

REPORT

Event: Online Lecture Series on Indian Knowledge Systems (Lecture – 2)

Organised By: Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS), Netaji Subhas Open University

Topic / Presentation Title: *The Empirical Heritage: Mapping Scientific Inquiry in the Indian Knowledge Systems*

Date & Time: 23rd July, 2026 (Thursday) , 08:00 PM

Mode of Session: Online (Zoom Platform)

Speaker: Dr. Puspall Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, School of Sciences & Member, Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Netaji Subhas Open University

Attendance: 78+ Participants



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS
Organises

Lecture Series (Online) on
Indian Knowledge Systems
Lecture - 2

*The Empirical Heritage: Mapping Scientific
Inquiry in the Indian Knowledge Systems*

SPEAKER
Dr. Puspall Mukherjee
Department of Chemistry & Member,
Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems,
Netaji Subhas Open University

DATE
23rd July, 2026, Thursday

TIME
08:00 PM

Zoom Link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83628278639>

1. Summary

The Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS) at Netaji Subhas Open University successfully conducted the 2nd Lecture of its ongoing online lecture series on Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) on July 23, 2026. The session, titled "The Empirical Heritage: Mapping Scientific Inquiry in the Indian Knowledge Systems," was delivered by Dr. Puspall Mukherjee.

The primary objective of the session was to reframe the historical perception of ancient Indian knowledge traditions; demonstrating that these systems are not merely mystical or speculative beliefs, but are deeply grounded in systematic empirical observation, logical reasoning, and evidence-based methodologies.

2. Opening Remarks

During his opening remarks, the speaker highlighted the mission of the Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CKIS) at NSOU and informed the attendees that this second lecture marks an ongoing academic journey, with several academic sessions planned under the aegis of CIKS.

3. Technical Highlights of the Presentation

i) The Methodological Framework of Scientific Inquiry

Dr. Mukherjee stressed that ancient Indian scholars developed robust epistemological frameworks (*Pramana Shastra*) to investigate physical and natural phenomena.

ii) Distinguishing Empirical Heritage from Dogma

A major focus of the lecture was the necessity of separating authentic, evidence-based traditional knowledge from popular myths, misconceptions, and unverified assumptions. The speaker demonstrated that classical disciplines such as metallurgy, chemistry, and astronomy to medicine (*Ayurveda*) and grammar advanced specifically because scholars challenged dogma through empirical testing and logical debate (*Vada Vidhi*).

iii). Practical Experience vs. Uncritical Belief

The lecture underscored that ancient Indian technological and scientific achievements (such as corrosion-resistant metallurgy, precision surgery, and predictive celestial mathematics) were not accidental, but the direct result of practical experience, tool development, and systematic classification of matter.

4. Outcomes

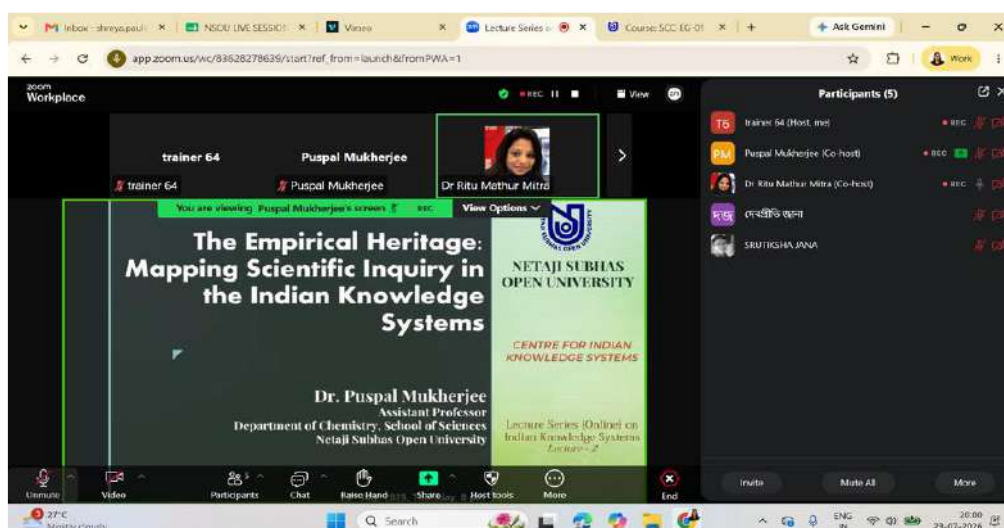
The session established several takeaways for the multidisciplinary audience such as

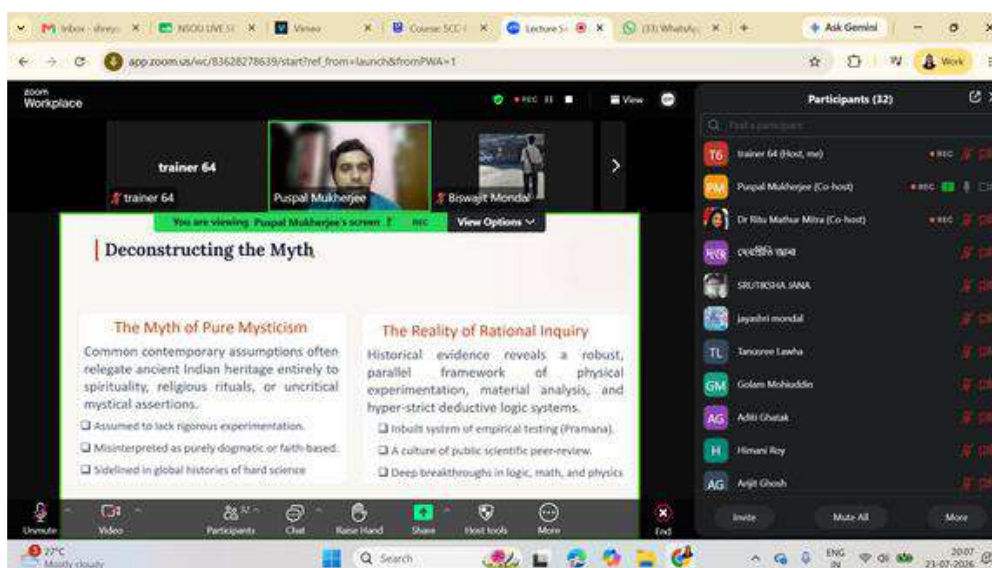
- **Scientific Depth of IKS:** Indian Knowledge Systems represent a rigorous, evolving continuum of empirical observation rather than a static repository of ancient scripture.
- **Interdisciplinary Relevance:** Bridging classical Indian frameworks with contemporary sciences (e.g., modern chemistry, materials science, and language theory) opens new avenues for innovation and research.

5. Question-Answer Session

A number of relevant questions were posed by the participants and the discussion that ensued was very fruitful.

The speaker concluded by thanking the students for their active participation.





Report Prepared by Dr. Puspall Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, School of Sciences & Member, Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Netaji Subhas Open University