

## **UNIVERSAL HUMAN VALUES**

### **UNIT-4**

Understanding Harmony in the Nature and Existence - Whole existence as Coexistence

- 1) Understanding the harmony in the Nature
- 2) Interconnectedness and mutual fulfilment among the four orders of nature recyclability and self regulation in nature
- 3) Understanding Existence as Co-existence of mutually interacting units in allpervasive space
- 4) Holistic perception of harmony at all levels of existence. Include practice sessions to discuss human being as cause of imbalance in nature (film “Home” can be used), pollution, depletion of resources and role of technology etc.

## **UNIT-IV**

### **Understanding the harmony in the Nature**

The harmony in nature refers to the interconnectedness and balance of various ecological systems, species, and natural processes. This balance allows for the continuation of life on Earth and includes factors such as predator-prey relationships, nutrient cycles, and climate regulation. Human activities, such as deforestation, pollution, and overfishing, can disrupt this harmony and lead to negative impacts on the environment and the species that depend on it. To maintain and restore the harmony in nature, it's important to implement sustainable practices and conserve natural resources.

- **Biodiversity:** The variety of species and ecosystems that exist in an area and the interdependence between them.
- **Ecosystem services:** The benefits that humans derive from natural ecosystems, such as air and water purification, pollination, and climate regulation. • Climate regulation: The balance between various factors, such as atmospheric composition and temperature, that determine the Earth's climate.
- **Nutrient cycles:** The flow of essential elements, such as carbon and nitrogen, between living organisms and their environment.
- **Predator-prey relationships:** The interactions between predators and their prey that maintain balance in the populations of different species.
- **Natural processes:** The recurring phenomena, such as seasons and weather patterns, that play a crucial role in maintaining the harmony of nature.

All of these components work together to create a complex, interconnected system that supports life on Earth. Any disruption to one component can have ripple effects throughout the system, so it is important to maintain the balance and harmony in nature.

The harmony in nature has many advantages, including:

1. **Sustains life:** The balance and interdependence of various ecological systems and species supports the continuation of life on Earth.
2. **Supports human well-being:** Ecosystem services, such as clean air and water, provide essential resources for human survival and health.
3. **Maintains climate stability:** The regulation of the Earth's climate helps to prevent extreme weather conditions and provides a stable environment for living organisms.
4. **Supports food production:** Biodiverse ecosystems provide a wide variety of food sources for humans and other species.
5. **Promotes genetic diversity:** A diverse array of species and populations helps to maintain genetic diversity which is crucial for the adaptation and survival of species in a changing environment.
6. **Supports cultural and recreational activities:** Harmonious natural areas provide opportunities

for outdoor recreation, tourism, and the preservation of cultural and historical landmarks.

There are several theories that attempt to explain the concept of harmony in nature, including:

- **Eco-centric theory:** This theory holds that all living organisms and ecological systems have intrinsic value and that humans have a responsibility to preserve and protect the natural world.
- **Deep ecology:** This philosophy argues that humans and nature are interdependent and that all species have a right to exist and thrive.
- **Systems theory:** This theory views the natural world as a complex and interrelated system, in which changes in one part of the system can have far-reaching effects on the rest of the system.
- **Gaian theory:** This theory proposes that the Earth functions as a self-regulating system, with the biosphere and other natural systems working together to maintain balance and stability.
- **Sustainable development:** This theory seeks to balance economic development with environmental protection, recognizing that human well-being is dependent on the well-being of the natural world.

## **Interconnectedness and mutual fulfilment among the four orders of nature-recyclability and self-regulation in nature**

The four orders of nature refer to the four kingdoms of life on Earth: mineral, plant, animal, and human. The interconnectedness and mutual fulfilment among these kingdoms refers to the interdependence and interrelationships that exist between these different groups of living things.

1. Minerals provide the basic building blocks for all living things, including plants, animals, and humans.
2. Plants produce oxygen through photosynthesis and provide food and habitat for animals, as well as raw materials for human use.
3. Animals play crucial roles in pollination, seed dispersal, and nutrient cycling, which support plant growth and survival. They also serve as food for other animals, including humans.
4. Humans rely on the natural world for resources such as food, water, and wood, and they have the ability to impact the balance of the natural world through activities such as deforestation, pollution, and overfishing.

