CENTER FOR INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS
उन्मेष

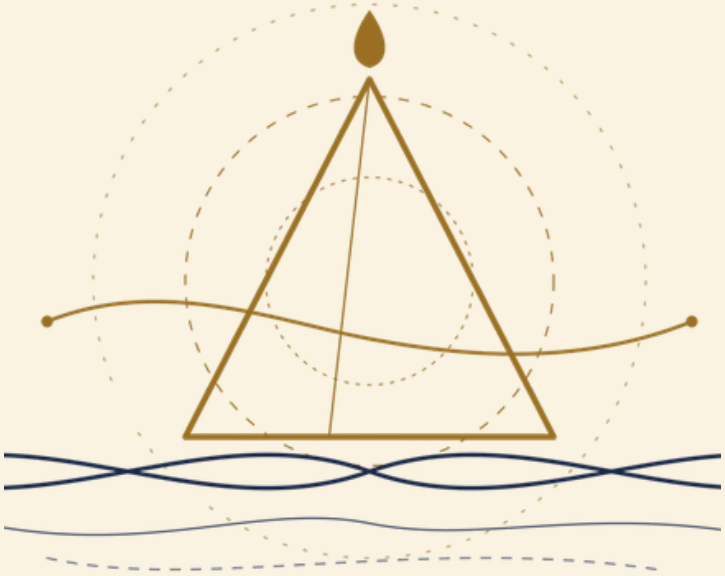
FORE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
NEW DELHI | GURUGRAM

# मंथन

# M A N T H A N

अमृतमन्थनम्

*churning timeless ideas into modern wisdom*



Volume 1 | Issue 2 | August 2026

Theme of the Month

## कर्तव्य

## D U T Y

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to Manthan, the monthly newsletter of Unmesh- Center for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS). Rooted in India's timeless wisdom and aligned with modern management needs, Unmesh aims to bridge tradition with contemporary business thought. Through this compendium, we aim to create a space for reflection, dialogue and continuous learning, which includes sharing insights, ideas and initiatives that inspire responsible, value-driven leadership.

At the heart of our journey lie these eight pillars: E-Books & Digital Library, Lecture Series, Healthcare & Wellness, Culture & Heritage, Literature & Epics, MBA Integration, Research & Publications and the Annual Conclave. Together, these pillars foster holistic development by connecting Indic knowledge with academic excellence, industry relevance and ethical leadership.

Our theme for this month, Kartavya (Duty), reminds us of the importance of fulfilling our responsibilities with sincerity, commitment, and integrity. True growth and leadership lie not merely in seeking rights or rewards, but in recognising and honouring our duties towards ourselves, others, and society.

We hope this edition encourages meaningful reflection and inspires you to embrace your Kartavya in both your personal and professional journey.

**- Prof. Vandana Gupta**

Chair
उन्मेष -Center for Indian
Knowledge System

कर्तव्य

# Duty

## The Foundation of Purposeful Leadership



Indian Knowledge Systems place Kartavya, duty, at the very centre of ethical action. The Bhagavad Gita's teaching of Nishkama Karma, action performed without attachment to results, frames duty not as a burden but as a path to excellence. Ancient texts remind us that when one acts from a sense of responsibility rather than personal gain, work itself becomes a form of growth and service.

## Management Takeaway

In the modern workplace, professionals who anchor themselves in duty rather than reward consistently show greater resilience, integrity and long-term impact. A duty-driven leader focuses on what needs to be done for the team and organisation, not just what earns recognition. This mindset builds accountability, reduces burnout tied to outcome-chasing and creates a culture where people show up fully because it is the right thing to do not merely because someone is watching.

**"When duty becomes your compass, success follows as a natural consequence, not as the goal itself."**

**तस्मादसक्तः सततं कार्यं कर्म समाचर।**
**असक्तो ह्याचरन्कर्म परमाप्नोति पूरुषः॥**

- तृतीय अध्याय, भगवद्गीता

Tasmād asaktaḥ satataṁ kāryaṁ karma samāchara;
Asakto hyācharan karma param āpnoti pūruṣhaḥ.

- Chapter 3, Bhagavad Gita

**"Perform your duty with sincerity, without letting the desire for its outcome determine your commitment."**

**Duty begins where expectation ends.**
We often measure our actions by what they bring us in return. We study for marks, work for recognition and pursue goals with our eyes fixed on the result. The Bhagavad Gita offers a different way of looking at action through *Kartavya*, doing what ought to be done, sincerely and wholeheartedly, without becoming consumed by what comes after.

