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ICSI - CENTRE FOR  
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TRAINING (CCGRT)



Dear Professional Colleagues,

**Sub: ICSI-CCGRT – AMRUT DHARA –EDITION-21**

We are pleased to inform you ICSI-CCGRT- **AMRUT DHARA**, in which we will provide the regular write up on topics related to Governance and Management from Ancient India and Indian Epic.

In this series ICSI-Centre for Corporate Governance, Research & Training (CCGRT) present a titled on “**Nectar of Governance- 21**” from **Dr. V Sevaka Das, Director, Bhaktivedanta College of Vedic Education, ISKON, Navi Mumbai** for your information.

Previous editions of **Amrut Dhara** “Nectar of Governance” are also available at following link:-<https://www.icsi.edu/ccgrr/Research/AmrutDhara.aspx>

Hope, you will find an enclosed write-up useful & informative. We welcome your feedback/Suggestions on this write-up on [ccgrr@icsi.edu](mailto:ccgrr@icsi.edu).

*With Best Wishes,*

**CS Ashish Garg**  
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## Nectar of Governance

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### Part 21: Power of Unity



“United we stand, divided we fall”- is a statement that speaks loud about the importance of unity. Unity is the part and parcel of our existence. We have eyes, ears, nose, mouth, legs and hands that work in perfect unity to allow us to carry out our activities. If we plan something and our senses behave differently, it only indicates our deranged condition. Even if one wants to hold a glass of water, all the five fingers have to work in unity to accomplish the task. These

are very simple examples that we come across every day in our lives. Still, we fail to understand the potential of unity, thus allowing all our endeavors to pass through rough weather. Even unity among two hands or two legs matters a lot in the completion of any work. A work that requires participation of two hands cannot be completed with one hand. Similarly, a person running on two legs reaches his destination faster than the one who limps on only one leg. An intelligent person aims at unity amongst the people to reach the desired goal post.

In Mahabharata, the great scripture of Vedic wisdom, narrates a nice story about unity. Once, there lived a hunter in a forest. He used to catch birds in the forest, and sell them in a nearby city to earn his livelihood. One day, he saw two peculiar, very big birds in the forest for the first time and wanted to capture them. He arranged a net and hid himself at a nearby location. The two birds came to eat the grains thrown on the ground, but unfortunately got entangled in the net. The hunter was very happy to see the birds trapped in the net. Both the birds tried hard to escape, but they could not succeed. Suddenly, they stopped their independent efforts and opted for combined efforts by flying off into air with full strength. In next few seconds, both the birds were in the sky along with the net, which left the hunter in distress. He didn't anticipate such a collective effort by the birds. He simply ran along the ground chasing the flying birds. An ascetic who lives in the forest asked the hunter the reason for his running after the flying birds. The hunter confidently replied, “I am sure, when they ignore the power of unity and fight with each other, they will fall down. I am running along to catch them when they fall on the ground for want of unity”. After a few minutes, as luck would have it, the hunter saw both the birds fight with each other and they came down to the ground along with the net. The hunter happily captured both of them to earn big money in the city.



The moral of the story is very clear. Unity saved the birds in the first instance when they jointly flew into the sky. But, when they lost the unity, the great danger of death approached them. Unity made them to fly and quarrel made them to fall. This the most important lesson to be learnt for effective performance of governance. Unless all the governed people work united, no efficient governance prevails. The simple reason for unity is love and the reason for dividedness is hatred or enviousness. If hatred or enviousness creeps into the hearts of people, unity starts to evaporate. A leader shall strive for a cordial and loving relationship amongst all the members and curb symptoms of dissension in initial stages itself. Non-envious nature is the real positive attitude of an individual that actually pleases the Godhead. Bhagavad-Gita (12.13-14), the book of highest knowledge, speaks about this point as below:

***adveṣṭā sarva-bhūtānāṃ maitraḥ karuṇa eva ca  
nirmamo nirahaṅkāraḥ sama-duḥkha-sukhaḥ kṣamī***

***santuṣṭaḥ satatam yogī yatātmā dṛḍha-niścayaḥ  
mayy arpita-mano-buddhir yo mad-bhaktaḥ sa me priyaḥ***

“One who is not envious but is a kind friend to all living entities, who doesn’t think himself a proprietor and is free from false ego, who is equal in both happiness and distress, who is tolerant, always satisfied, self-controlled, and engaged in devotional service with determination, his mind and intelligence fixed on Me - such a devotee of Mine is very dear to Me.”

There are many good qualities of a person that actually make him dearer to the God. But, the first good quality that is expected from an individual is non-enviousness. Only a person-with non-envious quality can build strong friendship with one and all. Sincere and devoted saints demonstrate this divine quality of freedom from enviousness through their activities. Enviousness gets demonstrated from mental plane, whereas non-enviousness is demonstrated from spiritual plane. A leader shall strive to train all the subordinates in practicing the non-enviousness through building sweet relationship amongst them. By nature, human beings are selfish in all their thoughts and actions. They even show their miserly nature in words. They seldom speak well about others and never utter positive words. There are six well defined ways of building sweet relations between two individuals. Giving gifts, accepting gifts, revealing inner feelings, hearing inner feelings, offering food and accepting food are the six activities that ensure unbreakable relations. These love enriching activities shall be encouraged by the leader, by design, to nurture loving relations. Such an atmosphere creates non-envious attitude amongst the people, who then work with all unity. Though all the fingers of a palm are not of same size, shape and position, they united form a clenched fist to defend against any dangerous situation. In this world, we need to work unitedly, not only for achieving the goal posts, but also to defend or protect ourselves. There is no alternative for unity in the world.

United way of thinking, talking, walking and working is the first symptom of success for effective governance. A leader can sense victory or failure in the beginning itself by a close observation of teams' behavior. If the team members appear to be united, then success is guaranteed. But, if the team members appear to be divided, then failure is certain though the present situation appears very rosy. The scene of birds flying in a flock in the evening sky shall become inspirational for humans to form a united team working for a comfortable, peaceful and prosperous life. Even small ants demonstrate the power of unity to humans by carrying a big crystal of sugar with the joint effort of a group of ants. Vedic mantras profoundly advise one and all to live without any quarrel, dissension and dispute by saying, "*māvidvishāvahai* - let you don't disagree with each other". By the association of learned men, who actually experienced the Vedic Knowledge in their life, one can gradually elevate from mental plane to consciousness plane, where divine quality of friendliness towards all living entities is experienced. Practice of united approach should at first start from home, and then extend to all scenarios of professional life. Sincere efforts at home can reveal one's limitations in working jointly with others. One should seek real feedback from the members of the family about his or her nature of working in the group and make corrections wherever required. Such an open discussion or opportunity for change may not be available at the workplace, as all are connected only through professional tie up and not by loving relations. However, gradual practice of working together and then extending the same approach to all spheres of life makes one to achieve success without difficulties. A leader shall endeavor to make the subordinates to understand the importance of the power of unity in fulfilling higher tasks. Let the glories of unity be sung in everyone's heart forever.

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