

About Ladakh

Ladakh is a high altitude mountainous region bounded by the Karakoram Range from the north and the Great Himalayas in the south. Often described as 'Moonland' on account of the unique lunar landscape, Ladakh abounds in awesome physical features set in an enormous and spectacular environment. For close to a millennium, the region was an independent mountain kingdom of strategic importance. Leh, the royal capital, was a major crossroads of Asia and a stopping point on the ancient migration routes of the trans-Himalayas, connecting Central Asia with the Indian sub-continent. From here, the old caravan routes led westward through Kashmir to the Silk roads, northward across the Karakorum Pass to Central Asia, eastward across the Chang-thang highlands to Tibet and China, and southward through present-day Himachal Pradesh to the plains of India. Many migrants have traveled through Ladakh, some settling on the way, giving a distinctive characteristic to its population - from the west, early Dard settlers and later day invaders from Baltistan; from the east, Tibetan settlers, invaders and rulers; from the north, traders from Yarkand; and much later, Dogra conquerors from Jammu in the south.

About University

The University of Ladakh was established in 2019 and is the only trans-Himalayan institute of higher learning and research in the region. The University has its headquarters in both Leh (Taru Thang), Kargil (Khumbathang) and maintains campuses at both locations, including two agricultural campuses under the School of Agriculture Sciences & Technology (SAS&T) in Stakna Leh and Kurbathang Kargil. It also has six constituent colleges.

The University offers a range of core and applied academic programs. Additionally, it provides specialized courses and research opportunities focused on the Himalayan, trans-Himalayan, and South and Central Asian regions—subjects that are not commonly offered in other universities across the country.

Serving students from various schools and colleges across the vast Ladakh region—spanning over fifty thousand square kilometers—the University of Ladakh plays a crucial role in regional educational development. The University launched its first academic programs in 2020 with ten postgraduate (Master's) degree programs across its campuses. Since then, it has regularly introduced new programs. Currently, the University offers 52 courses, including academic and professional programs, as well as agriculture and horticulture courses at SAS&T Leh and Kargil.

To promote research, the University also offers Ph.D. programs in various disciplines. It is committed to providing students with the opportunity to reflect on life, realize their potential, and excel in higher education.

We firmly believe that the University of Ladakh will play a transformative role in the development of our region and the country in the years to come. Through our commitment to education, research, and social impact, we aim to shape a better future for our society. Our confidence in our academic programs and our dedication to public service continue to motivate us to work tirelessly and with determination.

How to Reach Leh Campus – University of Ladakh

The Leh Campus of the University of Ladakh is located in Taru Thang, approximately 20 kilometers from Leh town, on the Leh-Kaygil road (NH1). Leh is well-connected by air and road.

By Air:

- Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport (Leh Airport) is the nearest airport, located about 18 kilometers from the University campus.
- The airport has regular flights from major Indian cities such as Delhi, Srinagar, Jammu, and Chandigarh.
- Taxis and local transport are easily available from the airport at the Airport.

By Road:

- From Srinagar: Leh is about 420 kilometers from Srinagar via the Srinagar-Leh Highway (NH1). The road is open from May to November, depending on weather conditions.
- From Manali: Leh is around 470 kilometers from Manali via the Manali-Leh Highway, which is typically open from June to October.

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University of Ladakh

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Research Frontiers and Opportunities in Indian Knowledge Systems

(Two-Day Workshop cum Conference)

18-19 September 2025

Organisers:

University of Ladakh

In Collaboration with:

IKS Center of Excellence, IIT (BHU), Varanasi
Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR-DRDO), Leh, UT Ladakh
National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh, UT Ladakh
Mahabodhi International Meditation Center, Leh, UT Ladakh
Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust, Leh, UT Ladakh
Central Institute for Buddhist Studies – Leh, UT Ladakh

Link for Registration

<https://forms.gle/U56bbo4f2VyjBKF98>



Background

Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) represent a vast and ancient repository of intellectual, scientific, and cultural wisdom developed over millennia. Rooted in texts like the Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, and classical works on Ayurveda, Yoga, Astronomy, Mathematics, and Philosophy, IKS encompass holistic approaches to life, health, governance, and sustainability. Traditions such as Ayurveda (medicine), Nyaya (logic), and Sthapatya Veda (architecture) demonstrate advanced scientific thought, while epics like the Mahabharata and Ramayana embed ethical and spiritual teachings. IKS emphasize interconnectedness between humans, nature, and cosmic order, offering sustainable solutions to modern challenges. With growing global interest in traditional knowledge, IKS are being revisited for their relevance in ecology, medicine, and AI-driven research. Recognizing their value, the Indian government has initiated efforts to integrate IKS into education and research under the NEP 2020.

