



Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems Netaji Subhas Open University

Established By Act (W.B.Act (XIX) of 1997 and Recognized by U.G.C. & RCI)

Accredited By NAAC with Grade 'A' (1st Cycle)

Website: www.wbnsou.ac.in

Memo No: IKS/ 6

Date- 09/07/2025

Event Report

One-Day International Seminar on Indian Knowledge Systems

Organized by: Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), Netaji Subhas Open University

Date: 30th June 2025

Venue: Subhas Chandra Sabhaghar, NSOU HQ, Salt Lake, Kolkata

Attendees: NSOU Faculty members, Some Officers and staff members and registered participants (Online and offline) = 51

Background and Objectives

To mark the formal establishment of the *Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)* at Netaji Subhas Open University, the University organized a One-Day International Seminar on 30th June 2025 titled **"The Timeless Wisdom of Indian Knowledge Systems: Bridging Ancient Insights with Modern Innovations."**

The seminar aimed to:

- Officially inaugurate the Centre for IKS and present its vision and mission to the academic community.
- Introduce the intellectual and cultural significance of Indian Knowledge Systems to a diverse group of scholars, students, educators, and policymakers.
- Provide scholarly insight into the relevance of IKS in the context of contemporary education, research, and public policy, particularly in light of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- Inspire interdisciplinary academic engagement on integrating traditional Indian knowledge with modern fields of inquiry.
- Emphasize the role of open and distance learning in the dissemination and preservation of India's traditional knowledge heritage.

On the occasion of the formal establishment of the *Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)* at Netaji Subhas Open University, a One-Day International Seminar was organized on 30th June 2025. The central theme of the seminar was *"The Timeless Wisdom of Indian Knowledge Systems: Bridging Ancient Insights with Modern Innovations."*

Inaugural Session

The seminar commenced with the arrival and registration of the participants. The proceedings were smoothly conducted by Smt. Priyanthi Bagchi, the organising secretary of the seminar and Assistant Professor of Economics, NSOU, who served as the compere of the day.



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The formal inauguration of the Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems took place with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Professor Indrajit Lahiri. This solemn moment was accompanied by the felicitation of distinguished guests, signifying the University's commitment to reviving and integrating traditional Indian knowledge with contemporary education.



Following this, the **Welcome Address** was delivered by Professor Ritu Mathur Mitra, Coordinator of the Centre for IKS and Professor of History, NSOU, who outlined the objectives and vision of the Centre.



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A **Special Address** was presented by Professor Debi Prosad Nag Chowdhury, Professor in Education, NSOU, who provided valuable insights into the foundation and purpose of the IKS Centre within the context of the National Education Policy 2020.



The **Keynote Address**, titled “*The Desecularisation of Reason: Bhatta Jayanta on the Aim of Nyaya*”, was delivered by Dr. Nilanjan Das, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto, Canada. His scholarly presentation bridged ancient philosophical discourse with modern-day epistemological reflections. In his insightful keynote lecture, Dr. Nilanjan Das, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto, examined the historical transformation of Nyāya, a classical Indian school of logic and epistemology, with a special focus on the 9th-century philosopher Bhaṭṭa Jayanta. His talk titled “*The*



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Desecularization of Reason” argued that Jayanta redefined the purpose of Nyāya from a general science of rational inquiry to a theological defence of Vedic authority.



Dr. Das began by tracing the evolution of Nyāya from its foundational text, the Nyāyasūtra (c. 2nd century CE), which had two central aims:

1. As a domain-neutral science of rational inquiry (ānvikṣikī), assisting disciplines like economics, governance, and Vedic studies.
2. As a spiritual discipline (adhyātmavidyā) aiming at self-realization and liberation.

Early commentators such as Vātsyāyana and Uddyotakara maintained this dual role, seeing Nyāya both as a tool for argumentation and as a path to spiritual truth.

Dr. Das concluded that Jayanta’s work marked a significant rupture within the Nyāya tradition:

- The tradition transitioned from a secular, critical enterprise to a theistic, doctrinal defence.
- Nyāya’s role as a tool for general intellectual development was narrowed to protecting religious orthodoxy.
- This transformation was both philosophical and political, reflecting broader anxieties about faith, authority, and social cohesion in medieval India.



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The **Presidential Address** was given by Professor Indrajit Lahiri, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of NSOU, who emphasized the importance of institutionalizing Indian Knowledge Systems within the framework of open and distance learning.



