🌿 Introduction to Traditional Knowledge (TK)

📌 1. Definition of Traditional Knowledge (TK)

Traditional Knowledge refers to the knowledge, skills, practices, and beliefs developed by communities over generations through experience, observation, and interaction with nature.

It is:

Passed orally from one generation to another

Closely linked with culture, environment, and livelihood

Community-owned rather than individual property

👉 Also called: Folk knowledge / Local knowledge / Indigenous technical knowledge

🌱 2. Nature & Characteristics of Traditional Knowledge

Characteristic	Explanation
Ancient & historical	Developed over centuries
Oral transmission	Passed through stories, rituals, songs
Community-based	Owned by groups, not individuals
Practical	Used in daily life (farming, medicine, housing)
Location-specific	Varies according to region & environment
Dynamic	Changes with time and new experiences
Holistic	Connects nature, spirituality, health, and society

🌍 3. Scope & Importance of Traditional Knowledge

🌾 Scope

Traditional knowledge covers many areas:

Agriculture (crop rotation, seed preservation)

Medicine (herbal treatment)

Water management

Forest conservation

Animal care

Weather prediction

Food preservation

Handicrafts and architecture

⭐ Importance

Sustainable development – Uses natural resources wisely

Biodiversity conservation – Protects plants and animals

Healthcare support – Basis of traditional medicine systems

Cultural identity – Preserves customs and heritage

Climate adaptation – Local methods help face environmental changes

Cost-effective – Low-cost and locally available solutions

🧪 4. Kinds of Traditional Knowledge Systems in India

🌿 (a) Ayurveda

Meaning: "Science of life"

Origin: Ancient India

Based on Tridosha theory — Vata, Pitta, Kapha

Uses herbs, diet, yoga, and lifestyle control

🌿 (b) Siddha

Practiced mainly in Tamil Nadu

Believed to be developed by Siddhars (saints)

Uses minerals, herbs, and metals

Focus on longevity and spiritual development

🌿 (c) Unani

Origin: Greek-Arabic system

Based on four humors: Blood, Phlegm, Yellow bile, Black bile

Treatment includes diet, drugs, and regimental therapy

🧬 5. Indigenous Knowledge (IK)

📌 Definition

Indigenous Knowledge is the local knowledge of native/tribal communities, developed through long interaction with their environment.

It is a subset of Traditional Knowledge, mainly linked to indigenous (tribal) people.

🌿 Characteristics of Indigenous Knowledge

Rooted in local culture and traditions

Closely linked to nature and ecosystem

Mostly undocumented

Spiritual and ritual significance

Conserves forests, water, and wildlife

Gender-specific knowledge (women know medicinal plants, seeds)

🔍 6. Traditional Knowledge vs Indigenous Knowledge

Basis	Traditional Knowledge	Indigenous Knowledge
Meaning	Knowledge of traditional communities	Knowledge of native/ tribal people
Scope	Broader concept	Part of TK
Users	Rural, local, and traditional groups	Specifically indigenous/ tribal groups
Focus	Culture, agriculture, medicine, crafts	Nature, forests, survival skills
Example	Ayurveda	Tribal forest medicine

🌳 7. Traditional Knowledge of Odisha

Odisha has rich TK due to its tribal population and biodiversity.

🌿 Major Areas

🩺 1. Traditional Medicine

Tribes use herbal remedies from forests

Neem, turmeric, tulsi, sal leaves

Bone-setting practices in rural areas

🌾 2. Agriculture

Indigenous paddy varieties

Mixed cropping

Natural pest control (neem, cow urine)

🌊 3. Water Management

Traditional ponds and tanks

Rainwater harvesting in villages

🌳 4. Forest Knowledge

Sustainable collection of minor forest produce

Use of bamboo, sal leaves, mahua flowers

🏠 5. Traditional Architecture

Mud houses with thatched roofs

Climate-adapted housing

🎨 6. Handicrafts

Pattachitra painting

Dhokra metal craft

Stone carving

🌦️ 7. Weather Prediction

Based on bird movement, wind patterns, and cloud forms