

# **National Seminar** **on** **Ācāryatva (आचार्यत्व): Rooted in** **Wisdom**

**4-5 September 2026**



**ORGANISED BY**

**Inter University Centre for Teacher Education**

**BHU, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**

**IUCTE Campus, Sundar Bagiya, Nariya-B.L.W. Road, Varanasi - 221005**

## About IUCTE

The Inter University Centre for Teacher Education (IUCTE), BHU, Varanasi, is an Autonomous Institution established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) under section 12 (ccc). Its core mission is to promote excellence in Teacher Education through intervention in Curriculum, Pedagogy, Assessment, Governance, Policy, Planning and Research. IUCTE envisions cultivating quality educators who contribute to a sustainable ecosystem, thus reshaping the Education System in India. IUCTE plays a pivotal role in enhancing the Quality of Teaching and Research, Technology Integration in Education, Advisory Services, National & Global Collaborations, and influencing Policy Changes to advance the field of education in general and Teacher Education in particular.

## About the Seminar

The concept of *Ācāryatva* (आचार्यत्व) is deeply embedded in the spiritual, philosophical, and cultural traditions of India. This National seminar, titled “*Ācāryatva* (आचार्यत्व): Rooted in Wisdom”, is envisioned as a scholarly platform to critically explore and contextualise the evolution, significance, and contemporary relevance of the role of the *Acharya* (teacher) in Indian and global educational discourses.

Organised in alignment with the vision of value-based, holistic, and transformative education, the seminar aspires to bring together a diverse range of scholars, teacher educators, education practitioners, policymakers, philosophers, and cultural historians. The goal is to engage in in-depth discussions on the ancient roots and evolving meanings of *Ācāryatva*, from its scriptural foundations to its manifestations in modern educational and social contexts.

Traditionally, the *Acharya* has been more than a transmitter of knowledge. As a moral exemplar, cultural custodian, and community leader, the *Acharya* has historically played a central role in shaping the intellectual and ethical fabric of Indian society. The teacher's responsibilities extended well beyond academic instruction, encompassing the formation of character (*sanskara*), the transmission of righteousness (*dharma*), and the cultivation of societal harmony. These ideals, preserved and transmitted through the Guru-Shishya parampara, reflect a unique educational philosophy grounded in experiential learning, relational pedagogy, and spiritual mentorship.

The seminar's thematic structure is designed to cover a wide spectrum of inquiry, organised into sub-themes. These include the philosophical and cultural foundations of *Ācāryatva*, the heritage of the Guru-Shishya tradition, the role of the teacher as an ethical and cultural guide, and the relevance of *Ācāryatva* in the age of digital transformation and globalisation. Additionally, the seminar will explore the gendered dimensions of teaching, highlighting the contributions and legacies of women *Acharyas*, both historical and contemporary. Importantly, the discussions will aim to address the integration of *Acharya* ideals into teacher education policy and practice, particularly within the framework of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasises character development, ethical grounding, and the reinvigoration of the teacher's identity and autonomy.

As education systems worldwide grapple with rapid technological shifts, ethical dilemmas, and a growing need for empathy and human connection, the seminar calls for a timely reimagining of the *Acharya* as not only a teacher but also as a mentor, leader, and agent of transformation. In an era marked by artificial intelligence, virtual learning environments, and transnational educational exchanges, the principles of *Ācāryatva* offer enduring wisdom for navigating complexity with moral clarity, emotional intelligence, and human-centric leadership.

Ultimately, this national seminar seeks to contribute to a revitalised vision of the teacher in the 21st century—one that is anchored in timeless values, yet responsive to the changing realities of our interconnected and digitised world. It is a call to reclaim the spiritual and social vocation of teaching, to reawaken the teacher's inner compass, and to reaffirm *Ācāryatva* as a cornerstone of individual, institutional, and national development.

## Objectives

- **Explore** the philosophical, spiritual, and cultural foundations of *Ācāryatva* in Indian knowledge systems, and assess its significance across historical and contemporary educational contexts.
- **Examine** the pedagogical practices and ethical values of the *Guru-Shishya* tradition, with emphasis on experiential learning, discipline, and character formation.
- **Evaluate** the challenges and opportunities of embodying *Ācāryatva* in the digital era, including the role of empathy, emotional intelligence, and human connection in virtual learning environments.
- **Highlight** the historical and contemporary contributions of women Acharyas (Vidushi), and address gender perspectives in teaching, mentorship, and leadership.
- **Formulate** strategic recommendations for integrating *Ācāryatva* into teacher education, academic leadership, and policy-making, in alignment with the goals of **NEP 2020**.

## Themes & Subthemes

### Roots of *Ācāryatva*: Philosophical and Cultural Foundations

- Exploring the concept of Acharya in the Vedas, Upanishads, and Indian philosophical traditions
- The *Guru parampara* as a foundation of Indian intellectual life - *Ācāryatva* in Literature and Cultural Narratives
- Evolution of the teacher's role from ancient to modern India

### The Guru-Shishya Tradition: Heritage and Pedagogical Wisdom

- Role of the Acharya in traditional systems of knowledge in different aspects
- Rituals, discipline, and character-building within the Gurukul framework
- Duties and virtues of the Acharya in Indian pedagogy
- *Ācāryatva* and experiential learning: education beyond textbooks

### Acharya as Ethical Guide and Cultural Leader

- The Acharya's role in nurturing Dharma, values, and societal harmony
- Impact of spiritual and educational leaders on India's socio-cultural evolution
- Reimagining the teacher as a community and cultural leader in modern society
- Acharya in Different Indian Traditions and Religions