The inaugural session concluded with a **Vote of Thanks** by Dr. Puspall Mukherjee, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, NSOU.



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Technical Sessions

After lunch, the seminar resumed with three thematic technical sessions:

Theme I (2:00 PM – 2:30 PM):

“Indian Knowledge Systems or Systems of Knowledge in India? Concepts and Connections with Sustainable Development Goals”

Speaker: Dr. Nilendu Chatterjee, Assistant Professor of Economics, Bankim Sardar College, University of Calcutta.

- In his invited lecture, Dr. Nilendu Chatterjee, Assistant Professor of Economics at Bankim Sardar College and Master Trainer in IKS (MoE, GoI), explored the conceptual richness and contemporary relevance of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS). He emphasized that IKS is not a singular framework but an interconnected body of knowledge evolved over centuries across disciplines such as philosophy, medicine, agriculture, architecture, and governance. Dr. Chatterjee highlighted that these systems are deeply rooted in the Indian socio-cultural context and offer sustainable, eco-centric solutions that align with many of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He argued that ancient Indian practices like Ayurveda, organic farming, water conservation techniques, and architectural principles rooted in Vaastu Shastra are not only scientifically viable but also environmentally sustainable. The lecture addressed how IKS can meaningfully contribute to development models in the Global South by integrating traditional wisdom with modern science. Dr. Chatterjee also cautioned against romanticizing the past, emphasizing the need for critical evaluation, robust



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policy support, capacity-building, and documentation to preserve and scale these systems.

By bridging ancient insights with present-day developmental needs, his lecture called for a renewed academic and institutional focus on IKS as a viable tool for achieving inclusive, sustainable progress in contemporary India and beyond.

Theme II (2:30 PM – 3:00 PM):

“The Science of Ayurveda: Exploring Bharat’s Traditional Wisdom”

Speaker: **Dr. Alok Kumar Singh**, Assistant Professor of Zoology, Ramjas College, University of Delhi.

- In his enlightening lecture, Dr. Alok Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor at Ramjas College, University of Delhi, and Master Trainer (IKS Division, MoE), explored the holistic principles of Ayurveda and its enduring relevance in the modern world. He emphasized that Ayurveda perceives health as a harmonious balance of the mind, body, and soul, likened to a tripod, as mentioned in the *Charak Samhita*. Unlike the modern medical model that often focuses only on disease absence, Ayurveda advocates a three-dimensional view of health encompassing physiological, psychological, and spiritual well-being—a view remarkably aligned with the World Health Organization’s definition of health. Dr. Singh also highlighted how this ancient science integrates lifestyle, environment, and consciousness, offering sustainable models for healthcare. He called for the revival and integration of Ayurvedic wisdom into contemporary health education, urging academic institutions to promote holistic health literacy rooted in Indian Knowledge Systems.

Theme III (3:00 PM – 3:30 PM):

“Chakravala Algorithm and its Application to Solve Diophantine Equation”

Speaker: **Mr. Sayantan Roy**, Assistant DPI, Education Directorate, Bikas Bhawan, Kolkata.

- In his lecture, Mr. Sayantan Roy, Assistant DPI (WBES), Education Directorate, Government of West Bengal, presented a fascinating exploration of ancient Indian mathematical ingenuity through the lens of Diophantine equations, particularly the Pell’s equation. Tracing its roots to what was historically known in India as *varga-prakṛti*, Mr. Roy emphasized that solving such equations has been a hallmark of Indian number theory for centuries.

The lecture focused on the groundbreaking contributions of Indian mathematicians such as Brahmagupta, Jayadeva, Bhaskaracharya II, and Narayan Pandita, highlighting their work on finding integral solutions to equations of the form $x^2 - Ny^2 = 1$. Mr. Roy elaborated on Brahmagupta’s *Bhāvana* method and primarily on the Chakravala method developed by Bhaskaracharya II—an elegant cyclic algorithm that significantly advanced the field.

Importantly, he demonstrated how these ancient methods are not only mathematically robust but also superior in efficiency when compared to later European approaches to solving the same class of problems. Mr. Roy’s lecture served as a testament to the



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scientific sophistication of Indian Knowledge Systems, advocating for their deeper integration into modern mathematical education and research.

All the deliberations were supplemented with reasonable and resourceful PPT slides.

Discussion and Conclusion

A brief **discussion session** was held, where scholars, faculty members, and participants engaged in meaningful exchanges on the interdisciplinary relevance of IKS.

The programme concluded with a final **Vote of Thanks** by Dr. Manoj Kumar Halдар, Associate Professor of Political Science, NSOU.

Report prepared by

Arijit Ghosh

Assistant Professor of JMC & Member, Centre for IKS



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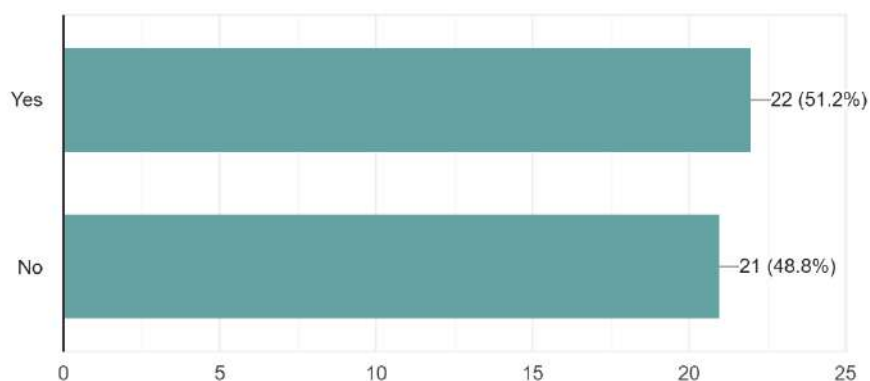
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Feedback Session

Feedback forms were collected from the participants. Excerpts from a few questions along with graphical representations are provided below:

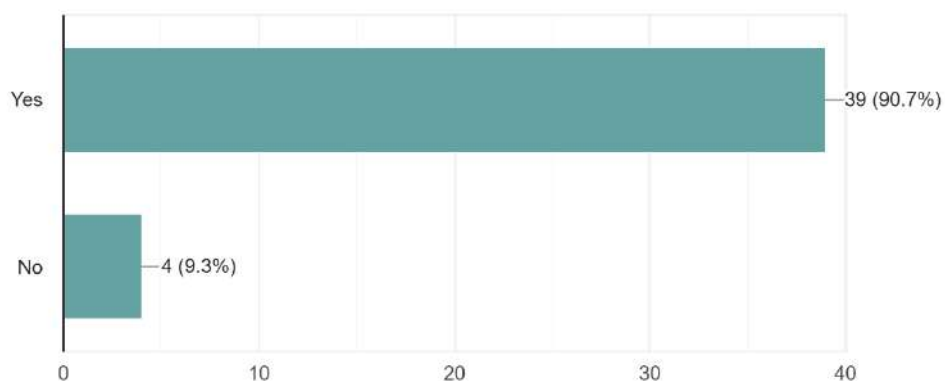
Have you attended such a seminar before?

43 responses



Was there any value addition after attending this seminar?

43 responses





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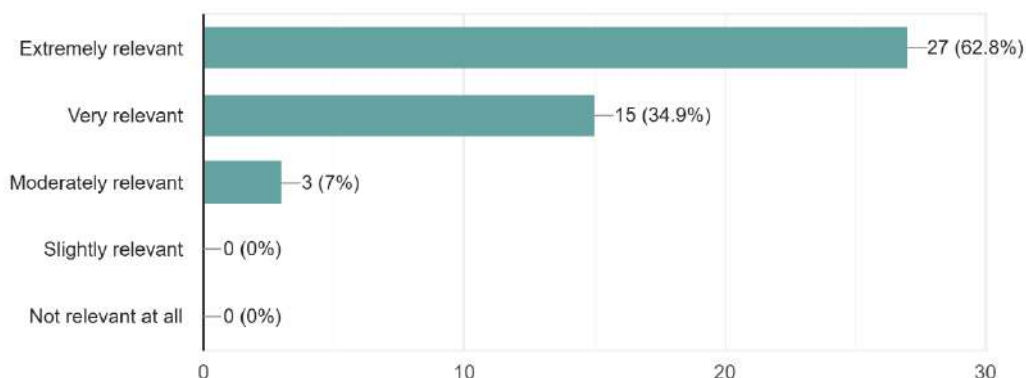
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How relevant was the content of the seminar to your academic/professional interests?

