

Indian Knowledge Tradition and Environmental Heritage: An Assessment

Dr. Brajesh Srivastava

Assistant Professor – Economics

Government Degree College, Manikpur, Chitrakoot

Abstract: *The existence of human civilization has always been rooted in nature. In the Indian philosophical tradition, nature is not merely a material resource but an integral part of conscious existence. The proclamation in the Rigveda—"Mata Bhumi Putro 'ham Prithivya" (The Earth is my mother; I am her son)—stands as a testament to the intimate bond between humanity and the Earth. This very perspective forms the foundational basis for environmental balance within the Indian knowledge tradition. In the modern era, industrialization, urbanization, and consumerist tendencies have precipitated an environmental crisis; climate change, the loss of biodiversity, the pollution of water bodies, and deforestation are prime examples of this. In this context, the traditional Indian knowledge system offers an alternative path—one where coexistence, restraint, and conservation serve as fundamental life values.*

Keywords: Traditional ecological knowledge; Vedic environmentalism; Eco-cultural heritage; Climate adaptability; Colonial impact; Revival of traditions; Innovation.