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# Pūrṇam

## A Journal of Indian Knowledge Systems

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Portraying the attempts of scholars and scientists.....

..... to understand the contributions of Bharatiya Heritage and SAINTists

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Patrons' opening message

### Nurturing IKS

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[Founders, Bharath Gyan, Patrons: Pūrṇam]



#### Background

The term IKS for Indian Knowledge System is soon becoming a Buzz word in India in both academic circles as well as traditional circles. It is something that many who have an Indic interest have been aspiring for, since ages.

It is finally here, thanks to the push given by the Government of New India.

But what are the various facets associated with IKS?

How is it relevant in modern times?

How can it reach all?

This article is a probe into the world of IKS to discover and understand where we stand today with regards to IKS and what is required from all of us to get to where

*"IKS becomes a part of Us."*

#### IKS – Its Facets

The buzz word for this new India is IKS aka India Knowledge System. If, many millennia ago it was Veda, which stood for the compendium of knowledge, for the years to come, it is going to be IKS which encompasses knowledge of all forms, from all regions, in all formats and for all purposes, from across all over India, through the times.

This IKS has multiple facets to it ranging from being viewed as

- the knowledge for an Individual's personal growth to
- the knowledge for a Nation / Civilization's development to

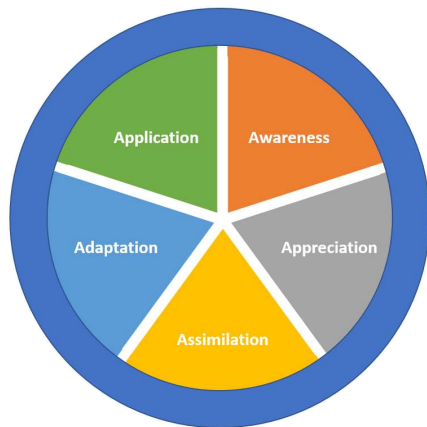
- the knowledge for Humanity for sustenance of mankind and the world around.

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## Stages of IKS

IKS could be divided into five stages, represented by a wheel from A to A. Standing where we are today, at the crossroads of Modernity and Tradition, if we look at IKS, we will see that it has to cross the following stages to evolve into a robust system.

1. Awareness to
2. Appreciation to
3. Assimilation to
4. Adaptation to
5. Application.



*Wheel of IKS Showing 5 Dimensions And 5 Focus Areas for Nurturing IKS*

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## The Dependencies and Evolution

It all starts with gaining awareness of IKS.

Unless one is aware of IKS, no one is going to take any step towards IKS.

From this Awareness, can grow Appreciation to spend time and effort on IKS.

It is Appreciation that will evoke respect and need for Assimilating IKS into one's knowledgebase and repertoire.

It is only after this stage can the mind start thinking about what to do with this new found but traditional knowledge. It will start finding ways to use it to meet current day situations and that is when Adaptation will start.

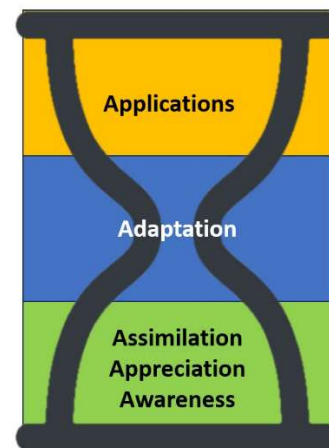
This Adaptation will have to then mature into a process and lifestyle, for it to become a wide spread Application for society and Mankind eventually.

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## The Impacts on Society

The phenomenon of IKS which has transcended time to come this far, interestingly will also touch people in an hourglass manner.

1. Those dabbling in IKS at the levels of Awareness and Appreciation will be large.
2. Those using and enjoying benefits from Applications of IKS, will also be large.
3. Whereas, those working with IKS to invent, innovate, inspire will be fewer in number.



It will be for each of us to decide where we want to position ourselves with regards to IKS and hence what we want to do with IKS and with ourselves to be there.

Each of these dimensions will thus give rise to its own audiences, will develop its own needs and face its own set of challenges in meeting them. Hence, it cannot be a one size fits all solution or approach towards nurturing IKS.

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## Larger Goals of IKS

These may be depicted as the 5-fold path towards adoption of IKS as an innate and integrated way of doing things indigenously, not just by Indians but by mankind all over. For, if there is one message that stands out in IKS, it is that of

“Think Global, Act local”

Which manifests in the form of the maxim

*Vasudaina Kutumbakam,*

where one lives with one's immediate family but considers the world as one's extended family.



*The 5-Fold Pointers Driving The Bharath Gyan Endeavour Across Decades*

## Potential of IKS

### Yoga – A Case In Point

The last few decades of 1900s saw exponential growth of Yoga, fundamentally a part of IKS. It has spread world over. It has entered the vocabulary of most world languages culminating in International Yoga Day being accepted by a record number of over 180 countries in the UN resolution.

From thereon, it has made further strides as an Indian Knowledge shared with the world for its beneficial values.

### IKS – The Next Buzz Word

Similarly, IKS over the next few decades and more is poised for a similar exponential growth within India and the world over.

## Indian Contributions Through Ages

IKS has shaped the world continuously for millennia in different forms, in the fields of

- Matter and Mind
- Hard and Soft
- Subtle and Gross.

Albeit the waning of the influence of IKS in the couple of centuries due to its repression in India, in Colonial times and post-colonial times, with the dawn of New India, IKS is all poised to rise again to share its benefits with the locals as well as globally for mankind at large.

## Nurturing The IKS Wheel of Dependency

For this to happen however, India will have to ensure equal attention to all the different dimensions of IKS, as each feeds the other and supports the other. Attention to the entire chain will ensure that the wheel of IKS can rotate on an even keel and roll in the right direction.

## The Knowledge Tree

India has always represented Knowledge in the form of a Big Banyan Tree with all its roots hanging down to represent transfer of knowledge from generation to generation.

But does such a vast Banyan tree stand alone, under the Sun?

Are not its branches home to various kinds of winged beings – allegorical to real, single to pairs, insects to bees?

Does not its wide spread foliage offer shade to various animals, from the innocuous frog to large quadrupeds?

Do not its roots go wide and deep underground in search of water pockets?

Is it any wonder than Man has also found this tree ideal to sit under, in bliss?

Each of these beings benefitting from the Big Banyan tree denotes a beautiful aspect of the traditional Indian Knowledge System which is what we chose to represent on the cover of our online book on IKS and development of such an associated ecosystem. Available for a more detailed read online at <https://bharathgyan.com/mb-iks-atoa/>.