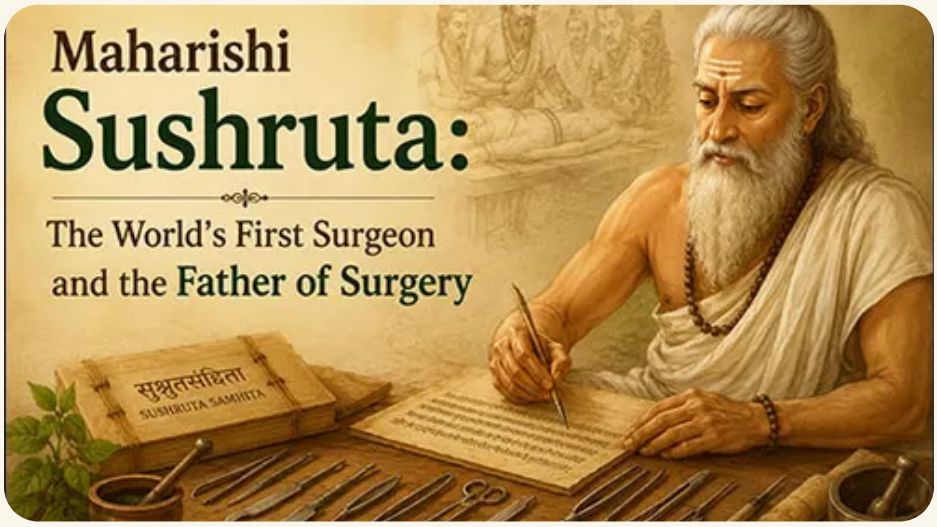
This does not mean becoming indifferent to results. It means understanding what is within our control and what is not. Our effort, discipline, intention and conduct belong to us; the final outcome may not. When we focus on performing our duty well rather than constantly worrying about the reward, work becomes more purposeful and the mind becomes steadier.

Across history, we find people who placed their *Kartavya* above personal comfort. The freedom we experience today was shaped by individuals who chose to serve a larger cause, often at the cost of their own safety, comfort and lives. Their actions remind us that duty can sometimes demand sacrifice, especially when the purpose is greater than the individual.

In management, this becomes equally meaningful. A leader's role is not only to achieve targets, but to take ownership of the people and purpose entrusted to them. Leaders who see their role as a duty rather than merely a position are more likely to act with integrity, remain steady during uncertainty and put collective success alongside personal achievement.

The wisdom of the Gita reminds us that duty finds its deepest meaning when it is performed with sincerity, not merely for reward. In a world driven by outcomes, perhaps true leadership lies in knowing what is ours to do and having the conviction to do it well.

# The World's First Plastic Surgery Was Performed in India and Its Principles Guide Modern Medicine




For most people, plastic surgery is a modern marvel of the 20th century. But over 2,600 years ago, in the ancient city of Varanasi, the physician Sushruta was performing complex reconstructive surgeries including rhinoplasty (nose reconstruction) and cataract couching with precision that still impresses surgeons today.

The Sushruta Samhita, composed around 600 BCE, describes over 300 surgical procedures, 120 surgical instruments, and 8 major branches of surgery. Among these is the detailed technique for reconstructing a severed nose using a flap of skin from the patient's forehead or cheek which is the very pedicle flap technique that modern plastic surgeons still use. Sushruta also pioneered cataract surgery, using a curved needle to push a clouded lens aside which is aprocedure that remained the standard for centuries.Sushruta even described steps for post-operative care, including wound hygiene, suturing materials and the use of medicinal oils to prevent infection making a holistic system that Western medicine only began to adopt in the 19th century.

In 1794, the Gentleman's Magazine published an account of an Indian barber-surgeon who reconstructed a British soldier's nose sparking a wave of interest in Europe. Today, Sushruta is internationally recognised as the "Father of Plastic Surgery," and his principles of flap surgery are taught in medical schools worldwide.

