

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION REPORT

International Conference on

Ekatma Manav Darshan — Bharat's Worldview

Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), Mysuru | 25–27 March 2026

Reported by: Dr. Kamini Dhruva, Professor, ABBS School of Management

About the Conference

The International Conference on Ekatma Manav Darshan — Bharat's Worldview was hosted by Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), Mysuru from 25 to 27 March 2026. Organised around the philosophical legacy of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, the conference brought together scholars, policymakers, spiritual leaders, and academic institutions from across India to examine how India's civilisational values can provide both a critique of and an alternative to prevailing Western paradigms — in education, governance, economics, and technology.

The conference was inaugurated by P.P. Sri Shivaratri Deshikendra Mahaswamiji of Mysuru and Sri Thaawarchand Gehlot, the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka. The keynote address, delivered by Sri Prafulla Ketkar, was titled Ekatma Darshan: Bharat's Worldview. Over three days, the programme featured plenary sessions, panel discussions, paper presentations, cultural performances, and a valedictory address by Prof. Santishree Pandit.

Among the most significant sessions was the Special Plenary on Day 2, titled Beyond the Western Paradigm: Shaping the Future of Higher Education through Bharat's Worldview, addressed by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Education, Government of India, alongside Dr. M S Chaitra.

ABBSSM at the Conference

ABBS School of Management participated in the conference with a delegation comprising faculty and PGDM students, representing the institution across three distinct academic contributions: a co-authored faculty paper, a student research paper presentation, and a student poster presentation. The breadth of this participation reflects ABBSSM's commitment to engaging with intellectual discourse that connects management education with India's civilisational and philosophical heritage.

Faculty Research Paper

From Kurukshetra to Cyberspace: Reimagining Technological Ethics through the Mahabharata and Artificial Intelligence

Authors Dr. Madhumita Chatterji <i>Director & Professor, ABBSSM</i> Dr. Kamini Dhruva <i>Professor, ABBSSM</i>	Session Details Track 5 — Panel Discussion Philosophy to Policy: Contemporary Political, Economic and Civilizational Challenges — Bharatiya Perspectives Session Chair: Dr. G.P. Sudhakar <i>Centre for Educational and Social Studies (CESS), Bengaluru</i>
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Paper Overview

This paper argues that the ethical dilemmas of artificial intelligence are not new — they are ancient. Drawing a structural parallel between the battlefield of Kurukshetra and the algorithmically governed world of the 21st century, the paper demonstrates that dharma, as articulated in the Mahabharata, offers a philosophically rigorous and culturally grounded framework for AI ethics.

The paper begins by situating AI's moral decline within the Hindu cosmological framework of the four Yugas — observing that the Kali Yuga, in which we now live, is precisely the age of diminished dharma and maximum technological power. This is not metaphor; it is structural correspondence. Just as the Mahabharata was composed at the cusp of Dvapara-Kali transition as a moral warning, AI ethics frameworks are being written now, urgently, at the cusp of autonomous machine intelligence.

The central argument is articulated through four key parallels: Astra (divine weapon) as Algorithm; Mantra (sacred code) as programming; Krishna as the prototype of Explainable AI and human-in-the-loop design; and Dhritarashtra's moral blindness as the systemic bias that corrupts even data-rich systems. The paper's original intellectual contribution is the Dharmic Ethical Design Framework (Table 1), which maps six Indic constructs to contemporary AI ethics principles across four global frameworks — EU, UNESCO, and IEEE.

Dharmic Ethical Design Framework — Original Contribution

Table 1: Prepared by the researchers — mapping Indic constructs to AI ethics principles

Indic Construct	Sanskrit Term	AI Ethics Principle	Design Application
Viveka	Discernment	Context-Aware Reasoning	Systems weigh cultural, social and moral variables before decisions
Sankalpa	Conscious Intention	Value Alignment	Moral integrity as precondition for system activation
Karma	Action-Consequence	Accountability Loops	Traceability and auditability in every design layer
Lokasangraha	Collective Welfare	Human-Centricity	Technology serves societal well-being, not narrow interests
Niskama Karma	Selfless Action	Process over Outcome	Ethical means matter as much as beneficial ends
Yuktam Karma	Contextual Action	Adaptive Governance	Iterative ethical review; systems recalibrated as contexts evolve

Global Validation

The paper demonstrates that three independent global AI ethics frameworks — EU Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI (2019), UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics (2021), and IEEE Ethically Aligned Design (2020) — converge on principles that were articulated with precision in the Mahabharata millennia ago. The conclusion drawn is not that dharma should replace these frameworks, but that it completes them, providing the philosophical depth and contextual flexibility that Western frameworks identify as necessary but cannot supply from within their own tradition.

