IKS Center Proposals Program 2021-2022

Application and Instructions

Website for proposal submission: iksindia.org

Dates to Remember

Proposals Due by	February 5, 2022
Awards Announced	End of February 2022
Funding Available	Middle of March 2022
Progress Report Due	March 1, 2023
Review of the project	End of March 2023
Final Report Due	March 31, 2024

About IKS Division

Home to the oldest continuously living civilization of the world, the Indian subcontinent has been a knowledge and manufacturing powerhouse of the world for most of the known history. A Dharmic culture that emphasized the development of all dimensions of humanity with an emphasis on living in harmony with oneself, one's environment, and the universe at large. It is becoming very apparent from the recent developments around the world that the current models of development are unsustainable and are in serious conflict with nature. The rising inequalities in the modern world point to a dire need for new paradigms of development.

There is an Indian way that is both sustainable and strives for the welfare of all. The grand vision for the IKS Division of Ministry of Education at AICTE is to initiate a process of training generations of scholars who will show the 'Indian way' to the world. If we want to become the Knowledge Leader in this century and be the 'Viśvaguru', it is imperative that we regain a comprehensive knowledge of our heritage and demonstrate the 'Indian way' of doing things to the entire world. Therefore, the IKS Division of Ministry of Education at AICTE has been established with a vision to ***promote interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on all aspects of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), update and disseminate IKS knowledge for further innovations and societal applications.***

<u>**Functions of IKS division**</u>:
1) Facilitate and coordinate IKS based/related inter and transdisciplinary work done by various institutions in India and abroad including Universities, institutions of national importance, R&D laboratories and different ministries and inspire private sector organizations to engage with it.
2) Establish, guide and monitor subject-wise interdisciplinary research groups comprising of researchers from institutes, centers and individuals.
3) Create and promote popularization schemes.
4) Facilitate funding of various projects and develop mechanisms to undertake research.
5) Make Policy recommendations wherever required for the promotion of IKS.

Overview of the IKS Center Proposals Program

The IKS Centers program is designed to encourage and fund the establishment of IKS centres across the country with a view to catalyze original research, education and dissemination of the IKS knowledge. The goal of the IKS centers is to act as a catalyst for initiating research, education, and outreach activities in various parts of the country. The IKS activities are currently dispersed around many places in the country. There is a strong need to establish centers in the country in traditional schools and STEM educational institutes to focus these efforts. This initiative will address this critical need.

Available Funding: The funds available to support the IKS Centers are discretionary funds provided by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India to support the activities of the IKS Division. The level of funding available for the program each year is determined by the MoE, Govt. of India. The IKS cell will establish IKS centers across the country with a funding level of up to 20-40 lakhs over two years.

Goal for Funding IKS Centers: Our goal is to make catalytic grants that encourage original, serious, and deep scholarly research in the Indian Knowledge Systems to rejuvenate IKS research in India. ***Each IKS center is expected to focus on a minimum of two and maximum of four thematic areas. <u>Proposals to establish generalized centers without identifying focus areas is highly discouraged and will not be funded.</u>*** Funding research that may eventually lead to practical products or practices or leads to solutions to current societal problems is the top priority. ***Involving students, younger faculty with an aim to train and nurture next generation of scholars is highly encouraged.***

Nature of Support: Each IKS cell will be supported with funding for the manpower (Research fellows, project associates and interns), supplies, facilities and miscellaneous expenses. This funding is expected to jump-start the IKS activities in the newly established cells and prepare them to apply for competitive research funding, training, and mentoring interns, and conduct faculty development programs.

Focus Areas: The proposals for IKS centers are expected to select two-three of the following areas of interest to the IKS Division.

