

The Kurukshetra Within brings the timeless leadership wisdom of Mahabharata into the modern workplace

New book by Nidhi Choudhari and Agnelorajesh Athaide explores strategy, ethics, conflict, communication and decision-making through one of India's greatest epic

Mumbai, India: Every leader faces a Kurukshetra—not necessarily a battlefield, but a moment when choices carry consequences, loyalties collide, information is incomplete, and the right course of action is far from obvious.

This idea lies at the heart of *The Kurukshetra Within: Leadership Lessons from the Mahabharata*, an upcoming book by Nidhi Choudhari and Agnelorajesh Athaide that brings the enduring wisdom of the Mahabharata into conversation with the realities of contemporary leadership.

Rather than approaching the Mahabharata solely as an ancient epic, the book examines its characters, conflicts and dilemmas through the lens of leadership and decision-making. Through the experiences of Krishna, Arjuna, Bhishma, Karna, Duryodhana and others, the authors explore questions that remain strikingly relevant to leaders today: How does one make difficult decisions when every option carries a cost? Where should ambition end and responsibility begin? How can leaders navigate loyalty, conflict and competing interests without losing sight of the larger purpose?

Ancient dilemmas, contemporary leadership

The modern workplace may look very different from the world of the Mahabharata, but many of its fundamental human challenges remain familiar. Leaders continue to encounter questions of power and responsibility, individual ambition and collective purpose, emotion and reason, loyalty and fairness, action and hesitation.

The book explores key aspects of leadership, including strategic thinking, conflict management, team building, emotional intelligence, effective communication and ethical decision-making. It connects these timeless narratives with contemporary organisational and corporate experiences. Real-world case studies and practical leadership frameworks help translate philosophical ideas into insights readers can consider in their own professional and personal lives.

Leadership begins within

At a time when leaders are expected to make faster decisions amid increasing complexity and uncertainty, *The Kurukshetra Within* returns attention to a fundamental question: What guides the person making the decision?

The book encourages readers to look beyond conventional ideas of leadership centred solely on authority, achievement or influence. Instead, it explores the role of clarity, courage, accountability and self-awareness in determining how leaders respond when circumstances become difficult.

For anyone facing their own Kurukshetra

Designed for business leaders, entrepreneurs, managers, professionals, students and readers interested in leadership and Indian philosophical traditions, *The Kurukshetra Within* aims to move beyond abstract leadership theory.

At its core, the book asks readers to recognise their own Kurukshetra—the difficult conversation, the competing priorities, the ethical dilemma, the moment of indecision or the responsibility that accompanies power.

Because leadership is ultimately tested not when the path is obvious, but when it is not.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Nidhi Choudhari

Nidhi Choudhari, IAS (2012 Batch, Maharashtra Cadre) currently serves as Director, National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Mumbai, under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. At NGMA Mumbai, she has led and curated several landmark exhibitions and cultural initiatives.

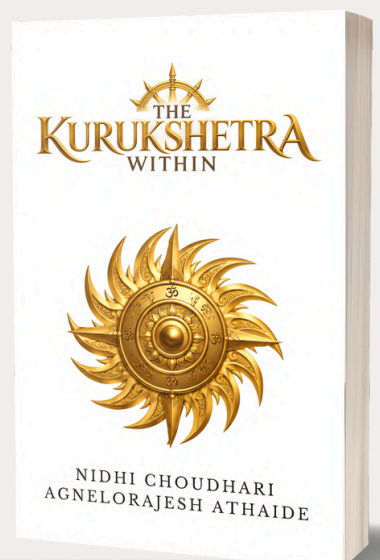
Beyond administration, she is an accomplished artist, poet and author, with her artworks featured in more than 25 exhibitions in India and abroad. Through her work, she brings together governance and creativity, often offering insights and solutions that bring meaningful engagement with art, ideas and public service.



Agnelorajesh Athaide

Agnelorajesh Athaide is Chairman and Managing Director of the Global St. Angelos Group of Companies, headquartered in Mumbai. In four decades of business, he has built and led ventures across real estate, hospitality, technology, education, packaged food and water infrastructure.

Beyond the background, Agnelorajesh hosts the podcast, Inspiring Conversations, where he sits down with entrepreneurs and changemakers to talk about growth, grit and giving back. He also volunteers with the Konark Cancer Foundation, standing beside families who need support the most.



***The Kurukshetra Within: Leadership Lessons from the Mahabharata* by Nidhi Choudhari and Agnelorajesh Athaide is out now!**

