



**SHREEMATI NATHIBAI DAMODAR THACKERSEY COLLEGE OF ARTS
& SHREEMATI CHAMPABEN BHOGILAL COLLEGE OF
COMMERCE & SCIENCE FOR WOMEN**

1, Nathibai Thackersey Road, Mumbai - 400 020.

Phone: 022 2209 3789, 022 2203 1879. Extn.: 1219 & 1220

www.sndtcollegemumbai.org

Email: collegemumbai@sndt.ac.in

NAAC B+ Grade (With CGPA 2.68)

Report

**16TH DR. MANI KAMERKAR MEMORIAL SEMINAR REPORT
INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS (IKS) THROUGH AGES, 7TH OCTOBER, 2023
SEMINAR OBJECTIVE**

Organized in commemoration of Dr. Mani Kamerkar. The primary objective was to highlight India's past and contribute to the widening of the academic perspective of the scholarly community as well as general enthusiasts of History and Culture.. Objectives are To develop a research culture in Mumbai and beyond.To appreciate the scientific and cultural heritage of India. NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS About 55 paper presenters plus spectators, organizers, and guests. SPEAKERS & CHAIRPERSONS OF TECHNICAL SESSIONS included

Prof. Usha Vijailakshmi, Vice-President, Asiatic Society of Mumbai

Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla, Asiatic Society of Mumbai

Dr. Kokila Joshi,

Dr. Madhavi Narsalay, Associate Professor, Sanskrit Dept., Mumbai University

Dr. Hemant Dave, Associate Professor, Sardar Patel University, Gujarat

Prof. Ganesh Thite, Bhandarkar Oriental Institute Pune

Dr. Jaswandi Wamburkar, Head of Department, History, SNDT University

Dr. Ramkumar Pradhan, Head of Department, History, SNDT College of Arts

Prof. Ruby Ojha, Pro-Vice Chancellor, SNDT University

Prof. Usha Thakkar, President, Mani Bhavan Sangrahalaya

Dr. Pradeep Waghmare, Associate Professor, Ramnarain Ruia College, Mumbai

Dr. Harpreet Kaur Jass, Associate Professor, Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi

Dr. Kishor Kajale, Associate Professor, GEIS Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Mumbai.

Dr. Prakash Masram, Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, Dombivali, Mumbai University

Dr. Manoj Mishra, Associate Professor, MD Shah Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Malad

EVENT SUMMARY

The event started at 9am with Principal Dr. Vandana Sharma giving a welcome address.

A homage to Dr. Mani Kamerkar was organized by Prof. Kokila Joshi by lighting the lamp.

Thereafter, Prof. Ruby Ojha delivered inaugural remarks on the Indian Knowledge System along with Dr. Ramkumar Pradhan, HOD History, SNDT College of Arts.

Prof. Thite delivered the Key Note Address.

Remarks by session Chairperson, Prof. Usha Thakkar.

This was followed by a panel discussion at 11 am by all invited speakers on "India Knowledge System in the Curriculum: A Prospect for Rejuvenating and Reorienting Academia?"

The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr. Suhas Chavan, Assistant Professor, SNDT College of Arts.

Parallel technical sessions were organized from 1:45 pm to 5pm.

It was followed by Valedictory session and closing remarks Prof. Kokila Joshi.

Principal (Add. Charge)
S.N.D.T. College of Arts & SCB College of
Commerce & Science for Women
New Marine Lines, Mumbai - 400 020.

Seminar Report

16th Dr. Mani Kamerkar Memorial Seminar on “Indian Knowledge Systems through the Ages” was organized by the Department of History, SNTD College of Arts & SCB College of Commerce & Science for Women, Mumbai on 7th October 2023.

The History Department successfully organized a one-day mega-seminar on a topical theme with Dr. Mani Kamerkar Memorial Trust on SNTD Women’s University’s (SNTDWU) Churchgate campus. The trust sponsored prizes awarded to various presenters at the seminar, significantly offering prizes to scholars presenting in Marathi, Hindi and Gujarati as well as in English. It also offered some contribution towards the conference expenses. The seminar convenor was Dr. Namrata R. Ganneri, Assistant Professor in History.

