

Title: Dialectics of Prakṛti and Samskr̥ti: An Ecosophical Study of the Select Ancient Indian Texts

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Overview of the project:

The proposed project aims to study the eco-ethical practices of primeval Hindu civilisation laid down in varied Sanskrit liturgical texts. The proposed project would study the select classical

Indian texts, namely, *Aitareya and Brhadaranyaka Upaniṣads*, and *Śiva Mahāpurāṇa* that suggest the practical ways of harmonious co-existence, avoiding any clash between culture/civilisation (Samskr̥ti) and environment (Prakṛti). These texts portray humans and other fellow beings in a symbiotic relationship. The project's objectives also align with the United Nations's *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* and *The Earth Charter*, which suggest taking the help of religions and religious sources in policymaking for sustainable development. In the perennial Hindu civilisation, we find several written scriptures (mainly in Sanskrit) from different periods, such as the Vedas (c. 1500-1000 BCE), the Upaniṣads (c. 800- 400 BCE), and the Purāṇas (c. 500-200 BCE). We also find Sanskrit epics like the Rāmāyaṇa (c. 700-400 BCE), the Mahābhārata (c. 300 BCE-300 CE), etc. These scriptures/texts are vast compendiums of rituals and practices conforming to *dharma* (righteous behaviour), imparting ecocaring sentiment.

Research Methodology:

- Qualitative methodological approach - the proposed project embarks on the research and primarily relies on the close textual reading and analysis of classical Indian texts. The work will be an analytical and critical study to underline ecological implications in different Sanskrit conceptions.
- The selected classical texts would be within the framework of comparative analysis, simultaneously looking into other significant contributions of scholars across the globe.
- To illustrate the relevant theories and practices related to Indian and Western philosophy of ecoaesthetics.
- The research would also involve fieldwork for collecting the commentaries on these monumental works that would facilitate a clearer understanding of the concepts and theories.

Deliverables:

- Publishing a monograph/book by reputed publishers such as Routledge, Palgrave, OUP etc.
- Published review article and research articles on environmental humanities in the journals indexed by Scopus.
- Organizing a conference/seminar/symposium