1. Chaturdasha vidyas of traditional IKS systems
2. Updavedas (Ayurveda, Dhanurveda, Gandharvaveda)
3. Darshanas (All twelve including 6 astika and 6 nastika darshanas)
4. Shastras (Nyaya, vyakarana, krishi, Shilpa, Vaastu, Natya, Sangeeta, Jala, khani, among others)
5. Sahitya and avadhana kala
6. Holistic medicine and wellness
7. Indian psychology and consciousness studies
8. IKS based approaches to the economics and political systems

9. IKS based approaches on Knowledge paradigms
10. Mathematics and astronomy of India
11. Observational astronomy and calendar systems
12. Ship building, navigation and maritime traditions
13. Chemistry of dyes, pigments, chemicals used in India
14. Mensuration in IKS
15. Architectural engineering, Vaastu and Shilpa shastra
16. Sustainable agriculture and food preservation methods
17. IKS Approaches for development and management of water resources
18. IKS approaches to conserve biodiversity and ecological protection
19. Novel materials, metallurgy and material sciences
20. Preservation and documentation of manuscripts

IKS Center Evaluation: The success of the IKS centers will be monitored through quarterly phone calls to the principal investigators (PIs), and yearly reports on the activities of the centers. The project outputs will be updated on the IKS cell website to help disseminate the results among the IKS community. The metrics to evaluate the performance of the IKS centers will include the number of project proposals submitted, research papers published, publications in peer-reviewed literature, popular articles, student training and mentoring, faculty development workshops, monographs, and textbooks published in addition to other appropriate metrics which will be communicated to the PIs in advance. ***IKS Division reserves the right to discontinue funding if there is no satisfactory progress (as indicated by an independent expert review) in any IKS Center after the first year.***

Proposal Eligibility Criteria/Preparation and Submission Instructions

The IKS is inviting proposals from institutions working in the Indian Knowledge Systems. Faculty members in any Govt. recognized educational institutions (private/public) are eligible to apply. **Independent researchers without an institutional affiliation, NGOs, Private trusts, and foundations <u>are not</u> eligible to apply.** Funding best research is our priority. When proposals are similarly scored, we give preference to assistant professors, associate professors, and professors (in that order). **An institute can submit only one proposal.**

1. The IKS center Proposal(s) should focus on 2-3 thematic areas that are important to IKS's research mission.
2. Joint, interdisciplinary projects are preferred, and encouraged.
3. The maximum award will be Rs. 20-30 Lakhs over a period of two years. The project must be **completed before 31st March 2024** unless an extension is granted.
4. **Proposal deadline is 11:59 p.m. February 5, 2022, and must be submitted through online portal (iksindia.org) only**. Any other form of submissions will not be considered. *Late proposals will not be accepted for any reason*. Awards will be announced, and funds will be available in early March 2022.
5. Progress reports are due 1st March 2023. The research carried out in the project will be reviewed at the end of one year by a committee. Future grants will be made only upon favourable recommendations.
6. Final reports are due 31st March 2024. Besides a detailed report, IKS division requests that a no more than 300-word layperson language summary (Suitable for publicly posting on the webpage) and several photos of your work be submitted with each report. These may be used in IKS's annual report or on our website.
7. Failure to follow these proposal guidelines will result in your proposal not being reviewed or funded
   - Please use the proposal template provided. If you use the version at the end of this document, you will need to adjust pagination and margins.
   - Use the signature page provided and make it a separate page in your document.
   - Complete the cover page provided. Make it a separate page in your document.
   - The proposal body should not be more than ten (10) pages long. Please write your proposal in clear simple language and cite no more than twenty (20) references. Do not list references unless you cite them.
   - Use 1-inch margins on all sides, single line spacing, at least 11-point font.
   - If you use page numbers, place them at bottom center.
   - A complete proposal includes the following separate documents (as pdf only):
     - Document 1: cover page
     - Document 2: Proposal narrative
     - Document 3: Budget page
     - Document 4: PI and coPI resumes
     - Document 5: PI signature and institutional approval pages
   - Each of the document files must be <10MB.

- Once your proposal is finalized, save as a PDF file using this naming format YOURLASTNAME_IKS_CENTERS.

8. Submission Process
    - Please visit the IKS Division website and fill the details here: iksindia.org
    - Upload your PDF proposal files (<10 MB) and then press the submit button
    - If your submission has been successful in the web system, a notification will be sent within two days informing you of the successful submission. If you submitted a proposal but do not receive such notice, please contact the IKS.