"Whether in mythic war fields or neural networks — act wisely, for the code remembers the conscience of its creator."

— Concluding line of the paper



Dr. Kamini Dhruva presenting at Track 5

Special Recognition — Meeting with the Union Minister for Education

There are moments in an institution's journey that transcend the ordinary — moments that affirm that the work being done, the values being upheld, and the vision being pursued have been noticed at the highest levels. For ABBS School of Management, the International Conference on Ekatma Manav Darshan offered exactly such a moment.

Dr. Madhumita Chatterji, Director & Professor of ABBSSM, was extended a special personal invitation to meet Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Education, Government of India — not as one among a crowd, but as a special invitee, in a private setting, on the sidelines of the conference. In a gathering that brought together scholars, vice-chancellors, policymakers, and academics from across the country, this distinction speaks for itself.

Shri Pradhan had delivered the keynote address at the Special Plenary Session on Day 2, articulating a bold and necessary vision: that the future of Indian higher education must be shaped not by imported frameworks alone, but by the depth of Bharat's own civilisational worldview. It was a call to action directed at every institution that claims to educate the next generation of Indian leaders.

That Dr. Chatterji was identified and invited for this personal meeting is a reflection of how ABBSSM is perceived beyond its own walls. It signals that the institution she leads — with its rare integration of Indian philosophical values, ethical pedagogy, and management rigour — is precisely the kind of institution the Minister's vision demands. ABBSSM is not merely responding to the national conversation about education and identity. Under Dr. Chatterji's leadership, it has been part of that conversation.

For an institution rooted in the belief that management education must serve the nation — and for a Director who has built that belief into every course, every programme, and every student interaction — this recognition is not a surprise. It is a validation, long deserved, of a path consistently and courageously walked.



Dr. Madhumita Chatterji with Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Education

Student Research Paper Presentation

Integrative Human Personality (Sharira–Manas–Buddhi–Atma) in the Light of Kuvempu's Vishwamanava Philosophy

<p>Presenters Mr. Yashvanth K Mahendrakar Ms. Yukthi.M.J</p> <p><i>Students of PGDM, ABBS School of Management</i></p>	<p>Focus An exploration of the fourfold model of human personality — Sharira (body), Manas (mind), Buddhi (intellect), and Atma (soul) — as understood through the Vishwamanava philosophy of the celebrated Kannada poet-philosopher Kuvempu, and its implications for holistic human development.</p>
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This paper reflects ABBSSM's distinctive commitment to situating management education within the broader context of Indian humanistic thought. By drawing on Kuvempu — one of Karnataka's most revered thinkers — Yasvanth and Yukthi connected a regional philosophical tradition to questions of universal relevance: what constitutes the complete, integrated human being, and how should that understanding shape the way we develop leaders and managers.



Mr. Yashvanth and Ms. Yukthi presenting their research paper

Student Poster Presentation

From Guru to Shishya: Learning with Ethics

<p>Presenters Mr. Sinchan Mukherji Ms. Nandini Mukherjee Mr. Sourav Saha</p> <p><i>Students of PGDM, ABBS School of Management</i></p>	<p>Focus An examination of the Guru-Shishya tradition as a living model of ethical learning — exploring how the relationship between teacher and student in Indian tradition embeds values, integrity, and moral responsibility into the very act of knowledge transmission.</p>
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The poster presentation brought to life one of India's most enduring pedagogical traditions — the Guru-Shishya Parampara — and asked what contemporary education systems, including business schools, can learn from a model where knowledge transfer and values formation were never separated. For an institution like ABBSSM that places ethical leadership at its core, this was a fitting contribution to the conference discourse.



