

## 4-day National Tutorial Workshop on Śāstric Research Methodology

Opportunities and Challenges in Indic Knowledge Research

organized by

MIT School of Vedic Sciences (SVS), MIT-ADT University, Pune, and  
Kavikulaguru Kalidasa Sanskrit University (KKSU), Ramtek, Nagpur

### Organizing Team:

- Course Designer: Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi, Vice-chancellor, Kavikulaguru Kalidasa Sanskrit University, Ramtek, Nagpur.
- Co-designer: Prof. Nagaraj Paturi, Ex Senior Professor, FLAME University, Executive Committee Member, MIT School of Vedic Sciences, Pune.
- Academic Coordinator: Prof. Madhusudan Penna, KKSU Ramtek, Nagpur.
- Organizer: Dr. Sai Susarla, Dean MIT School of Vedic Sciences, Pune
- Course Coordinator: Dr. Vaishnavi Nishankar, Faculty, MIT School of Vedic Sciences, Pune.

### Quick Summary

- Dates: Oct 20-23, 2018 – Saturday to Tuesday (4 days), 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Accommodation of the participants: MLA Hostel (Share basis), Nagpur
- Audience: Aspiring researchers and faculty in Indic knowledge studies. Admission by screening.
- Workshop fee: ₹ 6,800 (including food and accommodation), ₹ 4,300 (not including accommodation)
- Indic Academy is kindly sponsoring a limited # of student scholars to attend (based on merit & Faculty nomination)
- [Click here to register online \(https://goo.gl/forms/6KbOgK6GEQWwJBz32\)](https://goo.gl/forms/6KbOgK6GEQWwJBz32).
- Contact: [info.mitsvs@gmail.com](mailto:info.mitsvs@gmail.com) or visit <https://mitvedicsciences.com/>

### Workshop Overview

To revive India's native śāstric method of inquiry and skillfully integrate it with modern methods, MIT ADT University's School of Vedic Sciences is launching a new course called **Śāstric Research Methodology** in collaboration with Kavikulaguru Kalidasa Sanskrit University, Nagpur. This course will be delivered as an immersive workshop over 4 full days for aspiring Vedic science researchers (traditional śāstra faculty and students as well as modern-educated professionals). It will be taught by celebrated traditional scholars who are well-versed in both Indian and modern methods.

### Approach

This workshop familiarizes the audience with India's traditional method of critical inquiry and discourse, evidence-based discovery of truth, interconnectedness of various branches of knowledge, how to analyze Indic texts with fidelity to the native cultural and philosophical context of India, and how to propagate the Indic scientific discourse. Specifically, the lectures focus on the following:

- Thought process and Methodology of śāstra, not their content
- Evolution of thinking process over time in different Indic knowledge domains



- Higher-level philosophical observations more than specific textual details

## Motivation

India had its own native, robust tradition of scientific inquiry and discourse that thrived over millennia until its decline only a couple of centuries ago after the advent of British education. Its methodology of research has many features distinct from the contemporary methodology, and is based on a different but equally valid worldview and culture from the prevailing European one.

The scientific rigor and import of India's intellectual output, called the śāstras, cannot be fully appreciated without understanding their methodology and worldview. Such a study is also essential to fully unlock the value of Vedic sciences for contemporary applications. However, due to being cut off from India's native education system, modern scientific community tends to misinterpret Indic literature or disregard its śāstras as unscientific or not relevant anymore. Traditional śāstra scholars tend to focus more on preservation than on application of śāstric wisdom.

For instance, śāstras have their own method of abstracting and characterizing observed real-world phenomena called *lakṣaṇa-karaṇam*, analogous to modeling in modern sciences. However, śāstra authors emphasize fidelity to actual observations and adjusting the characterization accordingly. Their modeling is amenable to continual adaptation, which is in line with the emerging trend in modern science of data-driven analytics.

Second, modern Indologists emphasize a history-centric approach to judging the authenticity of evolution of ideas. They bring in a heavy dose of assumptions based on the cultural tendencies applicable to a European upbringing, which does not apply to Indian authors. This has led to numerous misinterpretations of Indic texts and the notion of "prakṣepa" or "later interpolations" as a way to explain away ill-understood concepts. Indian authors tend to preserve multiple views intact when referring to a subject regardless of their difference of opinion, and give more cultural value to the knowledge content than its authorship. This is often construed as plagiarism or willful insertions into texts by modern scholars doing critical editions of ancient texts.

In summary, to approach India's knowledge heritage for a rigorous scrutiny, its cultural and intellectual background needs to be understood and taken account of. There is need for modern-educated researchers to unlearn some prevailing notions and be open to a different viewpoint.

