

BA Sanskrit SEM-4

MINOR -SNMN -441 C Yaksh Yudhishtir Samvada /

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Skill development

Employability

Entrepreneurship

Course Title & Code	Credit Distribution of The Course (Total credit-04)	Prerequisite(s) of the Course (if any)
Yaksh Yudhishtir Samvad SMN 441 C	Lecture -4	Literature appreciating Ability.

Course Description

This course introduces students to one of the most philosophical, ethical, and intellectually stimulating dialogues in the *Mahabharata*—the conversation between the Yaksha (Dharma in disguise) and Yudhishtira. Through this text, students will explore classical Indian ethics, socio-religious duties, righteousness (*Dharma*), and practical wisdom, while strengthening their Sanskrit grammatical and textual interpretation skills.

Learning Objectives (LOs)

By the end of this course, the instructor aims to:

1. **Analyze** the textual, cultural, and philosophical context of the Yaksha-Yudhishtira dialogue within the *Mahabharata*.
2. **Train** students in decoding classical Sanskrit verses (*Shlokas*) using traditional methods like *Anvaya* (prose order) and *Vyakarana* (grammatical analysis).
3. **Elucidate** the core concepts of *Dharma*, morality, and practical life lessons embedded in Yudhishtira's answers.
4. **Develop** critical thinking regarding how ancient ethical frameworks apply to contemporary societal and personal challenges.

Course Outcomes (COs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Recite and Translate:** Accurately recite the selected verses and translate them from Sanskrit to English/Hindi with proper prose order (*Anvaya*).
2. **Apply Grammatical Rules:** Identify and explain grammatical components, including *Sandhi*, *Samasa*, *Dhatu-roopa*, and *Pratyaya* used in the text.
3. **Evaluate Philosophical Concepts:** Articulate the definition of *Dharma*, patience, control of mind, and true knowledge as propounded by Yudhishtira.
4. **Contextualize Ethics:** Compare and apply the ethical dilemmas discussed in the dialogue to modern moral and civic responsibilities.

Course Syllabus: Four Units

Unit 1: Introduction, Context, and the Framework of Questions

- **Contextual Background:** Introduction to the *Mahabharata* (Vana Parva, Adhyaya 311-313), the exile of the Pandavas, and the background of the enchanted pool.
- **Character Studies:** The symbolism of the Yaksha (Dharma) and the virtues of Yudhishtira (patience, righteousness).
- **Textual Study:** Analysis of the initial verses setting up the dialogue, the consequences of ignoring the Yaksha, and the commencement of the question-answer format.

Unit 2: Cosmic Order, Nature, and High Philosophy

- **Textual Study:** Verses dealing with cosmic, natural, and elemental questions (e.g., What makes the sun rise? What is weightier than the earth? What is higher than the sky?).
- **Philosophical Themes:** The concept of *Rta* (cosmic order), the roles of parental duties, and the psychological definition of wind/mind speed.
- **Grammar focus:** Identification of *Krt* and *Taddhita* suffixes in the prescribed verses.

Unit 3: Virtue, Psychology, and Ethical Definitions

- **Textual Study:** Verses defining core human values and vices (e.g., What is courage? What is patience? Who is a true enemy? What is the ultimate bath/cleansing?).

- **Key Concepts:** Control of the mind (*Dama*), forgiveness, shame (*Hri*), and true knowledge (*Jnana*).
- **Grammar focus:** Analysis of *Samasa* (Compounds) like *Tatpurusha*, *Dvandva*, and *Bahuvrihi* occurring in the text.

Unit 4: The Ultimate Riddles and the Triumph of Dharma

- **Textual Study:** The climactic questions (e.g., What is the greatest wonder in the world? Who is truly happy? What is the path to righteousness?).
- **Conclusion of the Dialogue:** Yudhishtira's choice to revive Nakula (the concept of *Anashamsya* or neutrality/impartiality) and the rewarding of the Pandavas.
- **Spiritual Insight:** The synthesis of life, death, and time as an unstoppable force.

Recommended Reference Books

1. Primary Text with Commentary:

- *Mahabharata (Vana Parva)* – Gita Press, Gorakhpur.
- *Yaksha-Yudhishtira Samvada* – Edited with Sanskrit commentary and Hindi/English translation by various classical publishers (e.g., Motilal Banarsidass or Chaukhamba Sanskrit Sansthan).

2. Secondary & Critical Literature:

- *The Mahabharata: An Inquiry in the Human Condition* by Chaturvedi Badrinath.
- *Essays on the Mahabharata* by Arvind Sharma.
- *Moral Dilemmas in the Mahabharata* edited by Bimal Krishna Matilal.

3. Grammar References:

- *Higher Sanskrit Grammar* by M.R. Kale.