Mr. Sinchan, Ms. Nandini, Dr. Kamini Dhruva and Mr. Sourav with their poster — KSOU Mysuru, March 2026

Selected Conference Highlights

The three-day programme was rich in both intellectual content and cultural depth. Among the sessions that defined the conference:

- Sri Shatavadhani Ganesh delivered the opening session of Day 2 on Purusharthas — the Bharatiya framework of integrated human aspirations — setting a philosophical foundation for the day's discussions.
- Sri J. Nandakumar addressed Chiti, Virat and Rashtra: Civilizational Consciousness and National Life, exploring the relationship between cultural identity and national purpose.
- Swami Mitranand ji spoke on Vyashti–Samashti–Parameshti — the individual, society, and cosmic order — while Prof. Neeraja Gupta addressed Dharmic Social Institutions and Civilizational Continuity.
- The Special Plenary on Day 2 saw Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Dr. M S Chaitra chart a vision for Indian higher education anchored in Bharat's worldview.
- Day 3 culminated in a panel discussion on Philosophy to Policy, chaired by Prof. K.V. Raju and featuring Prof. Santishree Pandit and Sri B.L. Santhosh.
- Cultural performances — Yakshagana, Bharatanatyam, Kamsale, Mallakhamb, and Vachana Gayana — wove Karnataka's living artistic traditions throughout the programme.

Reflection

ABBSSM's participation in the International Conference on Ekatma Manav Darshan was not incidental. It was a statement of identity. The conference's central question — how India's civilisational philosophy can shape contemporary thought and practice — is the same question that runs through ABBSSM's curriculum, pedagogy, and institutional ethos.

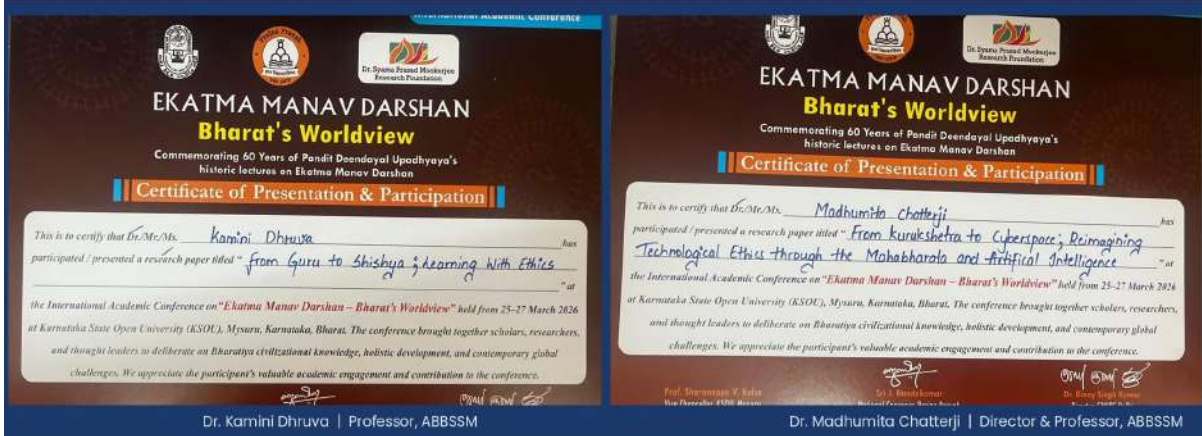
The faculty paper's argument that dharma is not archaic dogma but anticipatory ethics — a dynamic moral logic for the algorithmic century — resonates directly with the kind of management graduates ABBSSM aspires to produce: leaders who can hold both analytical rigour and moral wisdom, who understand that the code, like the astra, remembers the conscience of its creator.

The student contributions demonstrated that this orientation is not confined to the faculty. PGDM students engaging with Kuvempu's Vishwamanava philosophy and the Guru-Shishya parampara at an international academic conference are a testament to the depth of intellectual formation ABBSSM makes possible.

Photo Gallery/Memories:



Certificates of Presentation & Participation



Jai Hind

Dr. Kamini Dhruva | Professor, ABBS School of Management | April 2026