

Indira Gandhi National Open University, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi
School Of Social Sciences

School of Social Sciences, IGNOU has planned to organise a National Seminar on "Wisdom Tradition, Cultural Creativity and Social Integration" in collaboration with Santhigiri Research Foundation , Thiruvananthapuram on 13,14 August,2015 .

A background note containing the identification of the topics of seminar in being sent herewith.

All the teachers, Researchers and Ph.D scholars having interest in the area's of the topic are cordially invited to contribute the papers for presentation in the seminar.Those who are willing to contribute the paper may please send their name, address , email id and telephone number to the undersign on the following email id . The title of the paper may also be informed. Kindly note that the paper should be on the theme specified in the background note.

Those who are willing to contribute the paper may send their abstract by 31st July 2015.

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Looking forward for an early reply.

Yours Sincerely
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National Seminar on Wisdom Tradition, Cultural Creativity and Social Integration

Ancient Indian wisdom has two dimensions – the eternal, and the temporal. While the basic doctrines (spiritual traditions) constitute its perennial dimension, religious practices, social institutions and norms, customs, manners, rights and duties of individuals, social and political ethics, nationalism, democracy, environment, economic progress etc. constitute its temporal dimension. The perennial dimension guides, governs, sustains and supervises the temporal dimension which moves within the bound of space and time. Indian tradition knowledge is highly scientific and takes a holistic organic view of human life and society.

In today's context, it is relevant to rediscover the underlying reasons that has ruined national unity and marginalized the Indian consciousness in terms of caste, ethnicity, religion etc. because this tradition offers unique solutions of various chronic crises like environmental havocs, climate change, mental tension, human stress and so on. With a view to preserve such a unique culture and make it meaningful and purposive in the context of fast changes in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and correspondingly fast global changes in environment, climate change, people's life style, changes in social relationships etc, it is pertinent to examine:

- i) What is the interconnection between traditional knowledge and social integration?
- ii) How has the Indian wisdom contained in three authentic sources of knowledge - Upanisads, Bhagwad Gita, Brahmsutras, Jainism and Buddhism been constructive to promote social harmony?
- iii) What is the relevance of the teachings of vedanta for social harmony and national integration?
- iv) Does the Indian spiritual tradition essentially dealing with transcendence reality address the issue of economic progress which deals with temporal dimension of worldly life? If yes, in what sense and how?
- v) How does Indian traditional knowledge promote the nationalism and fosters democratic values in the society?
- vi) How are monotheism and polytheism relevant in today's context of globalization and multi culturalism and what have been their after effects?
- vii) This seminar will deliberate and discuss on the above mentioned issues. Broadly, five themes have been identified for different sessions –
 - **Traditional Wisdom and Economic Progress**
 - **Spiritual oneness and social integration**
 - **Indian Knowledge tradition and cultural diversity**
 - **Spirituality and well-being of the people**
 - **Knowledge traditions and their interconnection with nationalism and democratic value systems**
 - **Traditional wisdom and scientific temper/attitude**