

Indian Knowledge System for A Viksit Bharat 2047

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Evolving Wisdom: The Journey of Indian Political Philosophy from Ancient Texts to Contemporary Thought

*Dr. Priyanshi Gupta**

ABSTRACT

Indian political philosophy represents a long-standing and dynamic intellectual tradition shaped by India's cultural and social diversity. From the ethical foundations of the Vedas and the Mahabharata—where concepts like Dharma and Raj-Dharma defined moral governance—to Kautilya's Arthashastra, which emphasized practical statecraft, early thought combined morality with political realism. During the medieval period, especially under the Mughals, Islamic and indigenous ideas interacted, promoting justice, tolerance, and public welfare. The colonial era further transformed political thinking, as leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, and Jawaharlal Nehru redefined governance through non-violence, constitutionalism, social justice, democracy, and secularism.

In contemporary times, Indian political philosophy engages with issues like caste inequality, economic disparity, and environmental concerns, blending traditional values with modern global perspectives. Its continued relevance lies in its ability to adapt while upholding the principles of justice, inclusivity, and ethical governance.

Keywords: Vedas, Mahabharata, Raj-Dharma, Artha Shastra, Governance and Social Justice.

Introduction

Indian political philosophy is a rich and diverse tradition that spans millennia, reflecting the intricate tapestry of India's cultural, religious, and social dimensions. This abstract delves into the key themes and contributions of Indian political philosophy, tracing its evolution from ancient texts to contemporary thought.

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