## **Recyclability and self-regulation in nature**

Recyclability and self-regulation are important concepts in the study of ecology and the functioning of natural systems. Here are some more details on each of these concepts:

1. Recyclability: In natural systems, resources are continually being cycled and reused. For example, in an ecosystem, organic matter is decomposed by decomposers, such as bacteria and fungi, into simpler compounds which are then taken up by plants and recycled into new organic matter. This process, known as the biogeochemical cycle, helps to maintain the balance of nutrients and energy in

the ecosystem.

2. **Self-regulation:** Natural systems have the ability to regulate their own functioning, even in the face of changes or disturbances. This is known as self-regulation or homeostasis. For example, predator-prey relationships help to regulate the populations of different species, ensuring that one species does not become too dominant and disrupt the balance of the ecosystem. Additionally, ecosystems can recover from disturbances, such as fires or storms, through natural processes of regeneration.

These two concepts are interrelated, as self-regulation helps to maintain the balance and stability of natural systems, and recyclability allows for the continued recycling of resources, ensuring the sustainability of the system. Understanding and respecting these natural processes is crucial for preserving the health and well-being of ecosystems and maintaining the balance of the natural world.

Recyclability and self-regulation are important principles in nature that provide several benefits, including:

1. **Maintaining balance:** By cycling resources and regulating their own functioning, natural systems are able to maintain balance and stability, even in the face of changes or disturbances. This helps to ensure the continued health and well-being of ecosystems.
2. **Sustainability:** Recycling resources allows for the continued use of these resources, reducing the need for new resources to be extracted from the environment. Self-regulation also helps to ensure the sustainability of natural systems by allowing them to recover from disturbances and maintain their balance over time.
3. **Biodiversity:** By maintaining balance and stability, natural systems can support a diverse array of species, each playing its own unique role in the ecosystem. This biodiversity helps to ensure the continued functioning of the ecosystem and the survival of all species within it.
4. **Human well-being:** Natural systems provide a range of resources and services, such as clean air, water, and food, that are essential for human well-being. By understanding and respecting the principles of recyclability and self-regulation, humans can work to protect and preserve the natural world, ensuring its continued ability to provide these essential resources and services

## **Understanding Existence as Coexistence (Sah-astitva) of mutually interacting units in all-pervasive space**

The concept of existence as coexistence, also known as Sah-astitva, is a central philosophy in Indian thought that views the universe as a dynamic and interconnected whole, where all things exist in relationship to one another. This idea is rooted in the belief that everything in the universe is interdependent and connected, and that the existence of one thing is dependent upon the existence of others.

According to Sah-astitva, all things in the universe, whether they be living beings, objects, or abstract concepts are mutually interacting units that exist within an all-pervasive space. This space is not just a physical space, but rather a field of consciousness that encompasses all aspects of existence. Within this space, everything is constantly interacting and influencing one another, shaping and influencing each other's existence.

The concept of Sah-astitva also emphasizes the idea of unity in diversity. While each thing in the universe may appear to be unique and separate, in reality, it is part of a larger whole, and its existence is inextricably linked to the existence of everything else. This means that everything in the universe is connected, and that the health and well-being of one thing is directly related to the health and well-being of all other things.

This philosophy has important implications for our understanding of the natural world and our place within it. For example, it suggests that our actions have a profound impact not only on ourselves, but on everything else in the universe. This idea encourages a sense of responsibility and respect for all things, and recognition of the interdependence of all things.

In addition, the concept of Sah-astitva provides a framework for understanding the interconnectedness of all things in the universe, and for exploring the relationships between them. It helps to break down the barriers that separate us from other things and encourages a holistic view of the world.

One of the key principles of Sah-astitva is the idea of interdependence, which suggests that everything in the universe is connected and that the existence of one thing is dependent upon the existence of others. This interdependence is seen in many different ways, including the relationships between living beings and their environment, the relationships between objects in the physical world, and the relationships between abstract concepts such as ideas and emotions.

For example, the existence of living beings is dependent upon the environment and its resources, such as food and water. The environment, in turn, is shaped and influenced by the actions of these living beings. Similarly, objects in the physical world are dependent upon one another for their properties and behaviours, and abstract concepts are dependent upon one another for their meaning and significance.

