

## EDITORIAL

The International Journal of Bharatiya Knowledge System (IJBKS) is an annual multidisciplinary journal published by Vidya Bharati Uchcha Shiksha Sansthan. IJBKS is a research based academic journal that aims to bring forth and create a repository of quality work, in the fields of social sciences, literature, sciences, cultural studies and more, that relate to Bharatiya knowledge tradition. Bharatiya knowledge system is a vast reservoir of knowledge and accumulated wisdom that defines the identity of Bharat's people, their social practices and the norms that govern their way of life.

Bharatiya knowledge tradition is a living tradition that is resilient, continuous and notable for spill over impact into every aspect of life of people of Bharat. But there have been strategic attempts with Mughal and British invasions to create narratives leading to a complete discontinuation of seeing Bharat as a living and thriving geo-cultural entity. Even young stakeholders do not have knowledge about the great economic power of the nation as it used to be the biggest economy of any region in the world for most part of 1<sup>st</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century CE. These distortions have continued even in post-colonial times with attempts to sabotage the attempts to revisit and revitalize Bharat's ancient cultural and philosophical glory. In the contemporary global context, there exists a significant opportunity for Bharat to solidify its position on the world stage through a reinvigoration of its ancient knowledge systems, including the Vedas, Upanishads and Puranas.

This knowledge tradition has longstanding impact on the thoughts of scholars not only in Bharat but across the world particularly because of its innate quest for sustainability and seeking welfare of all. India's ancient scholars extolled the notion of 'वसुधैवकुटुम्बकम्' meaning the whole world is one family in *Maha Upanishad*. Alongside this, the idea envisaged in the *Mahopanishad*- 'एकम सत् विप्रः बहुधा वदन्ती' meaning the truth is one which the sages have narrated in different forms, is the cornerstone of Bharatiya way of understanding the world and the universe. Such ideas, over the time, have evolved into value systems, beliefs, customs and rituals based on an understanding of nature and the universe, scientific knowledge and sustainable living. To add to this, there is a thriving and consistent knowledge oeuvre that has contributed to both the academic and traditional understanding of economic principle, political ideas, traditional sustainable theories, Vedic mathematics, scientific processes in Bharat.

It is in this context, that Vidya Bharati Uchcha Shiksha Sansthan has launched this multidisciplinary journal that will work towards tracing, documenting, and taking forward the intellectual and civilizational legacy of Bharat, and contribute to the academic resurgence and relevance of Bharatiya knowledge system. The inaugural issue of the journal has ten article contributions from different fields such as economics, chemistry, mathematics, medicine, ecology, linguistics, education and environment. The first paper by S.K Sharma, "Plant-World in Hindu Consciousness" focuses on the plant-world to indicate how a Hindu treats the so-called inanimate object like a plant/ tree respectfully by keeping a focus on the Vedantic

ideas. The second paper by Munim Kumar Barai, “Indian Elevation as a Global Economic Power and the Integration of Its Knowledge System for Development”, discusses the elevation of India as a great global power and how the old Indian Knowledge can be used to solve some pressing issues for further development. The third paper by Rabi Narayan Kar and Amanpreet Kaur, "An Understanding of Bharat's Mandir Arthvyavस्था – Synthesizing Resource Allocation and Growth”, delves into how the *arthvyavस्था* of mandirs in Bharat shaped resource allocation and underscores the huge impact ancient mandirs had on the socio-economic framework of the subcontinent, now known as Bharat. The fourth paper by Sanjeev Kumar Ningombam and Rituparna Hazarika, “Ancient Remedies: Exploring the Traditional Medicine Systems of Northeast Indian Tribes”, explores the traditional medicine systems practiced by indigenous people and community of Northeast India, focusing on their ancient remedies and medicinal practices. The fifth paper by Raj Kishore Sharma, “Unveiling the Ancient Secrets of Rasa Shastra: The art of transforming Metals into Medicine”, summarizes the entire process of turning metals into medication by using contemporary science to explain the antiquated practices. The sixth paper by P. Sreekumar, “Bharatiya Knowledge System and the Higher Education Reform in Bharat”, focuses on reforming Bharat’s higher education system with the integration of the Bharatiya Knowledge tradition that will decolonize the Indian mindset. The seventh paper by Swati Ranjan Choudhary and Amit Soni, “British Economic Policies and India's Suppressed Industries”, discusses Indian economic philosophy, and the developed economy before the British rule, and then systematic deterioration of the economy due to the British policies. The eighth paper by Neha Sharma, “Eco-philosophy and Environmental Ethical Concerns in the *Upaniṣad*”, explores the fundamental thought of ancient India particularly Upanishadic ideology from environmental perspective, where human is not at the centre and hence do not have any authority to exploit nature. The ninth paper by Ankita Sharma and Anuj Sharma, “Significant Contribution of Ancient Bhartiya Mathematician towards Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”, highlights the Indian contributions to mathematics, science and technology that have a lasting impact on the field, influencing mathematicians and scientists over the worldwide, and consequently proving that the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is deeply imbibed among the Indian mathematicians. The last paper of the issue by Anju K. Ojha and Pawan K. Dhar, “Rethinking education: Why ancient wisdom might be the future?”, focuses on the ancient wisdom of the Bhartiya (Indian) Knowledge System to propose a framework for educating the next generation of learners.

With these rich multidisciplinary contributions, this inaugural issue of IJBKS heralds a pioneer focus on different dimensions of Bharatiya knowledge system in the Indian research arena which till now has entirely been centred on documenting and analysing western achievements in cultural, economic, scientific and literary fields.