# The Corporate Citizen's Resolve: *Rashtra Dharma* and the Pursuit of *Lokasangraha*



With Independence Day celebrations underway, corporate messaging is crowded with tricolour and clichés of freedom. But for the modern management professional, this is a time to reflect much more deeply on a concept that is often lost in the shadows of quarterly growth which is the responsibility of the *Praja* (citizen). We readily celebrate *Swatantrata* (freedom) but how often do we in the corporate world think about our *Rashtra Dharma* which makes this freedom possible?

With the constant hustle and bustle of corporate ladders and key performance indicators, it is easy to see a job as just a transactional tool to make money. The Indian Knowledge Systems, however, present a completely different paradigm and argue that the very foundation of national sovereignty is that of everyday labour, performed with integrity.

The deep connection between these is seen in the Vana Parva of the Mahabharata. The story is about a young learned ascetic named Kaushika, who had become arrogant of his spiritual powers. He goes in search of the ultimate wisdom and is guided to a teacher in the busy city of Mithila. To Kaushika's astonishment, the great teacher isn't a meditating sage, but Dharmavyadha, an ordinary butcher. Kaushika asks him why a man who is engaged in such a trivial and seemingly dirty business should have the highest knowledge. The butcher teaches a lesson that is timeless: He is spiritually and practically fulfilled not by what he does, but by how he does it. He performs his *Svadharma* (his duty in the society) with utmost sincerity and without any selfish motives, thus he is doing more for the society than a person who evades his duty.

Dharmavyadha is a modern-day lesson in Kartavya (duty) for today's management graduates. There is no need to wear the uniform and stand at the borders to practice Rashtra Dharma. Your battlegrounds are your boardroom, your spreadsheet and your supply chain.

When an auditor raises an alarm at the time of immense pressure, when a product manager does not budge an inch on quality to make a quick profit, when an operations leader fights for fair policies, they are practicing their Svadharma. It is a reminder of the ancient texts that a prosperous and truly independent nation is not constructed by the sovereign decree alone but by the combined diligence and ethics of the Praja.

Now we come to one of the most important principles of management as stated in the Bhagavad Gita, Lokasangraha (act for the welfare and maintenance of the world). The very nature of business changes when corporate citizens change their primary concern from self interest to Lokasangraha. We shift from extractive greed of corporations to an ecosystem that empowers corporations to strengthen the economic independence of the nation.

This is reinforced in the Taittiriya Upanishad through the words Satyam Vada, Dharmam Chara (Speak the truth, abide by your duty). It is a great commandment for the modern management graduates, to remind them that their higher education is not only for their personal gains but also for the betterment of the society. In the complex corporate world, independence is a journey that requires your integrity every day. Tomorrow's leaders can rise above the ordinary and create businesses that don't only make a profit, but help drive the Rashtra forward.

**- Nayan Kotnala**
193030
PGDM-IB

# कर्तव्य



भावुक! भरो भाव रत्नों से,
भाषा के भांडार भरो।

देर करो न देशवासी-गण
अपनी उन्नति आप करो॥

एक हृदय से एक ईश का
धरो विविध ध्यान धरो।

विश्व-प्रेम-रत, रोम-रोम से—
गद्गद निर्झर-सदृश झरो॥




मन से, वाणी से, कर्मों से,
आधि, व्याधि, उपाधि हरो।

अक्षय आत्मा के अधिकारी,
किसी विघ्न-भय से न डरो॥

विचरो अपने पैरों के बल,
भुज-बल से भव-सिंधु तरो।

जियो कर्म के लिए जगत में
और धर्म के लिए मरो॥

**- मैथिलीशरण गुप्त**



## Aruna Asaf Ali

*Quit India Leader*

A key figure of the Quit India Movement, Aruna Asaf Ali became a symbol of resistance when she hoisted the Indian National Congress flag at Mumbai's Gowalia Tank Maidan on 9 August 1942, defying British orders. She continued the movement underground, spreading revolutionary literature and keeping the resistance alive when many senior leaders had been arrested.



## Sachindra Nath Sanyal

*Revolutionary Strategist*

One of the founding figures of the Hindustan Republican Association, Sachindra Nath Sanyal helped shape India's revolutionary movement and influenced a younger generation of revolutionaries. He was associated with major revolutionary networks, including the Ghadar movement, and spent years imprisoned by the British



## Usha Mehta

*Congress Radio Pioneer*

During the Quit India Movement, Usha Mehta operated the secret Congress Radio, broadcasting uncensored news and messages of resistance when British censorship controlled the press. Her underground broadcasts helped keep the movement connected and informed.

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