

Round Table Discussion

on

Governance and Management: Lessons from Ramayana

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The Valmiki Ramayana, one of the oldest and most revered epics, is a profound repository of insights on governance, ethics, justice, sustainability, health, and leadership. This round table discussion brought together thought leaders, scholars, and practitioners to explore the timeless lessons of the Ramayana for contemporary governance and management systems. The meeting was aimed at initiating a structured research roadmap based on the principles laid out in the epic.

Prof. Vijay Pandya, who translated Valmiki's Ramayana into Gujarati, presided over the session. In his remarks, Prof. Pandya emphasized that the research must be grounded in evidence and based exclusively on the Valmiki Ramayana. He elaborated on the methods, timelines, and scope of the project, citing several important examples

The meeting was chaired by



Prof. Vijay Pandya: The Person Who Translated Valmiki's Ramayana Into Gujarati

Prof. Vijay Pandya holds the rare distinction of bringing one of the greatest epics of ancient Indian literature, Valmiki's Ramayana, into the heart of Gujarat through a masterful translation into Gujarati. His work stands as a monumental contribution to regional literature, culture, and the preservation of India's spiritual and moral legacy.

Prof. Pandya chaired the meeting and he explained the some guidelines for working in the noble project. He also explained the process and methods , suggested time lines, scope and limitation of the study . The Pandya cited some of the examples from Balmiki ranayan , its impirtnace at

present context. He emphasis that the research should be based on eveidence , very specific and should be centred on Balmiki Ramayana . The outcome of this work will be certainly useful for larger purpose.

Health Perspective: Dr. Kamlesh Upadhyay

Dr. Kamlesh Upadhyay, a senior medical professional from B.J. Medical College and Civil Hospital, emphasized the health lessons embedded in the Ramayana. He referred to the line “Ram Rasayan Tumhare Paasa”, illustrating the healing power of living a life aligned with spiritual discipline. Dr. Upadhyay proposed to further explore ancient Indian wellness practices that promote a healthy society through mind management and lifestyle balance. Dr. Upadhaya is stated that there is lot in our scripture about health which can be helpful for making society healthy only by managing mind and lifestyle . He accepted the request and he will look at the health perspective from ancient knowledge system with focus of healthy society and healthy nation lessons from Balmiki Ramayan.



Prof. (Dr.) Ajitsinh P. Rana is a distinguished educationist, researcher, writer, and administrator, currently serves as the Professor and Director of the School of Education, Distance Education, and Educational Technology at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, played major role in organizing the round table.

He has extensive experience as administrator at various places like Registrar at Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat Technological University, Former Regional Director at the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), Northern Regional Committee, Jaipur and also served on deputation as Additional Secretary to the Governor of Karnataka at Raj Bhavan, Bengaluru. Dr. Rana accepted to work in the administration perspective and how administration system can be translated into meaningful ways from ancient knowledge system with focus of Balmiki Ramayan,



Prof. S.P. Gautam, is a distinguished academician and former Vice-Chancellor of Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya (RDVV), Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh has joined the meeting virtually. He has made significant contributions to the fields of biotechnology, microbiology, and environmental science. Prof. Gautam has significantly contributed to the integration of Indian philosophical texts, including the Ramayana, into contemporary academic discourse. His interdisciplinary approach bridges the gap between ancient wisdom and modern scientific inquiry.

The discussion was center around key dimensions that shaped governance during that era:

- 1. Nyay Vyavastha (Judicial System): The foundation of justice based on Dharma, fairness, and natural law.*
- 2. Shasan Vyavastha (Administrative System): A welfare-centric monarchy emphasizing ethical leadership and decentralization.*
- 3. Education System: Various model of learning, which is relevant for skill development, and moral responsibility and nation building.*
- 4. Social Harmony: A duty-based societal framework ensuring inclusivity, meritocracy, and collective well-being.*
- 5. Environmental Management: Sustainable living, ecological preservation, and harmony with nature.*

Dr. Nisha Pandey, Convenor of the round table discussion emphasizes the significance of ethical governance and leadership as exemplified in the Ramayana. She believes that the principles demonstrated by Lord Rama—such as duty, integrity, and selfless service—serve as timeless models for contemporary administrative practices. By incorporating these values, modern governance can achieve greater transparency, accountability, and public trust.

Dr. Pandey advocates for an education system that harmoniously blends traditional Indian wisdom with modern pedagogical approaches. She underscores the importance of holistic education, drawing from the Ramayana's emphasis on character building, moral values, and the pursuit of knowledge. This integration aims to cultivate well-rounded individuals who contribute positively to society. She highlights figures from the Ramayana, such as Sita and Shabari, who

embody strength, resilience, and devotion. By drawing parallels between these archetypes and contemporary initiatives, Dr. Pandey advocates for policies that promote gender equality, capacity building, and active participation of women in all spheres of life.

Holding a Ph.D. in Environmental Economics and post-doctoral research experience focusing on potable water resource management, Dr. Pandey is deeply invested in sustainable development. She draws inspiration from the Ramayana's depiction of harmonious coexistence with nature, emphasizing the need for environmental stewardship. Her work promotes community-driven initiatives that align with ecological balance, resource conservation, and sustainable livelihoods, ensuring the well-being of both the environment and society.

Dr. Amrita , faculty of GIDR , Mr. Ranjit Gohil, AAO of GIDR, Mr. Tushar, Mr. Ankit, Mr. Solankhi , Ms. Minal also joined the meeting and graced the occasion.

Dr. Pandey extended vote of thanks to all the dignitaries , Dr. Neerja Gupta, VC Gujarat University , all the speakers and every one who directly or indirectly supported this program.

It was decided with concern of all that next meeting will be held at IIT Mumbai with wider discussion and action points.