



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi

Shodhotsav 2026

“Conversing Knowledge and Civilization for Sustainable Development”

09 September 2026

Call for Abstracts

Overview

Shodhotsav 2026 invites faculty from across the disciplines into a shared conversation: how do societies, cultures, and institutions endure—and work towards their aims? The framing verb is “conversing”. Rather than asserting a single position, can we open a dialogic space where dominant and alternative perspectives sit side by side? What might sustainability mean if read broadly—reaching beyond the SDGs and political economy to the sustaining of relationships, pedagogies, conversations, institutional structures, and epistemologies? How does it operate across several levels at once: the global (intellectual trends, climate, international peace), the national (education, poverty, development), the civilisational (culture and language), and the personal (human relationships)? And how might the work of sustainable development itself be reimagined—translating global goals into national and regional action by localising the SDGs with data and accountability, pursuing inclusive growth amid inequality and informal work, advancing sustainable urbanisation and human development in health and education, and closing the digital development divide? What if knowledge were approached as plural—engaging indigenous knowledge systems (Bharat Knowledge Systems) and pluriverse frameworks rather than a single epistemic order? And what if civilization were treated as a site of continuous dialogue across traditions rather than clash or rupture? Can the inquiry stay genuinely inclusive—spanning philosophy and literature, anthropology and conservation, urban and rural studies—so that scholars from diverse backgrounds contribute?

Sub-themes

1. Meaning of Sustainability. The conceptual foundation: what we mean when we ask whether something can “last,” whether sustainability is a normative commitment or a measurable system property, and how indicators, thresholds, and timescales turn abstract debate into policy.

2. **Civilisational Approach to Sustainability in Bhartiya and Indigenous Knowledge Traditions:** The civilisational approach to sustainability in India views humans as part of a larger ecological and moral order. Drawing upon concepts such as Dharma, Sacred Ecology, and community stewardship, how does this approach offers valuable insights for addressing contemporary challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable consumption?
3. **Artificial Intelligence as a Cross-Cutting Force:** A thread running through every theme: AI for climate modelling and efficiency against its own energy and material footprint; machine translation and generative creativity for minority languages alongside questions of authorship, authenticity, and consent; AI companions and the delegation of care; and the governance of AI and data across education, law, and democracy.
4. **Sustainable Development:** Translating global goals into national and regional action: localising the SDGs with data and accountability, inclusive growth amid inequality and informal work, sustainable urbanisation, human development in health and education, and the digital development divide.
5. **Sustaining Culture, Heritage and Language:** Endangered and minority languages and their transmission, heritage in the digital age, living heritage of craft and performance, identity amid homogenisation, and the promise and risks of AI, translation, and machine creativity.
6. **Sustaining Social and Human Relations:** Connection and isolation in a mediated world, well-being and mental health, trust and polarisation in the public sphere, evolving human-machine relations, and the changing bonds of work, care, and kinship.
7. **Sustaining Social Institutions:** Governance and democracy in a digital era, education systems in an age of ubiquitous AI, the health of information ecosystems and journalism, law and the regulation of emerging technology, and the renewal of institutional trust and legitimacy.

Overview

Who can submit a paper?

- Faculty members in a higher education institution
- Early career researchers holding a PhD
- Policymakers, members of policy think tanks
- Practitioners and professionals (e.g. school teachers, health professionals), members of Non-governmental organisations working on the grassroots level

Submission Guidelines

We invite submissions that address the conference theme. Submissions should include:

- **Title:** A concise and informative title.
- **Abstract:** A summary of the paper or extended abstract (300 words max) highlighting the research question, methodology, key findings, and relevance to the conference theme.
- **Keywords:** Up to five keywords that describe the main topics of the paper.
- **Format:** Submissions should be in English and follow APA, MLA, or another relevant academic style.

The abstract and other information can be submitted through the following link:

<https://forms.gle/rSvGWs9NtTy4nrUbA>

For more information about Shodhotsav 2026 scan this QR code:



Important Dates

- **Submission Deadline:** 27 August 2026
- **Notification of Acceptance:** 30 August 2026
- **Last Date of Registration:** 04 September 2026
- **Conference Date:** 09 September 2026

Conference Participation

The conference will be held in-person only at the AUD Lodhi Road Campus, Delhi.

Registration Fee

There is no registration fee for AUD faculty. The fee for participants from outside is INR 1000, inclusive of conference materials, lunch, and snacks. AUD will not bear any cost related to travel, boarding, or local transport for any participant.

Contact Information

For inquiries regarding submissions, registration, or general information, please contact the conference organising committee at directorcele@aud.ac.in