



# भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (भारतीय खनि विद्यापीठ), धनबाद Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad

For Immediate Release-February 25, 2026

## PRESS-RELEASE

### **National Conference on Ancient Indian Text, Science and Technology Inaugurated at IIT (ISM)**

The three-day *National Conference on Ancient Indian Text, Science and Technology* commenced today at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad with a grand inaugural ceremony held at the Golden Jubilee Lecture Theatre (GJLT). The conference, scheduled from February 25–27, 2026, is sponsored by ICPR and ANRF and jointly organized by the Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems and the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad.

The inaugural session began with the traditional lighting of the lamp, marking the formal opening of the conference. Delivering the welcome address, Prof. Gyan Prakash, Head of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences and Convenor of the conference, extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests, scholars, researchers, and participants from across the country. He emphasized the importance of revisiting ancient Indian knowledge traditions in the context of contemporary scientific and technological discourse.

The session was presided over by **Prof. Sukumar Mishra**, Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. In his presidential address, Prof. Mishra highlighted the enduring relevance of ancient Indian texts and underscored the conceptual clarity embedded in traditional knowledge systems. Elaborating on foundational concepts, he explained that *Gyan* signifies knowledge, *Vigyan* refers to the analytical understanding of knowledge, and *Prodyogiki* represents applied science. He further noted that when *Vigyan* (science) translates into tangible economic outcomes and societal benefits, it assumes the form of *Praudyogiki*. He stressed that Indian knowledge systems have historically integrated philosophy, science, and application in a holistic framework.

The Chief Guest, **Prof. C. D. Sebastian, IIT Bombay**, delivered a thought-provoking lecture titled “*Sāṅkhya Thought and Modern Science: Convergence in the Ancient Indian Text Sāṅkhya Kārikā.*” He drew parallels between classical Sāṅkhya philosophy and modern scientific thought, demonstrating how ancient metaphysical inquiries resonate with contemporary scientific frameworks.

The Guest of Honour, **Swami Kripamayanand Avadhut**, reflected on the intrinsic relationship between spirituality, religion, and science. He highlighted how ancient Indian traditions perceive science not in isolation but as harmoniously connected with spiritual wisdom and ethical living.

The inaugural ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Prof. Sruti Kanungo, Co-Convenor of the conference, who expressed gratitude to the dignitaries, sponsoring agencies, organizing committees, and participants for their contributions to the successful launch of the conference. A group photograph of dignitaries and participants followed the session.

The post-inaugural technical sessions featured keynote addresses and scholarly deliberations on themes such as Buddhist medical practices, Indian philosophical traditions, cosmology, circular consumption, and the scientific foundations of classical texts, reflecting the interdisciplinary spirit of the conference

Conference Schedule

The conference will continue over the next two days with keynote lectures, thematic sessions, panel discussions, and a cultural programme, bringing together eminent academicians and researchers to explore the intersections of ancient Indian texts, science, and technology.

Rajni Singh

**Dean (Corporate Communications)**