

About the Centre

The International Centre for Spiritual Studies (ICSS) was established in 2011 to encourage research studies on various aspects of comparative religion and spirituality. The Centre envisions to provide a spiritual response to the growing ideological conflicts, cultural and intellectual challenges of the contemporary world. ICSS is an academic and research-oriented Centre with a mandate of working on such issues that have largely marginalized the spiritual development of the present-day human being. Besides, engaging with diverse spiritual traditions of the world along with a focus on such traditions that have been enriching the spiritual heritage of Kashmir, the Centre aims at exploring issues in comparative religion and mysticism.

Vision

Our vision is to make the Centre a centre of excellence for Spiritual Studies and attract scholars, mystics and Sufis across the world to study, research and contribute to the field of spirituality as found in different religious traditions, with special reference to Islam. We aspire to promote better understanding of spiritual crises of the post-modern man by encouraging peace and interfaith dialogue through spirituality.



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International Centre for Spiritual Studies (ICSS) School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Mission

Our mission is to make ICSS a Centre of academic and research excellence and take it as a mandate to work on such issues that have largely marginalized the spiritual advancement in the modern times.

Since, Kashmir has produced great personalities and literature on various subjects of spirituality and a huge treasure of manuscripts is found on different themes related to spirituality and needs serious scholarly attention. Therefore, the translation of the valuable books scribed by the mystics need to be rendered into English, Urdu and other regional languages for disseminating the spiritual instructions among the people.

Core Values

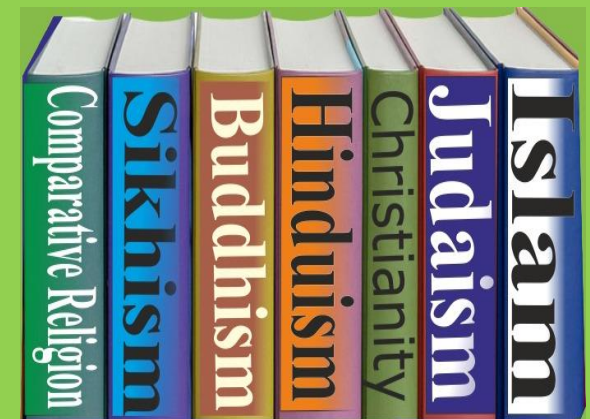
- Inter-religious and interfaith dialogue and understanding
- Spiritual and mystical values
- Peaceful co-existence

Research Programme at ICSS

From the year 2023, ICSS started the Ph.D. programme in Spiritual Studies. The candidates possessing Master's degree in Humanities, Social Science, Arts and Medical Science are eligible for admission to the Ph.D. programme after passing the entrance test of the university.

The thrust areas of research will be:

- Spirituality in different religious traditions: A comparative study
- Moral and Spiritual crises of the present age and the possible remedies
- Interfaith dialogue and the role of spiritual personalities and Ṣūfīs
- Medication, meditation and spiritual healing
- Science and Spirituality
- Spiritual Ecology
- Moral and Spiritual values and the peaceful co-existence
- Dialogue among civilizations
- Peace, harmony and inter-religious understanding
- Feminism, religions and spirituality
- Spiritual heritage of Kashmir



Open Elective Courses

At present, the Centre offers two Open Elective courses for the odd and even semesters:

- Moral and Spiritual Studies-I
- Moral and Spiritual Studies-II

Achievements

1. **Special/Extension Lectures:** The Centre has conducted ten (10) special/extension lectures on various topics of religion and spirituality.

2. **National Level Seminars:** The centre has organized three (3) Seminars and two (2) Conferences.

3. In 2018 the Centre started **The International Journal of Spirituality** (TIJOS) with ISSN 2347-9566.

4. Outreach Programs

The Centre has initiated its outreach activities like participating, organizing and disseminating information about the spiritual personalities and plans to continue its outreach programs which includes visit to Dargahs, Khanqahs and other Centres of Religio-historical and Spiritual significance of different religious denominations.

Future Plans of the ICSS

In accordance with NEP 2020, the Centre is planning to offer short-term courses in the near future.

1. Floating of Short-term Courses:
 - a) Certificate course in Spirituality in Abrahamic Religions
 - b) Certificate course in Mysticism in Indic Religions
2. Floating of Open Elective Courses:
 - a) Spiritual Studies
 - b) Moral Studies
 - c) Meditation
 - d) Mystical Heritage of Kashmir
 - e) Applied Ethics
 - f) Business Ethics
 - g) Science and Spirituality
 - h) Universal Human Values
 - i) Prominent Şūfi Works
 - j) Life, Works and Teaching of Prominent Şūfis and Other Spiritual Personalities
3. Two National and Two International Conferences
4. Preparing an Encyclopedia of Spirituality in Major World Religions
5. Signing of MOUs with national and international institutions
6. Visit to places of religious significance
7. Projects in lieu with UGC, IGNC, ICSSR, ICHR and ICPR
8. Translation of some prominent manuscripts from Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic into English and other languages

Director's Message

I am honored to serve as Director of the International Centre for Spiritual Studies.

As the Centre enters its second decade, we look forward with passion and humbleness at how much



important work we have to do. We have been a driving force for the study of religion and spirituality on campus, fostering dialogue among scholars, students and community members. Through our lectures, seminars, and conferences we hope to advance the understanding of a religiously complex world. We are proud to play a role in promoting scholarly research in the academic field of comparative religion and spiritual studies not only for students on campus, but also for the wider global community.

As we strive to make the future years as productive and enlightening as possible, we will continue reaching out to our university, local, and global communities.

For More Information

Visit us at

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