The idea of interdependence is closely related to the concept of cause and effect, which suggests that everything in the universe is connected by a chain of cause and effect relationships. For example, the actions of one living being may have a direct impact on another, and this impact may then ripple through the ecosystem, influencing the behavior and well-being of many other things.

The concept of Sah-astitva also emphasizes the idea of unity in diversity, which suggests that while everything in the universe may appear to be unique and separate, in reality, it is part of a larger whole, and its existence is inextricably linked to the existence of everything else. This idea

encourages recognition of the interdependence of all things and a sense of responsibility for their well-being.

Another important principle of Sah-astitva is the idea of transformation, which suggests that everything in the universe is constantly changing and evolving. This change is seen as a result of the constant interaction and influence of all things in the universe, and is seen as a natural.

### **Nature and Characteristics of Existence as Coexistence**

The concept of existence as coexistence, or Sah-astitva, views the universe as a dynamic and interconnected whole, where all things exist in relationship to one another. The following are some of the key nature and characteristics of Sah-astitva:

- **Interdependence:** All things in the universe are interdependent and connected, and the existence of one thing is dependent upon the existence of others.
- **Unity in Diversity:** While each thing in the universe may appear to be unique and separate, in reality, it is part of a larger whole, and its existence is inextricably linked to the existence of everything else.
- **Transformation:** Everything in the universe is constantly changing and evolving as a result of the constant interaction and influence of all things.
- **All-Pervasive Space:** Sah-astitva views the universe as an all-pervasive space of consciousness that encompasses all aspects of existence.
- **Mutual Interaction:** All things in the universe are mutually interacting units that shape and influence each other's existence.
- **Responsiveness and Responsiveness:** Sah-astitva encourages a sense of responsibility and respect for all things and recognition of the interdependence of all things.
- **Holistic view of the World:** The concept of Sah-astitva provides a framework for understanding the interconnectedness of all things in the universe and encourages a holistic view of the world.

### **Holistic perception of harmony at all levels of existence**

Holistic perception of harmony at all levels of existence refers to the understanding that all things in the universe are interconnected and interdependent, and that harmony exists at all levels of existence from the individual to the collective, from the physical to the spiritual. This perception of harmony is rooted in the belief that all things are part of a larger, interconnected whole and that each individual part contributes to the overall harmony of the universe.

At the individual level, a holistic perception of harmony recognizes that each person has a unique role to play in the universe and that their actions and decisions have an impact on the greater whole. This understanding encourages individuals to act in a manner that promotes harmony, both within themselves and in the world around them

At the collective level, a holistic perception of harmony recognizes that communities, societies, and nations are all interconnected and interdependent. It recognizes that the actions of one group or society can have a profound impact on the lives of others and encourages cooperation and collaboration towards a shared goal of harmony.

In the physical world, a holistic perception of harmony recognizes that all living and non-living things are interconnected and interdependent. This understanding encourages a respect for the natural world and a recognition that human actions can have a profound impact on the environment. It encourages a sustainable approach to resource use and a commitment to preserving the natural world for future generations.

At the spiritual level, a holistic perception of harmony recognizes that the spiritual and material realms are interconnected and interdependent. This understanding encourages recognition of the spiritual aspect of all things and a respect for the spiritual beliefs of others. It encourages a sense of inner peace and a commitment to creating a world in which all beings can flourish.

The importance and characteristics of a holistic perception of harmony at all levels of existence include:

- **Interconnectedness:** It recognizes the interconnectedness of all things in the universe and recognizes that each individual part contributes to the overall harmony of the universe.
- **Unity in Diversity:** It acknowledges the diversity of individuals, communities, and beliefs, but recognizes that all things are part of a larger, interconnected whole.
- **Responsiveness:** It encourages individuals to act in a manner that promotes harmony and to be mindful of the impact their actions have on the greater whole.
- **Cooperation and Collaboration:** It promotes cooperation and collaboration towards a shared goal of harmony, recognizing that the actions of one group or society can have a profound impact on the lives of others.
- **Respect for the Natural World:** It encourages respect for the natural world and a sustainable approach to resource use, recognizing that human actions can have a profound impact on the environment.
- **Spiritual Awareness:** It recognizes the spiritual aspect of all things and encourages a sense of inner peace and a respect for the spiritual beliefs of others.
- **Holistic view of the World:** It provides a framework for understanding the interconnectedness of all things in the universe and encourages a holistic view of the world.