In the inaugural session, SNTDWU Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ruby Ojha outlined the inception of IKS in the university through the founding of the Bhartiya Gyan, Sanskrit evam Yog Kendra on SNTDWU Juhu Campus. The key-note address was delivered by the noted Sanskrit Scholar, Professor Ganesh Thite, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune. The inaugural session was graced by the presence of distinguished guest Prof. Usha Thakkar, Director, Mani Bhavan Sangrahalaya, Mumbai . Also present were Dr Kokila Joshi, Secretary, Dr. Mani Kamerkar Trust. The inaugural session was followed by a panel discussion, “ Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) in the curriculum: a prospect for rejuvenating and reorienting academia?” was chaired by Prof. Usha R. Vijailakshmi (Vice-President, Asiatic Society of Mumbai) and the distinguished panelists included Dr. Hemant Dave (Associate Professor, Sardar Patel University, Anand), Dr Madhavi Narasalay (Associate Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Mumbai University), Dr. Pradeep Waghmare (Associate Professor, Ramnarain Ruia College, Mumbai) and Dr. Harpreet Kaur Jass (Associate Professor, Department of Educational Studies, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi).

In response to the call for papers 70 abstracts were received with several researchers sending abstracts in Marathi and Hindi. Around 50 abstracts were selected for presentation at the conference. More than 30 full papers were received ahead of the seminar. In all 54 papers were read by scholars from all over India. Some of the institutions represented included Krea University (Chennai), BORI and Deccan College (Pune), Lady Shriram College (New Delhi Central Sanskrit University (Sringeri), All Saints' College (Thiruvananthapuram), REVA University (Bengaluru), Somaiya University (Mumbai) and a number of colleges and institutions from within Mumbai.

Six parallel technical sessions were held post lunch on the following themes

- (i) IKS-assumptions, models and methods
- (ii) IKS and the disciplines (vidya)
- (iii) IKS and the sciences (Vigyan)
- (iv) IKS and the arts (kala)
- (v) Engaging with Sanskrit studies
- (vi) Revisiting texts and literature (s)



Under these themes, presenters deliberated on the meaning and scope of IKS, scientific achievements of ancient Indians and tried to interpret mainstream disciplines like Psychology, Social Work and even education from the perspective of Indian knowledge traditions. There were other explorations into traditional knowledge traditions, for instance, the well-digging skills of the Mannu Vaddar/ Bhovi community in Bengaluru or even traditional architectural traditions and water management techniques. Further, many chose to re-read texts like the Milindapanha, Charudattam or even Harivamsa.

An important highlight of the event was presentations by undergraduate students, mainly from within the college. Our students presented on wide-ranging themes like role of Warkari sect, thoughts of medieval India's Amir Khusrau, Chola naval heritage and perception of Indian fashion in online gaming communities.

The seminar deliberations were wide-ranging. The chairpersons of various technical sessions drawn from various colleges and university departments of SNDT Women's University and institutions like the Asiatic Society of Mumbai was instructive and enriching for everyone attending the seminar.

The following speakers were selected for handing over prizes at the 17th Mani Kamerkar Seminar held on 16th October 2024.

ENGLISH (under 45)

I prize- Ms. Koushiki Kaledhonkar (PhD Candidate, Deccan College)- Development of the concept of Gāndharva

II prize- Ms. Sneha Nagarkar (PhD Candidate, University of Mumbai)- A Study of Select Indian Knowledge Systems as Reflected in the Text of the Harivamśa

HINDI / MARATHI/ GUJARATI (under 45)

I Prize- Ms. Gayatri Bhat (Padanyas Kathak Institute, Mumbai)- Kathak Kavitt : effective tool to preserve history and Puran stories

II prize- Mr Ajay Yadav (Postgraduate student, University of Mumbai)- प्राचीन भारतीय हवामानशास्त्राचा तत्कालीन व्यापारावर झालेला परिणाम

Senior Researcher (over 45)

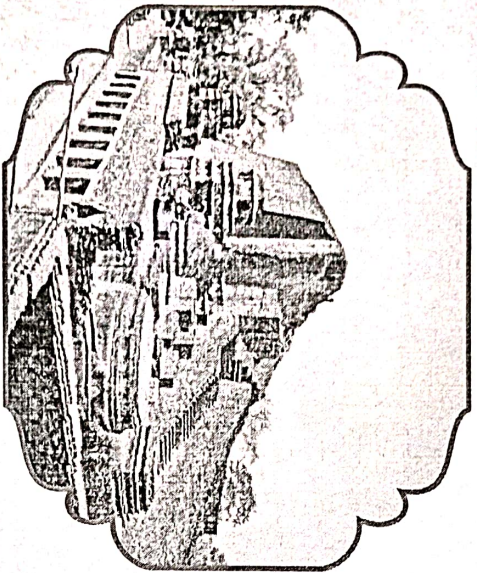
Mr Rajesh Bhayani (University of Mumbai) - Poetry assumes śilpa deha at Kailāśa temple, Elorā caves

Report prepared and submitted by Convenor, Dr. Namrata R. Ganneri, Assistant Professor in History





**S.N.D.T. COLLEGE OF ARTS,
& S.C.B. COLLEGE OF COMMERCE
& SCIENCE FOR WOMEN**

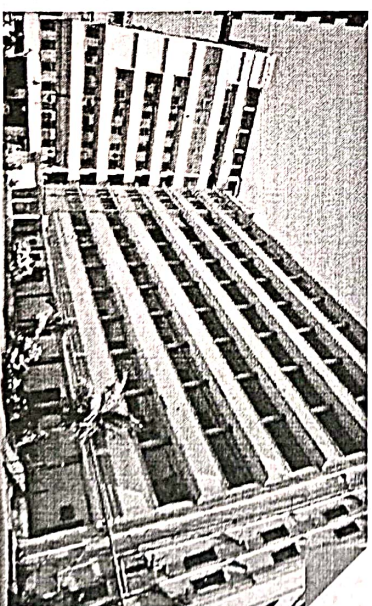


DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY ORGANISES A
NATIONAL SEMINAR ON
**INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS
THROUGH THE AGES**
UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE 16th DR. MANI
KAMERKAR MEMORIAL SEMINAR SERIES

Saturday, 7th October 2023
9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTION

S.N.D.T. College of Arts & S.C.B. College of Commerce and Science for Women enjoys the status of being the first conducted college of S.N.D.T. Women's University in Mumbai. Since its inception in 1931, the college has remained a symbol of excellence in higher education for women. The college began with an enrolment of only four students at the Kanyashala at Girgaon and slowly became a regular, full-time college. Today the college offers B.A degree in 5 languages, 6 Social Science subjects, Bachelors in Visual Art, Music and a graduate degree in Commerce, Management Studies and Information Technology.

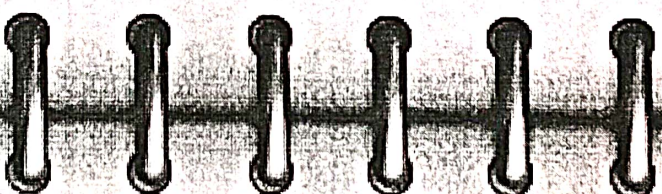


1, Nathibai Thackersey Road, Mumbai-400020
Tel: (022) 22093789
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ABOUT THE NATIONAL SEMINAR

India's continuous intellectual traditions in many domains of knowledge are comparable to the perennial flow of the river *Ganga-bhārāṭya jānāparamparā sanātana gaṅgā pravāha*. Tradition talks of 18 major vidyās, theoretical disciplines which encompass the Vedas and other sciences like astronomy, weaponry and medicine, whilst the 64 kalās, applied or vocational disciplines, range from embodied pursuits like dancing, wrestling, yogic practices to crafts like garland-making and leathework. Evidently, an astounding range of modern disciplines was represented in these disciplinary formations. In any case, the scope of ancient wisdom is immeasurable as evidenced throughout recent history in the accidental discoveries of knowledge repositories like the Bakshshai or Bower manuscript which continually expand the knowledge frontiers of the Indian tradition.

Notably, Indian tradition looks at knowledge not merely as an intellectual outcome, a body of verifiable abstraction but as an experience, as "knowing". It acknowledges knowledge formation through meditation, seeing with the "mind's eye" and deep reflection, *chintan* and *manan*.

