

Culture and Environment

India has a great history of Environment protection which with time got ingrained into its culture. This culture also holds significance in contemporary environmental crisis.

Some of the famous culture and tradition practiced by people in different and diverse geography of the country are :-

i) Water conservation - Qanat system of Vijayanagar which is unearthed recently is an underground water tunneling system. Apart from it - Savd of Rajasthan, terrace pond of Sun temple Gujarat are water conservation techniques still practiced.

ii) Agriculture - Kuttanad below sea level farming is recognised by FAO. Similarly zero budget farming also traces its origin from ancient practices.

iii) Forest conservation - Tribes play an important role in sustainable forest use as well as protection which is recognised in Forest Rights Act 2006. Movements like Chipko, Aapiko are symbolic ways recently shown during Aarey Forest in Mumbai protection. Sacred Grooves is based on religious concept.

iv) River conservation - Rivers are treated like mother in Hinduism. Ganga, Yamuna are worshiped throughout the country showing their significance. Namami Gange terminology shows it.

v) Wild life conservation - Lions and other animals like monkey have sacred and ritualistic importance in Hinduism. Similarly Non-violence of Jainism is also important for wild life conservation.

vi) Simple life - Purusarth system of Hinduism has Vanprasthana as last stage of life. Similarly asceticism of Jainism, Buddhism argue for spiritualism in place of materialism and consumalism of present world. This can help to maintain ecological footprint.

Practice like Ayurveda, Yoga, Ayur etc gained tremendous significance in the wake of pandemic which is cheap and accessible.

Thus culture and environment are interlinked and if scaled effectively, India can become a world leader in environmental aeq.