



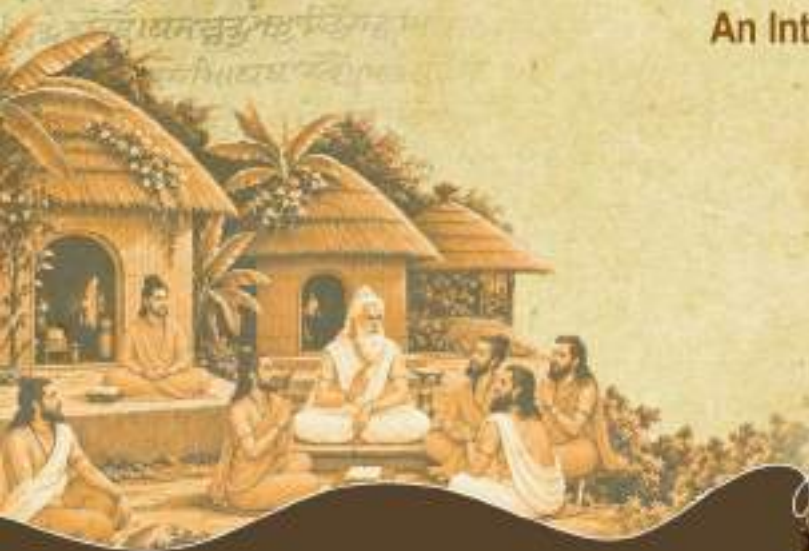
भारतीयज्ञानप्रणाली-उत्कृष्टताकेन्द्रम्
भारतीयप्रौद्योगिकीसंस्थानम्, खड़गपुरम्

presents

Upaniṣadic Futures

From Svānubhūti to Pedagogy

An International Civilizational Conference across
Sanātana Dharma Sampradāyas



In collaboration with



27-28 February, 2027

Netaji Auditorium

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

pr̥ṣṭhabhūmi

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, *sādhana*, *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.



viśaya

SESSION THEMES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reaching contemporary and global learners without dilution.



anusūcī *

SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Saturday, 27 February 2027	
<i>upaniṣadic vision to lived svānubhūti</i>	
8:00 - 8:50 AM	Registration
9:00 - 9:20 AM	INAUGURAL SESSION Lamp lighting
9:20 - 10:00 AM	<i>svāgatam and prṣṭhabhūmi</i>
10:05 - 10:55 AM	Session 1 - The <i>upaniṣadic</i> panorama: from <i>jijñāsā</i> to <i>svānubhūti</i> <i>upaniṣadic sādhanā</i>: from Knowing to Experiencing
11:00 - 11:25 AM	<i>alpāhāra</i>
11:30 AM - 1:25 PM	Session 2 <i>sāadhanā</i> to <i>svānubhūti</i> : pathways of lived transformation
1:30 - 2:45 PM	<i>pañkti bhojana</i> Traditional community lunch
3:00 - 5:10 PM	Session 3 <i>svānubhūti</i> as first-person data: possibilities, fallacies and validity
5:15 - 6:15 PM	<i>alpāhāra and virāma</i>
6:30 - 7:45 PM	<i>upaniṣad raṅgamañcaḥ</i> Special theatrical presentation

DAY 2

Sunday, 28 February 2027	
<i>svānubhūti</i> as knowledge Building pedagogy	
9:00 - 11:10 AM	Session 4 <i>svānubhūti</i> as knowledge: first-person experience, <i>śāstra</i> and epistemic validity
11:10 - 11:40 AM	<i>alpāhāra</i>
11:45 AM - 1:55 PM	Session 5 <i>svānubhūti</i> to <i>śikṣā</i> : knowledge, pedagogy and future education
2:00 - 3:15 PM	<i>pañkti bhojana & poster presentation</i> Traditional community lunch and poster publication interactions
3:30 - 4:30 PM	Session 6 <i>upaniṣadic</i> futures: <i>svānubhūti</i> to contemporary and global pedagogy
4:30 - 5:00 PM	<i>alpāhāra</i>
5:00 - 6:00 PM	Final co-creation <i>sabhā</i> - from <i>svānubhūti</i> 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
upanīṣad raṅgamañcaḥ

प्रस्तावितनाट्यप्रस्तुतिः

अन्तर्यानिम्
antaryānam

आत्मान्वेषण यात्रा : जिज्ञासा → स्वानुभूति → शिक्षा

प्रस्तुति: संस्कृत रङ्गमण्डलम्, केन्द्रीय संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालयस्य,
भोपाल परिसरः

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



saṃpoṣaka | svāgata udbodhana

PATRONS | 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 vaktārah

INVITED SPEAKERS — INTERNATIONAL



Dr. B. Alan Wallace

Founder and President
Centre for Contemplative Research,
USA



Dr. Clara Seeger

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



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

āmantritāḥ vaktārah

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
Brhat



**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.

viśaya



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

02 *sādhana* 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

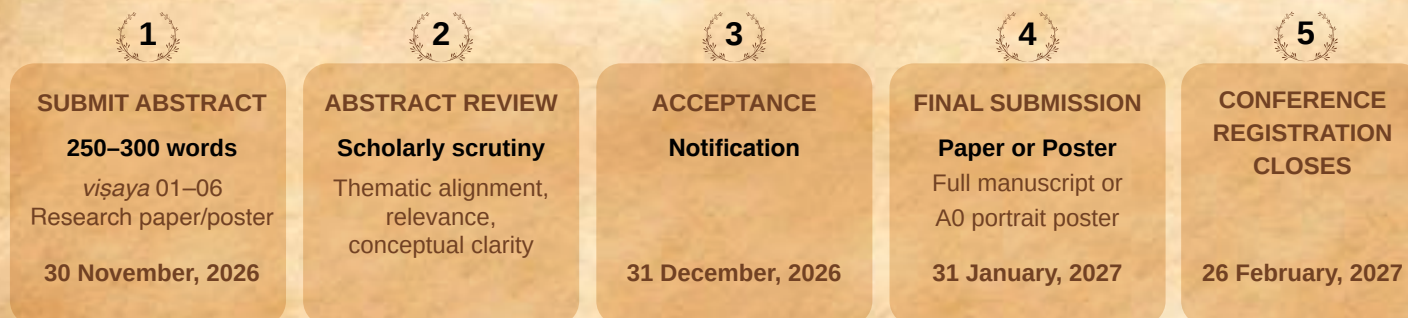
06 *upaniṣadic Futures*: *svānubhūti* to
Contemporary and Global Pedagogy

WHAT TO SUBMIT — RESEARCH PAPER | 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



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**

samparka & sthāna

CONTACT & LOCATION



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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.

