for moving from a purely adversarial legal system to a **Dharma-centric** model focused on restorative justice and social harmony. He highlighted that ancient Indian legal traditions, such as the concepts of *Nyaya*

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(justice) and *Yuktikalpa* (logical application), offer profound insights into conflict resolution that predate contemporary Western mediation techniques.

In addition, he discussed a reformative perspective where legal education incorporates **Vedic and Smriti-based principles** of equity to ensure that laws are not just technically sound, but ethically grounded in the cultural ethos of Bharat. By bridging the gap between colonial-era statutes and indigenous wisdom, he envisions a legal framework that is more accessible, empathetic, and culturally resonant for the Indian citizenry.

The International Seminar also invited articles based on the theme - **Transforming Higher Education through Indian Knowledge System: A Global Perspective**. The seminar witnessed an intellectual feast of presentation followed by discussion of the research done by authors. The ISBN Book on the theme was unveiled during the inaugural session of the seminar at the hands of the dignitaries.



The Two Day Seminar was concluded by the valedictory ceremony chaired by Dr. Radhakrishnan Pillai, Founder and Director, Chanakya International Institute of Leadership studies (CIILS), University of Mumbai as a Chief Guest & Shri. Bhujang

Bobade, Director, Heritage Foundation as a Guest of honour. As a Director, he provided collaborative efforts for the International Seminar. Dr. Pillai enlightened the audience on Chanakyan philosophy applicable in modern education system in his unique style of narration. His speech was followed by the discourse by Shri Bhujang Bobade who displayed the manuscripts authored by Chhtrapati Sambhaji Maharaj & emphasized on the nexus between knowledge system & modern youth. His discourse was marked by practical knowledge & humor!

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The International Seminar concluded with a positive note of integrating Indian Knowledge System in higher Education in a constructive manner.

Dr. Sunita Adhav

Principal



Heritage Foundation
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Shri. Navalmal Firodia Law College, Pune

In Association with
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Organises

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INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

A TWO DAY
INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON
“TRANSFORMING HIGHER
EDUCATION THROUGH INDIAN
KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM:
A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE”

CONVENORS

- **Dr. Sunita Adhav**
Principal, DES SNFLC
- **Adv. Ashok Palande**
Vice-Chairman, GB &
Council, DES
Chairman, CDC, DES SNFLC

Date: 13.02.2026 & 14.02.2026

Venue: Kundanmal Firodia Auditorium,
Fergusson College Campus, Pune.