9. Budget Distribution:
    - A total of 20-40 Lakhs will be available for funding the IKS Centers over two years would be sanctioned in two installments.
    - Proposals proposing more than the budget limit will be returned without review and automatically excluded from the review process.
    - Funding will be provided to support the following
        - **Salary** for project personnel/project associates/research fellowships/internships. PI or Co-PI salaries/honorariums are NOT supported.
        - **Supplies:** includes equipment with an individual piece value less than ₹10,000, i.e. ten temperature sensors or chemical bottles at ₹1000 each are still considered to be supplies. Any service charges for the analysis of samples can be included in this budget head.
        - **Equipment/Facilities:** Any non-consumable item with a single piece value of ₹10,000 or over is considered equipment. Please note that construction of new facilities (Brick and mortar) is not allowed in this project. Acquisition of resource such as books are acceptable under this budget head. Purchase of computers/laptops/printers are allowed only under extraordinary circumstances with strong justification and explicit approval from the IKS Division.
        - **Travel and conferences:** Any travel and related expenses to attend domestic conferences within India are allowed in this grant. International travel is explicitly not allowed. The PI's must plan on attending the Annual IKS Symposium/conference. The maximum allowable travel and conference expenses are 5% of the total budget.
        - **Contingencies:** Maximum contingency allowed is 5% of the total budget.
        - **Overhead:** Maximum overhead allowed is 5% of the total budget.
    - Matching grants: While not mandatory, institutional support through matching grants or any other financial or in-kind support is encouraged to leverage the scant resources of the IKS division. Please indicate monetary and in-kind support from other sources for this project.

10. Review Process
   - We will follow a blind peer review process.
   - All proposals will be reviewed by multiple independent experts.
   - The rating criteria that will be used by the reviewers are given below.
   - There will be a presentation before an expert committee for final selection.
   - The PIs will receive the average scores for their proposal, the reviewer comments. The minimum cutoff score for the selected proposals will also be shared in the interest of academic integrity and transparency.
11. Please direct any questions to team IKS(coiks@aicte-india.org).

Proposal Rating Criteria

The following criteria will be used by the reviewers of your proposal to evaluate and rank your proposal against others. Please think about these questions carefully and answer them clearly in your proposal using the proposal structure specified.

- Is this IKS Center's mission focusing on the themes **relevant** to IKS Division's mission and focus areas? (20 points)
- Are the IKS Center plans and goals clearly stated and **understandable**? (10 points)
- Does the proposed center have a **clear research plan** for conducting research that addresses **significant** problem or potential? (10 points)
- Will the results of this study be **useful**? Might they **make a difference**? (15 points)
- Does the proposed center have **a clear education plan**? (10 points)
- Does the proposed center have **a clear mentoring plan** for students and younger faculty? (10 points)
- Will the results be **communicated** to appropriate audiences? (5 points)
- Does the proposed **budget seem appropriate** for the work to be executed in the project? (5 points)
- Does the PI and the team have necessary **competence, prior experience and expertise** to undertake the proposed research in the proposed topic? (15 points)

Strength of the proposal (up to 100 words): Please list the specific strengths of the proposal.

Weakness of the proposal (up to 100 words): Please list the specific weaknesses of the proposal if any.

NOT withstanding the weaknesses do you think that there are some specific reasons due to which the project may still be considered for support?

Summary Statement (up to 100 words): Please indicate whether this proposal should be supported or not.

Further guidance on proposal preparation

Considerations in preparing your proposal:

1. The charge of the IKS is to support **research in Indian Knowledge Systems** that will make meaningful contributions to the furtherance of IKS.

2. A good proposal will emphasize how the proposed research is intended to contribute towards the IKS's mission either in the near future (applied) or by leading to developments further in the future (basic). Simply satisfying curiosity or compiling data for a refereed paper will not be in the interest of the IKS Division and will not impress the reviewers.

3. Clear communication is the key: Proposals that clearly specify the contribution of the research will be scored higher.

4. Because conveying the results of research to potential users is important, requesting funds for defraying costs of such activities is permitted.

5. We do not fund acquisition or construction of facilities (bricks and mortar). Requests for equipment needed to carry out proposed research are permitted. The proposal must describe your need and specify how the equipment will be used in this specific research. Funding will not be provided to better equip your laboratory or facilitate other work.

6. Your reviewers are primarily people who may have only a minimal familiarity with the details of your specialized field. Please write your justification, objectives, procedures, and impacts such that a person with a limited background in your area can understand what you are saying – like talking with your next-door neighbor. A proposal that reviewers cannot readily understand is likely to be poorly rated and not funded.

