



CALL FOR PAPERS

Department of Political Science

University of Delhi

Organizes

ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

In Collaboration with

Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR)

On

***“Ways of Reading Indian Classical Text:
Contribution to Indian Knowledge Tradition”***

Date: 6th October, 2025

Venue: Lecture Hall, II

Faculty of Social Science, University of Delhi

Concept Note-

Indian civilization has always given great importance to knowledge - its vast collection of intellectual texts, the world's largest collection of manuscripts, its proven tradition of texts, thinkers and schools in so many fields of knowledge can be seen. The knowledge tradition of ancient India was initially preserved through oral transmission (śruti–smṛti), wherein *language* played a constitutive role in both shaping and sustaining the intellectual legacy.

From the Rigveda onwards, interpretation (nirvacana and vyākhyā) constituted a central intellectual exercise, determining how meaning and insight were communicated across generations. The interpretive function of śabda (word) was regarded as crucial, for each śabda was understood not merely as a lexical unit but as a bearer of layered and context-sensitive significances. In several cases, mantras and hymns were also believed to unfold

their full meaning only through sound, intonation, and vibration, underscoring the inseparability of phonetics and semantics in Vedic thought. Thus, the word itself (*śabda*) became the mainstay of knowledge transmission, simultaneously embodying and articulating the essence of ideas.

One of the most significant impediments to engaging with the Indian knowledge tradition lies in the inadequacy of appropriate interpretive methodologies. We are confronted with texts composed centuries—often millennia—ago, in languages that are not only distant from our own but also difficult to access even through translation. The existing translations, many of which date back to nineteenth-century Orientalist scholarship, are inadequate and, in several instances, misleading. Numerous works have been subjected to interpretive distortions, westernized to such an extent that their original intent is obscured, if not entirely

effaced. In this process, certain texts may be said to have been effectively “lost” through mistranslation. Compounding this problem is our estrangement from the traditional commentarial literature. Rather than serving as interpretive aids, these commentaries often appear opaque to the modern reader, sometimes rendering the texts even more inaccessible.

The one-day seminar aims to explore what types of methodology should be used for the interpretation of Indian classical texts, and what are the things we should keep in mind while interpreting philosophical texts. How do we balance the internal logic of traditional commentarial practices (*bhāṣya*, *ṭīkā*) with modern academic frameworks of interpretation. In what ways can interdisciplinary approaches enrich our reading of classical texts? How do translation practices affect the understanding and reception of classical texts in modern

academia and beyond. How can technology aid in preserving and propagating Indian philosophical ideas?

Sub-themes of the Seminar: -

- ✚ Research Methodology of Indian Philosophical Text
- ✚ Text and Interpretation: Bhartiya Gayan Parampara
- ✚ The issue of Translation in Indian Tradition
- ✚ Technology and Indian Text
- ✚ Regional Languages and Indian Text

Note- Authors/Presenters may opt other topics relevant to the seminar themes.

Guidelines for Participation:

1. The abstract (500 words) should be submitted to the Google form link: <https://shorturl.at/4Y6ZR>
2. The abstract must be in the relevant theme as detailed in the concept note.
3. Please mention your details including phone number and email in the Abstract as well.
4. Once the Abstract is accepted and selected, original full-length paper of 5000-7000 words needs to be submitted.
5. Submission of full-length paper is a mandatory requirement for presenting the paper in the seminar. Details regarding format and other aspects for the Full-length paper will be shared once the abstract is shortlisted by our committee of reviewers.
6. All submissions must be the author's original and unpublished work. Plagiarism reports of more than 10% will attract immediate disqualification. Use of generative AI can lead to rejection of the paper.
7. Selected Papers will be published as an edited volume with a reputed publisher.

8. For all queries kindly write to: email id -
icprseminar62@gmail.com

Important Dates:

- ✚ Last date of submission of abstracts: 08/09/2025
- ✚ Authors of selected abstracts will be intimated by mail by 10/09/2025.
- ✚ Last Date for submission of full-length paper: 22/09/2025.
- ✚ All authors whose papers will be accepted after scrutiny of full-length papers will be intimated by 25/09/2025.

Dr. Smita Agarwal
(Seminar Convenor)

Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science,
University of Delhi

Contact Details for any query-

Mr. Abhay Kumar Shukla +91 9818485650