

COMGE03 – Indian Ethos and Leadership

Master of Commerce Generic Elective Course: Indian Ethos and Leadership

Course Type/ Course Code	Course Title	Lectures	Tutorials	Practical	Credit	Pre-requisites
COMGE03	Indian Ethos and Leadership	3	1	0	4	NIL

Objective: This course aims to introduce students to the ethical, philosophical, and leadership traditions rooted in Indian civilizational thought. Drawing on texts such as the *Bhagavad Gita*, *Arthashastra*, *Ramayana*, and Jain-Buddhist teachings, the course explores timeless principles of leadership, duty, self-mastery, and service. Contemporary relevance is highlighted through case studies and reflections on public, business, and social leaders.

Learning Outcomes: After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Explore the philosophical foundations of Indian ethos and its relevance to leadership.
- Interpret concepts such as dharma, karma, self-discipline, and ethical responsibility.
- Reflect on indigenous leadership models and contrast them with Western paradigms.
- Apply Indian frameworks to decision-making, self-leadership, and service-oriented action.
- Appreciate pluralistic and inclusive traditions within Indian thought.

Contents:

Unit I

(12 hours)

Introduction to Indian ethos: definition, significance, and contrast with Western frameworks. Philosophical foundations: *Purusharthas*, *Trigunas*, *Karma Yoga*, and *Nishkama Karma*. The inner journey of the leader: self-awareness and self-mastery (*Atma Jnana*, *Sanyam*, *Tyaga*).

Unit II

(11 hours)

Scriptural and historical leadership models: Krishna as strategist and philosopher (*Gita*); Rama as a moral exemplar (*Ramayana*); Chanakya's statecraft and pragmatism (*Arthashastra*). Buddhist-Jain approaches to ethical conduct and leadership. Case discussions of Indian reformers and statesmen.

Unit III (11 hours)

Ethical and dharmic leadership: role of intention, duty, and consequence in decision-making. Principles of governance and trusteeship (*Lokasangraha, Seva, Swadharma*). Karma vs results: learning from dilemmas and ambiguity. Relevance of Indian thought to civil services, corporate governance, and community leadership.

Unit IV (11 hours)

Application to modern organizations: Indian ethos in CSR, sustainability, and stakeholder thinking. Models of inclusive and servant leadership. Organizational culture and Indian values. Learning from Indian family businesses, non-profits, and spiritual institutions.

Tutorial Exercise: Students will engage in reflective writing on a selected Gita shloka or epic episode that illustrates leadership under ethical tension. Each student will connect it to a real-life leadership challenge in public or private life and present a short reflection.

Suggested Readings:

- Gita Press. *Bhagavad Gita*. Gorakhpur.
- Rangarajan, L. N. (1992). *Kautilya's Arthashastra*. Penguin.
- Sharma, S. (2012). *Management in the Gita*. Rupa.
- Sivakumar, A. (2021). *Indian Ethos in Management*. PHI.
- Iyer, R. (2019). *The Moral Compass: Leadership Based on Dharma*. HarperCollins.
- Selected articles and chapters from writings on Gandhi, Vivekananda, and contemporary Indian leaders.