7. While it may be easy for you to cut-and-paste material from another proposal when preparing your IKS proposal, your proposal will be rejected if it is obvious that you have done so. Even if you borrow phrases or ideas (NOT cut and paste) ensure that you proofread your proposal to remove any telltale dates, timelines or references that could serve as a cut and paste "giveaway."

8. Research that is original and innovative tends to be favored. If appropriate, describe to what extent your proposed study fits this description.

9. Future funding is difficult to predict but tell us how the results of your research might help lead to future grant funding from other sources.

10. Please keep in mind that funds to finance this research are limited. We will make a call on the number of proposals to be funded based on the availability of funds.

11. Be sure the reference citations in your text match those in the reference section and be sure you include only twenty (20) references. This is a test of ability to count. Be sure to remove "ghost" references – a citation listed in the text but not the reference section. Web links to general background information may be included in the text for reader edification purposes. These will not count against your ten-reference limit, but please do not use web links to journal articles.

12. If you intend to use IKS project funds in concert with other funding to complete a project, be sure to thoroughly describe the other funding source(s) and amount(s) on your budget page. Reviewers are interested in knowing about funds leveraging possibilities.

THE INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS DIVISION OF MoE @ AICTE

COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM – 2021-2022

2022 IKS PROPOSAL COVER PAGE (not included in page limit)

Proposal title:

Lead Researcher

    Name:

    Email address:

    Phone number:

    Academic rank:

    Appointment type:

    Physical work location:

    Academic home department:

Co-PI(s) (if any):

Cooperator(s) (if any):

Project Budget Amount:

I certify that I will lead the project and complete all the tasks outlined in the proposal. I certify that a complete project report will be submitted at the end of the project and the funding support from IKS Division of MoE @AICTE will be acknowledged in any publication resulting from this work.

Principal Investigator

_____

                                                                      Date

Principal Investigator Printed Name:

2021-22 IKS PROPOSAL BODY *(Ten--page limit; Proposals that exceed the word limits for individual sections will be returned without review)*

Overview of the project (250 words): What is the project about? Describe the project idea here. What are the focus areas for this IKS Center?

Contribution to the IKS Mission (250 words): How does this project contribute to the IKS Division's mission? How does this address IKS Division's mission?

Justification (500 words): Please provide a justification for the project and its importance.

Objectives and timelines (250 words): Please provide a clear list of specific objectives for this IKS Center. Two-Four objectives are reasonable for this RFP. Clear and specific objectives will be given higher weightage.

Project Intellectual merit (250 words): What is the intellectual merit of this project? Please clearly specify the scientific impact of the project. What are the scientific questions that will be addressed under the proposed research?

Project broader impacts (250 words): What are the broader (Societal, economic and environmental impacts? How will this center contribute to popularization of IKS?

Outputs and outcomes of the proposal (250 words): What are the outputs and outcomes of the project? Please prepare a list of specific outcomes and outputs. DO NOT use paragraphs to describe the outputs/outcomes.

Procedures (1000 words): Please provide a summary of the procedures that will be used in this project. A brief summary of the procedures is all that is required with adequate references to literature.

Education plan (250 words): How do you plan to educate students about IKS area? What are the specific plans for educating students in the proposed areas of focus for this IKS center? Please be specific about the proposed activities.

Mentoring plan (500 words): Mentoring next generation of scholars is a high priority for IKS Division. What are your mentoring plans for the project associates, students and interns who will be involved with this center? Please be specific about the proposed activities.

Communication Dissemination plan (250 words): How do you plan to disseminate the results from your center to school/high school/undergraduate students? How do you plan to reach general public? How will you promote the IKS among the general public? Please be specific about the proposed activities.

Project team expertise (250 words): Please tell us about the prior experience of the PI and the CoPIs in the proposed topic. What are the facilities available to the team to perform the research work outlined in the proposal? Expertise existing with each of the investigators in terms of preliminary results, to execute every component of the proposal should be highlighted.

Specific roles of Co-PI(s) and Cooperator(s), if listed on cover page (250 words): What are the specific roles of the team members? The team must include substantial contribution from all members. If the proposal contains more than one investigator, it is important to clearly mention the role of each Investigator in implementing the objectives of the proposal.