43 responses



Key Takeaways from the Seminar on Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)

- Profound Understanding of IKS**
Participants appreciated the depth and antiquity of the Indian Knowledge System, highlighting its holistic nature and rich insights derived from texts like the *Vedas*, *Upanishads*, and *Nyaya Shastra*.
- Interdisciplinary Integration**
The seminar offered valuable insights into the integration of diverse disciplines such as natural sciences, linguistics, mathematics, Ayurveda, ethical philosophy, and governance within the IKS framework.
- Relevance to Modern Education and NEP**
Several participants emphasized the relevance of IKS in today's academic and societal context, particularly its alignment with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP). Many expressed interest in exploring ways to incorporate IKS into their curriculum.
- Applications in Contemporary Society**
The seminar showcased how ancient Indian wisdom can inform sustainable development, technology, and modern innovation, thereby bridging tradition with modernity.
- Encouragement for Future Learning**
The sessions sparked curiosity among participants, with many expressing a desire to explore the subject further and delve deeper into the allied areas of IKS.
- Enriching and Insightful Experience**
Most feedback reflected high appreciation for the content and delivery of the seminar.



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Words such as “*excellent*,” “*informative*,” “*valuable*,” “*wonderful*,” and “*insightful*” were commonly used to describe the experience.

7. Need for Interdisciplinary Collaboration
The seminar stressed the importance of collaborative research and cross-disciplinary approaches to promote and preserve Indian Knowledge Systems.
8. Personal and Professional Impact
Participants noted that the seminar enhanced their understanding and would positively influence both their academic journey and professional engagements.

Media Coverage -The event was widely covered by Bengali dailies

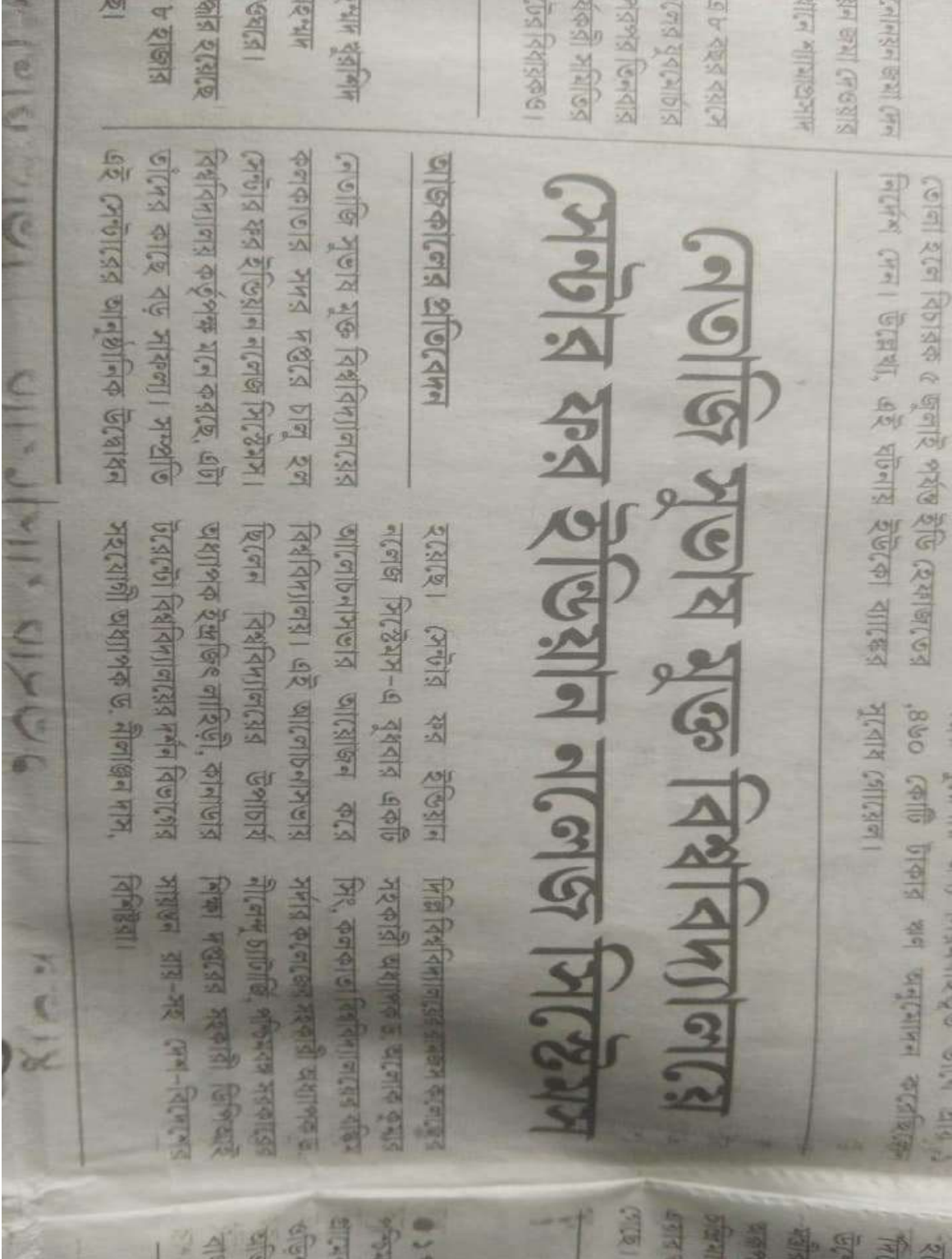
এনএসওইউ-এ ইন্ডিয়ান নলেজ সিস্টেম সেন্টারের উদ্বোধন