### *Ācāryatva* in Modern Educational Landscapes: Challenges and Opportunities

- Reinvigorating teacher identity and purpose in the 21st century
- Aligning Acharya's ideals with the goals of NEP 2020
- Value-based and holistic education: going beyond academic instruction
- Challenges in upholding Acharya-like authority in today's schools and universities

## **The Digital Transformation of Teaching: *Ācāryatva* in the Age of Technology**

- The evolving role of the Acharya in digital classrooms and e-learning environments
- Maintaining human connection, empathy, emotional intelligence, and ethical guidance in technology-mediated learning
- Navigating the challenges and potentials of AI and virtual mentorship

## ***Ācāryatva* Beyond Academia: Leadership and Mentorship in a Globalised World**

- Acharya principles for leadership roles in governance, corporate, and social sectors
- Ethical leadership inspired by *Ācāryatva* in public service and community development
- Global perspectives on mentorship and the teacher's evolving role in a connected world
- Cross-cultural and global perspectives on mentorship and teacher leadership

## **Women as Acharyas: Historical Legacy and Contemporary Contributions**

- Vidushi, as a guru, spiritual leaders from Ancient to Contemporary India
- Gendered dimensions of teaching and mentorship in Indian traditions and today
- Contemporary female educators shaping the future of learning and leadership

## **Future Pathways: Embedding *Ācāryatva* in Policy and Practice**

- Strategies for nurturing *Ācāryatva* in teacher training, academic leadership and professional development
- Policy frameworks to promote values-based education and teacher empowerment
- Policy implications for institutionalising the Acharya ideal in Indian education and governance

The sub-themes listed above are only suggestive. We invite and encourage submissions on additional topics that advance the dialogue within the framework of the seminar.

## **Mode of Seminar : OFFLINE**

## **Guidelines for the Contributors**

We invite Academics, Research Scholars, Professionals, and Entrepreneurs to participate and present their unpublished and original papers/articles. The papers/articles should be written in English or Hindi, with a length of 2500-3000 words, accompanied by an abstract of 250-500 words and 3-5 keywords. References should be in the latest APA 7th style. The English font should be Times New Roman, font size 12, with single spacing, and the Hindi Font should be Unicode Kokila, font size 16, with double spacing. The abstract/full paper submitted for the possible presentation at the seminar is subject to a blind review process. The reviewers' decision will be final and binding. Acceptance of the abstract/full paper will be communicated to the corresponding author.

## **Plagiarism Guidelines**

Plagiarism in any form is not accepted. If found to be more than 20%, including AI Plagiarism, the paper will be rejected and will not be allowed for publication/presentation at the seminar.

## Important Dates

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Registration Starts                 | 20th July 2026   |
| Registration Ends                   | 20th August 2026 |
| Last date of Abstract Submission    | 20th August 2026 |
| Acceptance of Abstract Notification | 21st August 2026 |
| Last date of Full Paper Submission  | 25th August 2026 |

## Link for the Abstract & paper template:

[https://iucte.ac.in/program/assets/uploaded\\_files/Template\(4-5\\_Sep2026\).docx](https://iucte.ac.in/program/assets/uploaded_files/Template(4-5_Sep2026).docx)

## Registration Fee

| PARTICIPANT CATEGORIES                                                                              | AMOUNT (in Rs.) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Research Scholars                                                                                   | 500             |
| Academicians, Policymaker/ Curriculum Planner                                                       | 1000            |
| Industry/NGOs/Organizations/Freelancers/Education Startups/EdTech Companies/ Representatives of CSR | 1500            |

## Registration fee Payment Account Details:

Name of the account holder: **INTER UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR TEACHER EDUCATION**

Account Number: **36379844131**

Bank Name: **State Bank of India**

Branch Name: **Banaras Hindu University**

IFSC Code: **SBIN0000211**

## Intended Audience

The program is designed for a diverse group of professionals with a vested interest in advancing teacher education. Selection will be based on demonstrated expertise, professional experience, and a clear alignment of interest with the theme of the seminar.

Eligible applicants will be drawn from the following cohorts:

1. Principals and Administrators.
2. Research Scholars working in the domains aligned with the seminar themes.
3. Academicians (Assistant Professors, Associate Professors, Professors) from HEIs.
4. Administrators and academic leaders from HEIs.
5. Distinguished professionals from industry, Education startups, Ed Tech Companies, and civil society with relevant expertise.

Academicians of any subject or discipline, teaching and Administrators from schools and Higher Education Institutions, and Well-Identified Persons from Industries & Society could join this course.

**For abstract and paper submission-related queries, please contact the Program Coordinator, Dr. Gyanendra Singh, at 9911576845.**

**Attendance at all seminar sessions is compulsory for eligibility to receive the certificate.**

**REGISTRATION LINK**

<https://iucte.ac.in/program/>

**VENUE MAP**

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/q1RFjwFvF98cCpy86>

**Note:**

1. Accommodation may be arranged at the Guest House, IUCTE, Varanasi, upon prior request, subject to availability. If required, please download the application form (**Guest house Booking Form**) and send a duly filled the same to ([iucteguesthouse@iucte.ac.in](mailto:iucteguesthouse@iucte.ac.in)). (Seats are limited & will be booked on the First come- First serve basis)
2. No TA/DA is admissible until informed by IUCTE, Varanasi.



## Advisory Committee

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**Prof. Vinay Kumar Pandey**

Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

**Prof. J. V. Madhusudan**

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