There is a need to understand the 'śāstric' research methodology to enable further access and more precise interpretation of sources of Indic knowledge, which have so far been subjected to research methods foreign and inapplicable to the Indic śāstras. When studied in this way, Indic śāstras can bring a paradigm shift to many fields with beneficial effect for our future.

## Speaker Profiles

Speaker	Affiliation	Role / Expertise Area	# of sessions
<b>Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi</b>	Vice-chancellor, Kavikulaguru Kalidasa Sanskrit University	Overall Course Design	3
<b>Prof. Kapil Kapoor</b>	IIAS Shimla	Cultural context of Indic research	1
<b>Prof. Radhavallabha Tripathi</b>	Former VC, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan	Sāhitya śāstra, Translation studies	3
<b>Dr. Vinayachandra</b>	Director, Veda Vijnana Shodha	Yoga and Psychology	1



लक्ष्मणदेवोऽप्युवाच

MIT SCHOOL OF

VEDIC STUDIES

यन्नेहास्ति न तत् क्वचित्

INDIC ACADEMY

कविकुलगुरु-कालिदास  
संस्कृत-विश्वविद्यालयः  
रामटेकम्, नागपुरम्

	Samsthanam, Bengaluru		
<b>Prof. Nagaraj Paturi</b>	Executive Committee Member, MIT SVS	Indology, Cultural context of Indic Research	3
<b>Prof. V. N. Jha</b>	Former Director, Center for Advanced Sanskrit Studies, Pune University	Nyaaya Shaastra	1
<b>Dr. M. Jayaraman</b>	Director, Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram	Yoga sūtras, Tantra yuktis	1
<b>Dr. Anant Dharmadhikari</b>	Pune	Ayurveda	1
<b>Dr. Madhusudan Penna</b>	Dean of Faculty, Kavikulaguru Kalidasa Sanskrit University	Sahitya	1

## Course Outline

We approach Śāstric research methodology along the following dimensions:

# days	Topic
1.0	<b>Inputs:</b> The sources of śāstric knowledge and how to decipher them
1.0	<b>Method:</b> Indic Approach to critical inquiry and research
0.25	<b>Outlook:</b> The role of cultural context in research, especially in śāstric tradition
0.75	<b>Output:</b> Indic Method of thesis-writing
1.0	<b>Case Studies:</b> Illustration of above concepts in specific Indic Scientific treatises
4.0	Total (@ 6 hours per day)

The Outlook: Dharma – The Cultural Context behind Indic Śāstric Tradition (0.5 day)

- भारतीय-जीवन-पद्धतिः, पुरुषार्थ-आलम्बित-जीवनम् (Prof. Kapil Kapoor)

The Inputs: How to Decipher Saṃskṛt Knowledge Sources (1.5 days)

- Resources for Research – Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi
- Translation Studies – Prof. Radhavallabha Tripathi
- Śruti and Smṛti Paramparā – Prof. Madhusudan Penna

The Method: Indic Approach to Inquiry (1 day)

- Western – Prof. Nagaraj Paturi
- Indic Research Methodology – Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi

The Output: Indic Method of Discourse – Thesis-writing (0.5 day)

- Tantra yukti – Dr. M. Jayaraman
- Anubandha catuṣṭaya – Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi

Case Studies of Indic Treatises (1.5 days)

- Pāṇini Aṣṭādhyāyī
- Sāhitya-Śāstra and Nāṭya-śāstra (Prof. Radhavallabha Tripathi)
- Ayurveda - Dr. Ram Manohar, Amrita University



