

## **Ecosystem Preservation through Faith and Tradition in India**

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**ABSTRACT** The paper discusses how Indian tradition and faith has helped in the conservation of natural ecosystem. Primitive men lived in forest, on the bank of rivers and had great reverence for nature's creations. Their faith in conservation of trees and other biological resources has survived several virgin forests on earth in its pristine glory. The tribals who are descendants of early men have also retained many of their ancestral traditions and faith with regard to nature. In India these aboriginal people have greatly helped in the protection and preservation of natural ecosystems. The tribals of Meghalaya prohibits human interference into their "Sacred Groves" which are "Biosphere Reserve" of today. The Gonds of Central India prohibits the cutting of a tree. Only the fallen branch can be used. The Bishnois of Rajasthan have reverence for the Khejri tree (*Prosopis cineraria*) for centuries. The Mundas and Santals of Bihar worship Mahus tree (*Bassia latifolia*) and would not cut it. In Indian tradition many trees are sacred example, Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*), Banyan (*F. bengalhensia*) etc. Many tribals cultivate traditional crop plants or their wild relatives, thereby conserving their germplasm and maintaining biological diversity. The traditional Indian culture was conservative and the modern exploitative.