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JRIM

HEB's Journal of Research in Indian Medicine
An Official Publication of Bureau for Health & Education Status Upliftment
(Constitutionally Entitled as Health-Education, Bureau)

Concept of non living manifestation in Sankhya darshana – A philosophical & textual analysis

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Abstract

The Sankhya philosophy is considered to be the most ancient school of thought among all philosophical system.

In Sankhya philosophy, the theory of creation occupies a central position, explaining the evolution of the universe through a dualistic framework. This framework while philosophical in nature, shows conceptual parallel with modern evolutionary thought.

The doctrine is fundamentally based on two eternal principles – 1. **Prakriti** – the unconscious & dynamic material cause

Purusha – the conscious & passive observer.

The proximity of *Prakriti* to *Purusha* initiates the process of evolution, resulting in the emergence of the manifest world.

The relationship between consciousness and matter has long been a subject of philosophical inquiry across traditions.

According to Sankhya Cosmology, the universe evolves through successive transformations of *Prakriti* into *Mahat*, *Ahamkara*, *Tanmatras* & Ultimately the *Panchamahabhutas* which constitute both living & Non-living entities.

This ontological structure raises a critical philosophical question – whether Consciousness is present in the non-living matter? The present study explores this issue through conceptual & textual analysis of Sankhya metaphysics. The study highlights the distinct dualism of Sankhya & its implications for contemporary discussion on Consciousness & material reality.

Keywords –

Sankhya darshana, Prakriti, Purusha, non-living, Panchamahabhutas, 23 tatvas, Apavarga

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Website: <http://heb-nic.in/jrim>

Received on 25/04/2026

Accepted on 09/05/2026 © HEB All rights reserved

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