LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE : INSIGHTS FROM INDIAN ETHOS

Course Coordinator/Instructor: Prof. C. Panduranga Bhatta

(a) Course Coverage

The global age – an age when cultures, religions and historic traditions are merging – requires people who can provide leadership based on holistic worldview, and cultivate flexibility, and admit diversity besides championing the cause of higher values such as inclusivism, interdependence, interconnectedness, ethics, and compassion in every field of human activity including business. Indian ethos gives a new and deeper meaning to the concepts of holistic leadership, spirituality, self, organisation, and environmental consciousness. It enables future leaders to face the sweeping and overpowering change with calmness and equanimity so as to cope up with it, manage it and thrive on it.

This course focuses on a wide range of issues related to leadership and provides ideas, opinions, experiences, beliefs, perspectives and futuristic thoughts based on Indian ethos which are of immense value to all those who aim to succeed in today’s complex business environment. It focuses on a comprehensive, practical and highly useful analysis of the defining components of effective leadership such as inspiring and influencing people, nurturing talent, leading change, improving performance, encouraging learning, and effective ways of achieving results, cooperation and creating a successful enterprise.

This course addresses the topic of leadership excellence from a multidisciplinary perspective and provides an alternative approach to understanding leadership besides enabling participants to gain better insights and develop an intuitive understanding of evolving perspectives, worldviews, visions and purposes, which are needed to become excellent leaders.
The purpose here is to provide an integrative framework for understanding leadership excellence. The focus is on helping participants on a path of self-discovery in the area of leadership and providing practical tools that can make them more competent, more articulate, more creative, more inspirational and more credible.

(b) Course Objectives

• To explore the relevance of Indian Ethos for further enrichment of holistic leadership principles and practices.

• To develop a high order leadership based on vision, mission and action exemplified by great leaders of India at different points in history.

• To sharpen multiple levels of leadership competence to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

• To provide insights to participants for developing leadership that is socially, environmentally and culturally responsible.

(i) Course Content:

The course will be woven around the following themes:

• Exploring Indian Ethos
• Leadership Concepts and Practices from Ancient, Medieval and Modern India
• Exemplary Leadership based on Indian Ethos
• Intuition for Holistic Decision Making
• Values Based Leadership
• Spirituality for Leadership Excellence
• Developing Socially, Culturally & Environmentally Responsible Leadership
• Creative Leadership and Good Governance
• Self-Lotussing
• Coping with Stress from Within

(j) Pedagogy

This course has been designed to be interactive, and with scope for class participation throughout. In addition to lectures and assigned readings, the learning approach incorporates case analyses, video-case presentations, experience sharing, discussions, and
interactions with leaders, and group work and presentations, attitudinal tests based on yoga and Ayurveda and reflections on real-life situations. Most of the inputs are drawn from classical and contemporary writings on the subjects by eastern and western authors.

(k) Evaluation

Evaluation will be done on the basis of quiz, group work, and theme paper and class participation.

(l) Prescribed Reading Materials

1. Printed Books and Course Material Book to be supplied by PGP office.
2. Handouts and case studies to be supplied by the course teacher in the class and through course-web.

(m) Suggested Reading:

18. Gupta, GP, Management by Consciousness, Sri Aurobindo Institute of Research in Social Sciences, Pondicherry, 2009

(n) Research papers published by the course instructor related to the topic.