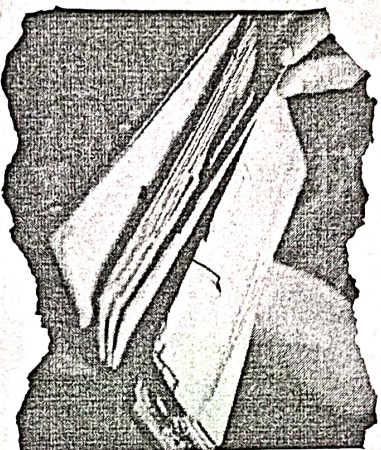


An internalised acquisition, knowledge is primarily constituted, stored, and maintained in the mind and preserved through the framework of oral culture. Orality entailed a different philosophy of knowledge, transmitted and disseminated primarily through the "apprenticeship" model, guru-shishya parampara. Knowledge resided in the teacher/ *guru/ustad* and the learner was perceived as *sādhaka*, a devotee, training akin to *tapā*, a dedication. Further, the learned and scholarly tradition which relied on accurate memorization (and thus the centrality to *smṛiti*-remembering and "the remembered" in the tradition) was continually in dialogue with the parallel popular tradition in a mutually enriching relationship. Cultural idioms recognized across large regions acted as bonds between those who subscribed to a sanskritized, mainstream culture-what was referred to as *mārga*, as opposed to *deśī* or the localized/ regional observances. The living tradition, for instance, of *Ayurveda* is an excellent illustration of the braided exchange between popular and classical traditions of healing and self-care in India.

To build on the existing models and methods of IKS, a call for research papers and abstracts from faculty, research scholars, practitioners and students from across colleges, and universities in India was sent out in April 2023.

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES

1. To understand and delineate the ways by which the perspective of IKS can be embraced by the scholarly and academic community.
2. To read, de-fossilize, translate and contextualise ancient texts in the light of contemporary societal needs.
3. Appreciate the scientific and cultural heritage of India and work towards its pedagogic integration into the curriculum.



IMPORTANT DETAILS:

- Submission of Abstracts** : 24th July 2023
Intimation of selection of Abstracts : 07th August 2023
Submission of Final Paper : 30th September 2023
- Seminar email:**
sndt.iks2023seminar@gmail.com

ABOUT DR. MANI KAMERKAR MEMORIAL TRUST

Dr. MANI KAMERKAR (October 14, 1925–October 11, 2004) was a historian and lifelong teacher and taught in various colleges affiliated to the Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey (SNDT) Women's University in Mumbai. She served as principal of Maniben Nanavati College and continued to inspire and encourage young scholars to pursue research. To honour her memory and pay tribute to her contribution to developing a research culture in Mumbai and beyond, some of her friends, colleagues, students and her family came together and formed a trust. An annual memorial seminar is one of the many activities conducted by the trust. The first such seminar was held at LNJ Mahavidyalaya, Vile Parle, Mumbai. Since then several reputed colleges have co-hosted the seminar. The Kamerkar family sponsors prizes for the best research papers presented in the seminars.

Prizes for best papers are awarded in the following categories

1. Young Researcher (below 45 years) - Two prizes for presentation in English.
2. Young Researcher (below 45 years) - Two Prizes for presentation in Hindi, Marathi and Gujarati.
3. Best Research Paper award (above 45 years) from amongst presentations in English, Hindi, Marathi and Gujarati.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS & INVITEES

- **Professor Ganesh Thite**
(BORI, Pune)
- **Professor Usha Thakkar**
(Director, Mani Bhavan, Mumbai)
- **Professor Ruby Ojha**
(Pro Vice-Chancellor, SNDTWU)
- **Professor Medha Tapiawala**
(Dean, Faculty of Humanities, SNDTWU)
- **Professor Usha Vijailakshmi**
(Vice-President, Asiatic Society of Mumbai)
- **Dr. Madhavi Narsalay**
(Associate Professor in Sanskrit, Mumbai University)
- **Dr. Hemant Dave**
(Associate Professor in History, Sardar Patel University, Anand)
- **Dr. Harpreet Kaur Jass**
(Associate Professor in Educational Studies, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi)
- **Dr. Pradeep Waghmare**
(Associate Professor in History, Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, Mumbai)

Parallel Technical sessions on the following sub-themes

1. Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS): Assumptions, concepts and methods.
2. IKS and the Sciences (vighyan)
3. IKS and the disciplines (vidya)
4. Engaging with Sanskrit studies
5. Revisiting texts and literature(s)
6. IKS and the Arts (kala)

Dr. Vandana Sharma
Principal I/C

Dr. Ramkumar Pradhan
Head, Department of History

Dr. Namrata R. Ganneri
Assistant Professor in History & Convenor

Prof. Kokila Joshi
Secretary
Dr. Mani Kamerkar Memorial Trust (Regd.)