Ladakh, with its unique cultural, spiritual, and ecological wisdom, offers a rich perspective within the IKS framework. The region is home to the Amchi system (Sowa Rigpa), a traditional Tibetan medical practice known as the "Science of Healing." Amchis, or traditional healers, use herbs, minerals, and spiritual methods for treatment, and this system has been recognized by the Indian government under AYUSH, integrating it with modern healthcare. In sustainable agriculture and water management, Ladakh showcases remarkable indigenous techniques. The Zing system involves traditional water harvesting using glacier meltwater, while the Chumpa system ensures fair water distribution in scarcity-prone areas. Farmers cultivate indigenous crops like apricots, apples, and seabuckthorn, adapted to the cold desert climate, and practice organic farming without chemical fertilizers, relying instead on compost and crop rotation.

Ladakh's traditional philosophy and education are preserved in monastic institutions like Thiksey, Hemis, and Diskit, where Buddhist philosophy, astronomy, and medicine are taught. Knowledge is also transmitted through oral traditions, including storytelling, chants, and rituals. The region's rich handicrafts and indigenous art include world-famous Pashmina wool from Changthangi goats, sacred Thangka paintings, and intricate metal crafting of ritual objects like singing bowls and statues.

The Tibetan Lunar Calendar plays a crucial role in agriculture and festivals such as Losar (New Year), while Ladakh's clear skies make it ideal for traditional stargazing and astronomical observations. The region's ecological wisdom is evident in its low-impact lifestyle, maintaining harmony with its fragile ecosystem. Sacred lakes like Pangong Tso and Tso Moriri hold spiritual significance, reinforcing conservation efforts.

Traditional sports such as archery and polo remain deeply rooted in Ladakhi culture. Additionally, traditional dairy and animal farming practices include the use of dri (female yak) and cow milk to produce chhurpi (hard cheese) and butter tea. Pashmina goats are reared for their prized wool, while yaks serve as vital sources of transport, milk, and meat in high-altitude regions. Through these diverse practices, Ladakh exemplifies the depth and relevance of Indian Knowledge Systems, offering timeless wisdom for sustainable living in harmony with nature.

This two-day workshop aims to bring together scholars, researchers, and practitioners to discuss emerging research frontiers, interdisciplinary opportunities, and innovative methodologies for studying and applying IKS in modern contexts.

Aim and objectives:

The workshop aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on the exploration, preservation, and application of Indian Knowledge Systems in academia, policy-making, and sustainable development.

1. To identify key research areas and contemporary relevance of Indian Knowledge Systems.
2. To explore interdisciplinary approaches for integrating IKS into modern scientific and humanities research.
3. To discuss challenges and opportunities in documenting, validating, and disseminating IKS.
4. To facilitate networking among researchers, institutions, and practitioners working on IKS.
5. To propose policy recommendations for the inclusion of IKS in education and research frameworks.

Proposed Themes

1. Traditional Medicine & Holistic Health Systems
2. Sustainable Ecology & Indigenous Resource Management
3. Astronomy, Mathematics & Scientific Heritage
4. Philosophy, Ethics & Governance in IKS
5. Education, Oral Traditions & Knowledge Preservation
6. Indigenous Arts, Craftsmanship & Cultural Continuity

Expected Outcomes

1. Stock taking of existing knowledge
2. Identification of research gaps and future directions in IKS.
3. Developing a research network / consortium on IKS activities.
4. Publication of Workshop Proceedings / special journal issue.
5. Policy paper to government.
6. Increased awareness and engagement among young researchers in IKS studies.



Format of the Abstract

Abstracts of 250-300 words in PDF and Word file to be sent to the email id: conference@uol.ac.in

Poster presentation:

Poster size 2.5ft(W) x 3.5ft(L). The poster should include the title, authors' names, affiliations, introduction, materials and methods, results and conclusion.

Online mode:

Only selected abstracts will be considered for online presentation based on their merit.

Awarding Certificate

Certificates will be awarded to the paper presenters and participants attending all the sessions of the Conference and have submitted conference fee.

Best Oral/Poster presentation shall be awarded with prize
1st Prize: Rs. 5000 | 2nd Prize: Rs. 3000 | 3rd Prize: Rs. 2000 and Certificate.

Important Dates

Conference Dates : 18-19 September, 2025
Last date for submission of abstract : 31 August, 2025

Registration

Spot registrations are available on the conference day for the participants on payment of Cash. Online registration is also available.

Registration Fee

NGOs and other Institutes : Rs. 1000	Faculty Member: Rs. 500
Research Scholar: Rs. 300	Students: Rs. 200

Mode of Payment

Registration fee can be paid through RTGS/Google Pay. Cash will be paid at the time of Registration.

Name of Beneficiary: **Symposium/Conference**

Name of the Bank: **J & K Bank Ltd**

Account No: **0773040520000003**

Branch: **SNM Hospital, Leh, Ladakh**

IFSC: **JAKA0SNMLEH**

MICR Code: **194051002**

SWIFT Code: **JAKAINDBSRI**

Travel and Accommodation

No TA/DA will be provided by the organizers. As Ladakh is a popular tourist destination, outstation participants are advised to book their accommodation (hostels/hotels) well in advance due to the heavy tourist influx during the tourist season.