लक्ष्मणपुरी पदसंयुक्त

MIT SCHOOL OF

VEDIC STUDIES

यन्नेहास्ति न तत् क्वचित्

INDIC ACADEMY

कविकुलगुरु-कालिदास  
संस्कृत-विश्वविद्यालयः  
रामटेकम्, नागपुरम्

## Workshop Schedule

Time Slot	Speaker	Activity
<b>Day 1 – Saturday Oct 20, 2018</b>		
09.00 – 09.25am		Inauguration
09.30 – 10.00am	Shrinivasa Varakhedi	Orientation and Objectives
10.00 – 11.00am	Kapil Kapoor	Session 1.1: Role of Cultural Context in Research in general, and śāstric research in particular
11.00 – 11.15am	<i>Break</i>	
11.15 – 12.45pm	Radhavallabha Tripathi	Session 1.2: Translation studies
12.45 – 2.00pm	<i>Lunch and Rest</i>	
02.00 – 3.30pm	Radhavallabha Tripathi	Session 1.3: SRM Case Study: Sāhitya and Nāṭya Śāstras
03.30 – 3.45pm	<i>Break</i>	
03.45 – 5.15pm	Radhavallabha Tripathi	Session 1.4: Future directions in Śāstra Research: Advice to Young scholars
<b>Day 2 – Sunday Oct 21, 2018</b>		
09.30 – 11.00am	Nagaraj Paturi	Session 2.1: Western vs. Indic Approach to Research
11.00 – 11.15am	<i>Break</i>	
11.15 – 12.45pm	Shrinivasa Varakhedi	Session 2.2: Śāstric Research Methodology 1 – Avenues
12.45 - 2.00pm	<i>Lunch and Rest</i>	
02.00 – 3.30pm	Shrinivasa Varakhedi	Session 2.3: Śāstric Research Methodology 2 - Approaches
03.30 – 3.45pm	<i>Break</i>	
03.45 – 5.15pm	Shrinivasa Varakhedi	Session 2.4: SRM Case study: Panini Aṣṭādhyāyī & its thought process
<b>Day 3 – Monday Oct 22, 2018</b>		
09.30 – 11.00am	Nagaraj Paturi	Session 3.1: History of Indological studies
11.00 – 11.15am	<i>Break</i>	
11.15 – 12.45pm	Nagaraj Paturi	Session 3.2: Critique of Western Approach to Indological Studies
12.45 - 2.00pm	<i>Lunch and Rest</i>	
02.00 – 3.30pm	V N Jha	Session 3.3: Śruti and smṛti paramparā
03.30 – 3.45pm	<i>Break</i>	
03.45 – 5.15pm	M. Jayaraman	Session 3.4: Indic method of thesis writing: Tantra Yuktis
<b>Day 4 – Tuesday Oct 23, 2018</b>		
09.30 – 11.00am	Madhusudan Penna	Session 4.1: Lexicography - Western Dictionaries vs. Saṃskṛt kośas
11.00 – 11.15am	<i>Break</i>	
11.15 – 12.45pm	Vinaya Chandra	Session 4.2: SRM Case Study: Yoga and Psychology
12.30 – 2.00pm	<i>Lunch and Rest</i>	
02.00 – 3.30pm	Anant Dharmadhikari	Session 4.3: SRM Case Study: Ayurveda
03.30 – 3.45pm	<i>Break</i>	
03.45 – 4.45pm	All	Session 4.4: Q&A on Suggested Research Topics
04.45 – 5.15pm	Valedictory Function	



लक्ष्मणस्य चतुर्विंशत्युत्तमः

MIT SCHOOL OF

VEDIC STUDIES

यन्नेहास्ति न तत् क्वचित्

INDIC ACADEMY



कविकुलगुरु-कालिदास

संस्कृत-विश्वविद्यालयः

रामटेकम्, नागपुरम्

## Target Audience

- Research scholars and advanced gurukula students proceeding to undertake research work (M. Phil, Ph.D and Post-doctoral Fellowship) in a field based in Indic śāstras
- Independent researchers and free lancers who wish to enlighten themselves about the śāstric research methodology and enhance their research potential in Indic śāstras as a result
- Faculty members of Universities and colleges who have embarked or wish to undertake major/minor research projects in contemporary application of Indic knowledge
- Participants of post-graduate courses (regular and certificate) offered by MIT SVS

## Participant Criteria

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent in a modern or Vedic discipline, OR equivalent level in gurukula education
- Proficiency in spoken Saṃskṛt, exposure to concepts of Nyāya, basic vyākaraṇa and Mīmāṃsa
- Written statement of purpose (SoP) indicating specific area of research interest in śāstras in either English or Saṃskṛt
- Phone interview based on SoP (at the discretion of the organizers)

## Terms of Participation

- This tutorial workshop is intended for those with demonstrable research intent. Certificates of participation in the workshop will be provided only subject to full-time participation in the workshop.
- The workshop is an opportunity to brainstorm on the subject of śāstric research, which is rarely discussed in forums dealing with similar topic of discussion.
- Each topic is discussed at length by the subject expert, with appropriate references and demonstrations and the participants get ample opportunity to interact with the subject experts in each of the topics.
- The participants will get exposure to institutions, sources and networks that will aid in their research further.

## Participation Fee

- The suggested fee for the workshop is ₹ 6,800 which includes food and accommodation on twin shared basis (available from night of 19<sup>th</sup> Oct to evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. This does not include cost of travel to and from the workshop venue.

## How to Register

- [Click here to register online \(https://goo.gl/forms/6KbOgK6GEQWwJBz32\)](https://goo.gl/forms/6KbOgK6GEQWwJBz32). scan the QR code with your mobile camera and visit the site.
- Once we receive your form, you will be asked to write a short *Statement of Purpose* indicating your background and interest in Indic knowledge research.
- When shortlisted, you will be asked to pay the workshop fee online.
- Upon receipt of payment, you will be notified of confirmed registration. Make your travel arrangements.



Alternatively,

*Purpose*