পূর্বের কলম প্রতিবেদক: সোমবার নেতাজি সুভাষ ওপেন ইউনিভার্সিটির (এনএসওইউ) সল্টলেক ক্যাম্পাসে ইন্ডিয়ান নলেজ সিস্টেম শীর্ষক এক আন্তর্জাতিক সেমিনার অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। এ দিন এনএসওইউ-এর ক্যাম্পাসে 'সেন্টার ফর ইন্ডিয়ান নলেজ সিস্টেম'-এর আনুষ্ঠানিক উদ্বোধন হয়।

এ দিনের সেমিনারে উপস্থিত বিশিষ্ট ব্যক্তিবর্গ হেরিটেজ, ট্রেডিশন সিস্টেম সহ ন্যাশনাল এডুকেশন পলিশির বিভিন্ন বিষয়গুলি আলোকপাত করেন।

উপস্থিত ছিলেন কানাডা টরোন্টো ইউনিভার্সিটির অধ্যাপক নীলাঞ্জন দাস, দিল্লি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রামযশ কলেজের অধ্যাপক ড. অলোক কুমার সিং, বঙ্কিম সরদার কলেজের অধ্যাপক ড. নীলেন্দু চ্যাটার্জি, অ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট ডিপিআই সায়ন্তন রায়। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃপক্ষ জানিয়েছে, আগামীতে নেতাজি সুভাষ মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ইন্ডিয়ান নলেজ সিস্টেমের অন্যতম সেন্টারে পরিণত হবে। এ ছাড়া ছিলেন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের উপাচার্য ইন্দ্রজিৎ লাহিড়ী সহ কমিটির অন্যান্য সদস্যরা।





angbadpratidin.in



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Date 03 Jul, 2025



নতুন উদ্যোগ

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার : সম্প্রতি সল্টলেকে নেতাজি সুভাষ মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের প্রধান দপ্তরে আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে সূচনা হল 'সেন্টার ফর ইন্ডিয়ান নলেজ সিস্টেমস'-এর (আইকেএস)। ওই অনুষ্ঠানে আন্তর্জাতিক সেমিনার 'দ্য টাইমলেস উইজডম অফ ইন্ডিয়ান নলেজ সিস্টেমস : ব্রিজিং অ্যানসিয়েন্ট ইনসাইস উইথ মডার্ন ইনোভেশনস' আয়োজিত হয়। ছিলেন কানাডার টরন্টো বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধ্যাপক ড. নীলাঞ্জন দাস, দিল্লি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রামযশ কলেজের অধ্যাপক ড. অলোককুমার সিং, বিকাশ ভবনের অন্যতম কর্তা সায়ন্তন রায়। অনুষ্ঠানে হাজির ছিলেন নেতাজি সুভাষ মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের উপাচার্য ইন্দ্রজিৎ লাহিড়ী, অধ্যাপক অরিন্জিৎ ঘোষ-সহ অন্যান্যরা।



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The Wall

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প্রথম পাতা >

জাতীয় শিক্ষানীতি মেনে নেতাজি
মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে চালু সেন্টার
ফর ইন্ডিয়ান নলেজ সিস্টেমস

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সেন্টারের সূচনার মাধ্যমে সরকারি এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টি