

Leadership Lessons from Ancient Scriptures Applicable to Modern Corporate World

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Introduction

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is an innovative cell under Ministry of Education (MoE) at AICTE, New Delhi. It is established to promote interdisciplinary research on all aspects of IKS, preserve and disseminate IKS for further research and societal applications. It will actively engage for spreading the rich heritage of our country and traditional knowledge in the field of Arts and literature, Agriculture, Basic Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Architecture, Management, Economics, etc. I hope that this article will help us to learn more about IKS and its applications for leadership development

Objectives of the Study

- 1) To study leadership lessons from various ancient Indian scriptures.
- 2) To study about contemporary relevance between ancient Indian scriptures and modern corporate world.

Ramayana

Ramayana is an epic tale from ancient India that has been revered for centuries for its timeless wisdom and teachings. The story follows the journey of Lord Rama, who sets out to rescue his wife Sita from the demon king Ravana.

The Ramayana, an epic poem from ancient India, contains many valuable lessons that can be applied to leadership and organizational development. The leadership principles from Ramayana are as follows:

- 1) Have a clear vision
- 2) Take risks
- 3) Build a Strong team
- 4) Empower Others
- 5) Be Adaptable

- 6) Stay focussed
- 7) Build Trust
- 8) Be Patient
- 9) Take responsibility
- 10) Learn from failures
- 11) Foster a culture of innovation
- 12) Stay true to your values

Bhagavad Geeta

Bhagavad Gītā (Song of God) is one of the most revered texts in Hinduism and a part of the epic Mahābhārata. It occupies chapters 23 to 40 of Book VI of the Mahābhārata. It is a dialogue between Lord Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna, the warrior prince who faces a moral dilemma before the Kurukṣetra war. Lord Krishna guides Arjuna on various aspects of life such as duty, action, knowledge, devotion, ethics, and liberation.

The following are the leadership lessons from Bhagavad Geeta :

- 1) Emphasizes the concept of 'Dharma'
- 2) Focus on Actions over Outcomes
- 3) A lesson from the Atman, the eternal soul
- 4) The Importance of Mentorship
- 5) Inspired Approach to Teamwork
- 6) Embracing Continuous Learning
- 7) The Importance of Integrity

Mahabharata

Mahābhārata is one of the longest epics in the world and narrates the story of the Kuru clan and the war between the Pāṇḍavas and the Kauravas. The Mahabharata takes place against a backdrop of conflict between families, ambition, and the final search for justice. The brothers Pandava and Kaurava, whose destinies are interwoven in a titanic struggle for control of Hastinapur, are at the center of the story. It contains many sub-stories and characters that illustrate various aspects of human life, such as

politics, ethics, morality, religion, culture, and philosophy.

Mahābhārata show cases and many examples of leadership, both good and bad, that can teach us valuable lessons. Some of them are:

- 1) Lord Krishna, the Divine Leader
- 2) A Strategy Beyond Measure
- 3) The Importance of Learning
- 4) Creating Bonds Across Borders
- 5) Common Goals
- 6) Harnessing Strengths
- 7) The Influence of Passion
- 8) Accepting Diverse Points of View

Chanakya Niti

Chanakya, an Indian teacher and philosopher, also known as Kauṭilya and Viṣṇu, who was a scholar, teacher, advisor, and King-maker of King Chandragupta Maurya, the founder of the Mauryan Empire.

Chanakya assisted the first Mauryan emperor Chandragupta in his rise to power. He is widely credited for his important role in the establishment of the Maurya Empire. Chanakya served as the chief advisor to both emperors Chandragupta and his son Bindusara. He played a very crucial role in the political as well as military sphere of the Mauryan dynasty. His work Arthashastra gave enormous details of the Maurya dynasty. He mentions the different kinds of administrative positions as well as different aspects of the cultural dynasty. His work Arthashastra was also known as Chanakya Neeti Shastra.

Arthaśhāstra is an ancient treatise on statecraft. The Arthashastra talks about the different issues like that of social welfare, ethics that hold a society together, economics, politics, diplomacy, military strategy, law, ethics, and governance. This work of Chanakya also deals with the moral aspect of the society which was never talked about before by anyone. So this aspect of Arthashastra makes it very valuable through the eyes of historians.

Arthaśhāstra provides many insights on leadership some of them are:

- 1) Know your team
- 2) Adaptability
- 3) Long term vision
- 4) Ethical Leadership
- 5) Continuous Learning
- 6) Building Strong Alliances

Modern Corporate World

1) Satya Nadella, the CEO of Microsoft

- a. Clear communication style
- b. Build trust with his team and customers
- c. To be adaptable
- d. Customer focused
- e. Learn from failures
- f. Rapid changing tech industry
- g. Transformed MS into new technologies
- h. Takes responsibilities

2) Jeff Bezos, the Founder of Amazon

- a. Build a culture of Innovation and experimentation
- b. Focused on clear vision
- c. Importance of patience
- d. Long term thinking
- e. persistent

3) Mukesh Ambani, the Chairman of Reliance Industries

- a. Visionary Leadership
- b. Innovation and Risk Taking
- c. Customer centric
- d. Strategic partnership
- e. Long term vision

4) Ratan Tata, the founder of Tata

- a. Trusts, values and commitment
- b. Never stop learning
- c. Use your emotions for success
- d. Value your team
- e. Believe in your decisions
- f. Take risks
- g. Give to receive
- h. Don't put all your eggs in one basket

Conclusions

In this article, we have explore some of the leadership principles based on IKS from various ancient scriptures such as **Bhagavad Gītā** (भगवद्गीता), **Mahābhārata** (महाभारत), **Rāmāyaṇa** (रामायण) and **Arthaśāstra** (अर्थशास्त्र). We have seen that these principles are not only relevant but also essential for the contemporary world. They can help us to develop holistic, ethical, visionary, and effective leaders who can lead their organizations and societies towards prosperity and harmony. These scriptures provide

various perspectives on what leadership is and what it can do for an organization and society.

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