Timelines (100 words): Indicate timelines for project tasks and schedule of activities giving milestones through BAR diagram.

References cited (Twenty maximum; *not included in the page limit*):

2021-22 IKS BUDGET *(not included in the page limit – please round all figures to nearest hundred rupees)*

NOTE: Please do not exceed the Rs. 40 Lakhs per project limit. Proposals proposing more than the budget limit will be returned without review and automatically excluded from the review process.

Salaries: Include the salaries for the research fellows/project associates in this project. PI or Co-PI salaries/honorariums are NOT supported.

Supplies: includes equipment with an individual piece value less than ₹10,000, i.e. ten temperature sensors or chemical bottles at ₹1000 each are still considered to be supplies. Any service charges for the analysis of samples.

Equipment/Facilities: Any non-consumable item with a single piece value less than ₹10,000 or over is considered equipment. Please note that construction of new facilities (Brick and mortar) is not allowed in this project. Acquisition of resource such as books are acceptable under this budget head. Purchase of computers/laptops/printers are allowed only under extraordinary circumstances with strong justification and explicit approval from the IKS Division.

Travel and conferences: Any travel and related expenses to attend domestic conferences within India are allowed in this grant. International travel is explicitly not allowed. The PI's must plan on attending the Annual IKS Symposium/conference. The maximum allowable travel and conference expenses are 5% of the total budget.

Contingencies: Maximum contingency allowed is 5% of the total budget.

Overhead: Maximum overhead allowed is 5% of the total budget.

Total:

Other funding sources (if any): List any other funding sources that may be used for this work. List funding amount available from these sources. Please indicate monetary and in-kind support from other sources for this project.

Resume Format *(Do not exceed two pages for each investigator. The resumes are not included in the page limit)*

1. Name:
2. Correspondence Address:
3. Email:
4. Contact Numbers:
5. Institution:
6. Academic Qualification:
7. Work Experience (in chronological order)
8. Professional Recognition/Award/Prize/Certificate, Fellowship.
9. Peer Reviewed Publications
10. Details of Patents (If any):
11. Books/Reports/Chapters/General Articles etc.
12. Ongoing/completed Projects during the last 5 years:
13. Your competence to undertake this project (Maximum 500 words):
14. Any other information (Maximum 500 words):

Certificate from the Investigator
(not included in the page limit)

Project Title:

It is certified that

1. The same project proposal has not been submitted elsewhere for financial support.

2. I undertake that spare time on equipment procured in the project will be made available to other users.

3 I agree to submit ethical clearance certificate from the concerned ethical committee, if the project involves field trails/experiments/exchange of specimens, human & animal materials etc.

4. The research work proposed in the scheme/project does not in any way duplicate the work already done or being carried out elsewhere on the subject.

5. I agree to abide by the terms and conditions of IKS Division of MoE @AICTE grant.

Signature of the PI
Name of the PI
Affiliation of the PI
Date:
Place:

Endorsement from the Head of the Institution

(not included in the page limit)

This is to certify that:

1. Certified that the Institute welcomes participation of _____ as the Principal Investigator and _____ as the Co-Investigator for the project titled _____, and that in the unforeseen event of discontinuance by the Principal Investigator, the Principal Co-Investigator will assume the responsibility of the fruitful completion of the project with due information to IKS Division of MoE @AICTE.

2. The date of project starts from the date on which the Institute receives the grant from Indian Knowledge Systems Division of MoE @ AICTE, New Delhi.

3. The investigator will be governed by the rules and regulations of Institute and will be under administrative control of the Institute for the duration of the project.

4. The grant-in-aid by the IKS Division of MoE @AICTE, New Delhi will be used to meet the expenditure on the project and for the period for which the project has been sanctioned as mentioned in the sanction order.

5. No administrative or other liability will be attached to the IKS Division of MoE @AICTE, New Delhi at the end of the project.

6. The Institute will provide basic infrastructure and other required facilities to the investigator for undertaking the research project.

7. The Institute will take into its books all assets created in the above project and its disposal would be at the discretion of the IKS Division of MoE @AICTE, New Delhi.

8. The Institute assumes to undertake the financial and other management responsibilities of the project.

Seal of Institute   Signature of the

                                                                                 Head of the Institution with seal

Date: