

## Review Article

# Leadership & Strategic Planning Lessons From Lord Krishna as Depicted in Mahabharata

Hemangi A Badgujar<sup>1</sup>, Sonal Umesh Patil<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Student MBA semester 2, L.J. Institute of Management Studies, L J University.

<sup>2</sup>Librarian, L.J. Institute of Management Studies, L J University.

## I N F O

**Corresponding Author:**

Sonal Umesh Patil, Librarian, L.J. Institute of Management Studies, L J University.

**E-mail Id:**

sonalpatil@ljk.edu.in

**Orchid ID:**

<https://orcid.org/0009-0007-0926-807X>

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## A B S T R A C T

This research paper's goal is to look at Lord Krishna's management skills and strategies in the epic Mahabharata. The research paper analyses key incidents and conversations from the scriptures as well as interpretations from various scholars and traditions to give light on Lord Krishna's remarkable leadership during the Mahabharata. The article starts by explaining Lord Krishna's remarkable leadership, in which he articulated a crystal-clear vision for revitalising dharma and ethical behaviour in society. It emphasises on his function as a beloved advisor and counsellor and strategist who directs the epic's characters by using his deep insight and knowledge and understanding. Finally, this research paper provides a thorough examination of Lord Krishna's leadership in the Mahabharata, highlighting his visionary approach, diplomatic talents, strategic alliances, moral compass, divine intervention, psychological insight, and planning and execution ability. The findings help to deepen our understanding of Lord Krishna's leadership and its relevance in modern circumstances.

**Keywords:** Lord Krishna, Mahabharata, Leadership, Kauravas, Scriptures, Strategy

## Introduction

Shri Krishna, commonly known as Lord Krishna, is a beloved character in Hindu mythology and is regarded as one of the Mahabharata's most important characters. Krishna plays a crucial role in leading the Pandavas to victory in the ancient Indian epic The Mahabharata, which tells the story of the Great War between the Pandavas and the Kauravas. Krishna demonstrates exceptional leadership abilities throughout the epic, captivating readers for decades. We will be looking after the number of leadership qualities that Shri Krishna has demonstrated in the Mahabharata.

Leadership with a clear vision: Shri Krishna's leadership is distinguished by his vision and foresight. He is born with the ability to understand the greater context and the consequences of his actions. Krishna's perspective considers

long-term impacts in addition to the immediate situation. His top priorities are establishing righteousness (dharma) and safeguarding the wellbeing of society. Krishna's vision guides him in creating action plans and picking course of action that achieves his objective.

There is a verse which depicts the skill of leadership with a clear vision of Lord Krishna from Bhagvad Gita which is mentioned in Chapter-4, Verse-7:

“यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवति भारतु।

अभ्युत्थानमधर्मस्य तदात्मानं सृजाम्यहम्।।”

### Translation

“Whenever and wherever there is a decline in righteousness and an increase in unrighteousness, O Arjuna, at that time, I manifest myself on Earth.”

Lord Krishna communicates the fundamentals of his leadership and divine involvement in this verse. He states that whenever there is a decline in dharma (righteousness) and an increase in adharma (unrighteousness) in the universe, he manifests to bring about balance and safeguard the ideals of dharma.

In this shloka, Lord Krishna expresses his leadership with words that show a clear vision. He is aware of when and where to step in to preserve peace and justice in the world. His goal and aim are fixed to guide individuals along a righteous road and protect them against injustice and evil.

The immortal and universal character of Lord Krishna's leadership is also reflected in this shloka. He defies time and space, proving that his wisdom and impact are universal and relevant to everywhere. By addressing this shloka, we can see Lord Krishna's leadership as having a profound and clear vision that was constantly centred on restoring dharma and rescuing people from adharma.

This following verse which is mentioned below of Chapter-02, Verse-47 is showing the example of leadership skill with a clear vision:

“कर्मण्येव अधिकारः ते मा फलेषु कदाचन।

मा कर्मफलहेतुः भूर्मा ते सङ्गोऽस्तु अकर्मणि।।”

**Translation:** “You have the right to perform your prescribed duties, but you are not entitled to the fruits of your actions. Never consider yourself the cause of the results of your activities, and never be attached to not doing your duty.”

In this verse, Shri Krishna emphasizes the concept of selfless action and detachment from the results. He encourages Arjuna, and by extension all of us, to focus on our duties and responsibilities without worrying about the outcomes. This is a powerful message of leadership, urging one to act with dedication and clarity of purpose, letting go of attachment to the rewards or results of those actions.

One of the most famous incidents is from the Bhagavad Gita, which is a conversation between Lord Krishna and the warrior prince Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra. When Arjuna is filled with doubt and moral dilemma about fighting in the war, Krishna imparts spiritual wisdom and guidance to him. He provides clarity on the nature of duty, righteousness, and the imperishable soul. This incident showcases Krishna's ability to provide clear vision in times of confusion and moral dilemmas.

Throughout the Mahabharata, Krishna provides strategic advice and guidance to the Pandavas (Arjuna and his brothers) to help them navigate the challenges they face. His counsel often involves clear insights into human nature, political dynamics, and the consequences of actions. For example, he helps the Pandavas devise tactics to win

battles, advises them on negotiations, and warns them of potential pitfalls.

**Excellent Communication:** Krishna exhibits excellent communication abilities, which are crucial to his leadership style. His persuasive communication skills enable him to successfully express his views and ideas. Krishna is able to relate to people from all walks of life thanks to his ability to explain complicated ideas in a straightforward and clear way. His ability to persuade others and inspire them to assist him in his mission is made possible by his persuasive communication abilities.

Here is another verse from Bhagvad Gita that shows the skill of excellent communication of Lord Krishna:

परित्राणाय साधूनां विनशाय च दुष्कृताम्।

धर्मस्थापनाय सम्भवामि युगे युगे

### Translation

“For the protection of the righteous, the destruction of the wicked, and the establishment of Dharma (righteousness), I am born in every age.”

Shri Krishna demonstrates his divine duty and intent in this shloka, which is to protect the good, defeat evil, and bring back The Dharma in World by taking different incarnations as necessary. It highlights his role as ancient righteousness' protector and upholder.

The Bhagavad Gita, a sacred conversation between Arjuna and Lord Krishna on the field of Kurukshetra, is one of the most well-known and compelling interactions in the Mahabharata. It has several shlokas that serve as outstanding examples of his teachings. Such a shloka is as follows:

The verse -48 of Chapter-2 mentions the illustration of excellent communication ability of Lord Krishna:

“योगस्थः कुरु कर्माणि सङ्गं त्यक्त्वा धनञ्जय।

सिद्धयसिद्धयोः समो भूत्वा समत्वं योगः उच्यते।।

**Translation:** “Perform your duty with equanimity, O Arjuna, abandoning all attachment to success or failure. Such equanimity is called Yoga.”

In this verse, Krishna advises Arjuna to concentrate on carrying out his duty without becoming emotionally involved in the results, regardless of whether they be success or failure. The Bhagavad Gita's fundamental message is that of selfless activity and detachment from the results. It emphasizes the concept of Nishkama Karma, where one acts without desire for the fruits of their actions.

Lord Krishna gives helpful guidance on different aspects of life, duty, righteousness, devotion, and spirituality throughout the Bhagavad Gita. People are still inspired by and guided by his teachings and follow the path of spiritual development and self-realization.

In the Mahabharata's Bhagavad Gita, one of Lord Krishna's most significant examples of his communication abilities may be found. Arjuna, who is troubled by concerns and moral dilemmas about getting involved in the fight, obtains immense spiritual insight from Lord Krishna while he is in the midst of the battle at Kurukshetra. Krishna answers Arjuna's questions and clarifies the ideas of duty (dharma), generosity, and the concept of self-worth in his great communication. His compassionate and analytical words motivate Arjuna to execute all his warrior duties and enable him in solving his internal conflict.

In the epic, Krishna provides guidance and recommendations to many different kinds of people, helping them in making sound decisions. In times of uncertainty, he guides Arjuna and others as well as Draupadi, Yudhishtira, and others. He also counsels Draupadi in her time of need. His thoughts are significant since they aren't only competent but also delivered with respect.

**Strategic Thinking:** Shri Krishna's ability towards strategic thinking is one of his great leadership qualities. Throughout the Mahabharata, he displays an extensive knowledge of the benefits and limitations of both the Pandavas and the Kauravas. Krishna creates inventive ways to get through challenges and increase the Pandavas' chances of victory. In his strategic thinking, he uses careful planning, risk evaluation, and opportunity extraction while keeping the long-term goals in mind.

There is verse 21-23 in Chapter-01 of Bhagavad Gita describing the strategic thinking of Lord Krishna.

Lord Krishna displays strategic thinking when he assesses the battlefield before the Kurukshetra war begins. He identifies the advantages and disadvantages of both sides while performing the role of Arjuna's charioteer:

“सेनयोः उभयोः मध्ये रथं स्थापयामि अच्युत ।

यावत् एतानि निरीक्षे अहं योद्धकामान् अवस्थितान् ।

कैः मया सह योद्धव्यम् अस्मिन् रणे समुद्यमे ॥ ”

### Translation

**Arjuna said:** Oh Krishna, please place my chariot between both armies so that I may see those who desire to fight in this battle. Let me observe those assembled here, eager to engage in battle, and with whom I must contend in this great trial of arms.

In these verses, Krishna adjusts the chariot in a way that Arjuna can observe the enemy's army properly to examine the situation thoroughly and have a proper assessment. Lord Krishna supports Arjuna in making strategic decisions during the conflict by doing so.

Krishna set out on a number of diplomatic missions in order to completely prevent the conflict. He makes a number

of recommendations to avoid violence as he attempts to mediate an understanding between the Kauravas and the Pandavas.

Prior to the war, Krishna presents both Duryodhana and Arjuna with choices. Duryodhana opts for Krishna's large army, while Arjuna chooses Krishna himself. This choice shows Krishna's strategic foresight as he knows that his presence and guidance are far more valuable than a large army.

**Emotional Intelligence:** Krishna's leadership is defined by his outstanding level of emotional intelligence. Since he is insightful and accurate, he can understand and relate to the emotions of others. Krishna uses his emotional intelligence to build stronger relationships with people, gain their trust, and minimise their concerns. He effectively calms down the Pandavas' conflicts and emotional turmoil while showing compassion and empathy for the hardships of others. Krishna's emotional intelligence enables him to manage difficult interpersonal dynamics and maintain unity within a group.

The Bhagavad Gita verse that is mentioned is an important verse that promotes the idea of balance and harmony in action. The Bhagavad Gita contains many of Lord Krishna's lessons on emotional intelligence. Here is another shloka with respect that can be associated with leadership and emotional intelligence:

“दूरेण हि अवरं कर्म बुद्धियोगात् धनंजय ।

बुद्धौ शरणं अन्विच्छ कृपणाः फलहेतवः ॥

**Translation:** “Far better is one's own duty (Dharma) though imperfectly done, than the duty of another well-performed. He who does the duty ordained by his own nature incurs no sin.”

Lord Krishna emphasises the significance of consciousness and recognising one's own strengths and weaknesses in this shloka. A vital aspect of emotional intelligence is this. Effective managers with strong emotional intelligence are aware of their own abilities and use them to carry out their duties and educate others.

This shloka advises individuals to avoid comparison and focus on their own individual ways. It promotes the belief that effective management results from accepting one's own talents and making choices that are consistent with a firm knowledge of one's own values and principles.

Lord Krishna proves his wisdom in appreciating human emotions and the challenges of decision-making that leaders regularly face by emphasising the value of following to one's own dharma (duty or goal) and not being influenced by other influences or comparisons. This shloka emphasises the value of sincerity and self-awareness, which are crucial elements of emotional intelligence in leadership.

A number of verses in the ancient Hindu book known as the Bhagavad Gita offer insight and direction on many different facets of life, including leadership and emotional intelligence. Another verse from Lord Krishna's teachings on emotional intelligence is provided here:

दुःखेषु अनुद्विगमनाः सुखेषु विगतस्पृहः  
वीतरागभयक्रोधः स्थितधीः मुनिउच्यते ॥

**Translation:** "One whose mind remains undisturbed amidst sorrows, who does not crave for pleasures, and who is free from attachment, fear, and anger, is called a sage of steady wisdom."

Lord Krishna highlights the value of emotional stability and independence in this shloka. He outlines the characteristics of a knowledgeable person who can keep their cool and mental balance despite difficulties and joys. The following emotional intelligence elements are highlighted in this verse:

**Emotional Resilience:** The ability to remain composed and undisturbed in the face of difficulties.

**Self-awareness:** The absence of excessive craving for pleasures indicating a clear understanding of one's desires and their impact on emotions.

**Self-regulation:** Being free from attachment, fear and anger signifies the capacity to manage and control one's emotional responses.

A leader who embraces these traits may handle difficulties and victories with a realistic and wise perspective, developing their emotional intelligence and that of others.

Certainly the Bhagavad Gita contains a wealth of knowledge, including lessons on emotional intelligence from Lord Krishna. According to one shloka, emotional intelligence is:

अहम् सर्वभूतेषु समः, न मे द्वेष्यः, न अस्ति न प्रियः।  
ये भक्त्या मां भजन्ति, तेषु चापि अहम् अयितः ॥

**Translation:** "I am equally disposed to all living beings; I am neither dear nor inimical to anyone. But those who worship Me with devotion are in Me, and I am also in them."

Lord Krishna discusses the need of treating everyone with compassion and serenity in this shloka. This mindset indicates emotional intelligence because it demands for both the ability to understand and control one's own emotions as well as the capacity to connect with those of others. Lord Krishna promotes a fair and non-judgmental viewpoint, which are essential components of emotional intelligence, by stressing that he is unbiased and honest towards all beings.

Pandavas' wife Draupadi was humiliated in front of the Kaurava court, and Krishna showed emotional intelligence by comforting her and promising that justice would be

done. He expressed sympathy for her suffering and offered emotional support.

On the battlefield of Kurukshetra, Krishna offers Arjuna advice in the Mahabharata's Bhagavad Gita. Arjuna's moral and mental turmoil over participating in the war is overwhelming. In addition to offering advice on right and wrong, Krishna also addresses Arjuna's emotional pain, assisting him in controlling his inner conflicts.

**Decision making:** To start with, Shri Krishna makes excellent decisions. He is well known for making thoughtful decisions that advance both his admirers and society at large. Krishna carefully evaluates the benefits and disadvantages of each situation, considers a range of opinions, and consults with his most trusted advisers before reaching a decision. He focuses on what is fair and right rather than putting pressure from others or his presumptions affect him. Because of his ability to make difficult decisions, even in the face of difficulties, Krishna's followers have faith in him.

Bhagavad Gita features several shlokas (verses) that highlight Lord Krishna's abilities as a leader and his lessons on making choices. There are different shlokas about karma and detachment, and also emphasises Lord Krishna's lessons on leadership and decision-making:

The verse which depicts the skill is mentioned in Chapter-3, verse-35 in Bhagavad Gita:

श्रेयान्स्वधर्मो विगुणः परधर्मात्स्वनुष्ठितात्  
स्वधर्मे निधनं श्रेयः परधर्मो भयावहः ॥

**Translation:** "It is better to perform one's own duties imperfectly than to master the duties of another. By fulfilling the obligations, he is born with, a person never comes to grief."

In this shloka, Lord Krishna advises individuals and leaders to concentrate on their own obligations and responsibilities rather than trying to replicate or undertake the obligations of others. This shows how crucial it is to make judgements on one's own benefits capabilities, and responsibilities. Effective decision-making requires accepting one's own position and duties rather than allowing external factors or the desire to fulfil someone else's objectives that affect one's choices.

The Bhagavad Gita's teachings on leadership, decision-making, and leading a life of purpose and integrity offer insightful guidance.

There is another verse with number 18-19 of Chapter 4:

कर्मण्यकर्मयः पश्येदकर्मणि चकर्मयः।  
स बुद्धिमान्मनष्येषु स युक्तः कृत्स्नकर्मकृत् ॥  
यस्य सर्वेषां आरंभाः कामसङ्कल्पवर्जिताः।  
ज्ञानाग्निदग्धकर्माणाम् तमाहुः पण्डितं बुधाः ॥



In these lines, Lord Krishna describes the ideal state of a person who acts without thinking about the outcomes and without any self-serving motives. As they operate with clarity and wisdom, such a person is seen as wise and efficient for decision-making.

Arjuna's anxieties are addressed by Krishna, who uses his decision-making abilities to give him practical advice and lead him to a sensible decision. Krishna highlights the value of duty (dharma) and the necessity of carrying out one's obligations as a warrior. He explains the ideas of selflessness, detachment, and the changing nature of the body. Arjuna is helped by Krishna's teaching to get in addition to his emotional turmoil and decide to take part in the conflict for the greater good.

Krishna is a good decision-maker in situations other than this one. He plays a significant part in helping the Pandavas throughout the Mahabharata by giving them strategic advice, providing answers to challenging issues, and making decisions that finally bring about the fulfilment of their destiny. His choices frequently reflect an in-depth knowledge of moral principles, divine laws, and human nature.

**Mentorship and Guidance:** Krishna serves as an instructor and advisor to the Pandavas in his role as a leader. He provides them with important advice, guidance, and moral support along their path. Krishna adapts his guidance to each individual based on their strengths and weaknesses. He enhances their abilities, fosters their growth, and helps them realise their full potential. Krishna's advice immensely helped the Pandavas to become into strong leaders in their own right.

One of the shlokas from the Bhagavad Gita that relates to the skill of mentorship and guidance by Lord Krishna is as follows:

“यथा एधांसि समिद्धोऽग्निः भस्मसात् कुरुते अर्जुन ।

ज्ञानाग्निः सर्वकर्माणि भस्मसात् कुरुते तथा ॥”

**Translation:** “Just as a blazing fire turns firewood to ashes, O Arjuna, so does the fire of knowledge burn to ashes all actions.”

Lord Krishna teaches Arjuna wisdom and explains the ability to transform of knowledge in this verse. Knowledge has the power to burn away the sins of acts and judgements, leaving only what is necessary and true left, much like a fire consumes wood and reduces it to ashes. As a teacher and mentor, Lord Krishna emphasises the value of knowledge and wisdom in decision-making and leadership, demonstrating how the blaze of knowledge can illuminate and direct one's path.

“आत्मानं उद्धरेदात्मना, नात्मानं अवसादयेत् ।

आत्मा एव हि आत्मनः बन्धुः, आत्मा एव रिपुः आत्मनः ॥”

**Translation:** “Let a person lift oneself by oneself; let one not degrade oneself. For one is one's own friend, and one is one's own enemy.”

In this verse, the principles of self-motivation, self-improvement, and self-guidance are highlighted. These concepts are crucial to mentoring and leadership. It promotes self-directed personal growth and development, ultimately highlighting the need of self-awareness and self-direction in the leadership development process.

Krishna gives advice to Arjuna, the third Pandava, in the Draupadi's Swayamvara story on how to succeed in the competition. In response to Arjuna's unwillingness to take part out of respect for his older brothers, Krishna urges him to show off his talents and win Draupadi's hand. Arjuna is given the opportunity by Krishna's advice to prove his archery skills and ultimately conquer in the competition.

Yudhishtira, the eldest Pandava, frequently receives advice from Krishna about morality, government, and decision-making. His guidance enables Yudhishtira to handle challenging circumstances and make moral decisions. In order to maintain his reign and authority, Krishna counsels Yudhishtira on how to carry out the Rajasuya Yagna (royal commitment).

**Servant Leadership:** Krishna is a perfect example of servant leadership's principles. Despite being a supernatural being, he freely aids people without looking for recognition or admiration for himself. Krishna actively engages in both the internal affairs of the Pandava family and those of society as a whole, always working for the well of all. He disregards his personal goals in favour of meeting the needs of and inspiring his followers. The kindness of Krishna inspires loyalty and devotion among his followers.

The verse number 23 in Chapter – 3 defines the skill of servant leadership of Lord Krishna very immensely:

“यदि अहं नवर्तेयं जातु कर्मणि तन्द्रितः ।

मम वर्त्मानुवर्तन्ते मनुष्याः पार्थ सर्वशः ॥ ”

**Translation**

“For if I did not engage in work, O Partha, certainly all men would follow My path.”

This shloka places emphasis on the concept that leaders should create an example through their deeds and efforts rather than relying on blind belief from those under them. In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna discusses cautiously carrying out one's obligations, which is a crucial component of servant leadership. A servant leader leads the path by serving others and demonstrating their own devotion, commitment, and integrity. Others are motivated and persuaded to take a similar course by using this strategy.

There is a verse number 29 in the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter which is the example of servant leadership and gives a great learning.

“यः तु सर्वाणि भूतानि आत्मन्येवानुपश्यति ।

सर्वभूतेषु चात्मानं ततो न विजुगुप्सते ॥”

**Translation:** “But he who sees all beings in the self and the self in all beings, he does not hate anyone.”

Lord Krishna emphasises the idea of seeing oneself in all beings and all beings in oneself in this shloka. An important component of servant leadership, empathy, compassion, and the awareness of one’s interdependence are all developed through this understanding.

In the “cheer-haran” act, when Draupadi is humiliated in the Kaurava court, Krishna gives her an endless supply of cloth to save her honour. His action exemplifies his readiness to assist and defend those in need, revealing his dedication to assisting and uplift others.

Lord Krishna frequently visits the Pandavas when they are imprisoned in the wilderness for many years to offer advice and encouragement. He imparts his knowledge and looks out for their welfare, providing them with support and counsel as needed. His emphasis on the Pandavas’ welfare over his personal convenience is a clear example of his servant leadership abilities.

**Resilience and Adaptability:** Krishna’s flexibility and determination serve as brilliant examples of leadership. He faces many hardships, obstacles, and adversities throughout the Mahabharata, but he never loses hope or gives in to despair. By adapting his ideas and plans in response to the circumstance, Krishna keeps the Pandavas on the correct path to victory. His determination in the face of challenges gives his followers hope and inspiration.

One of the shlokas from the Bhagavad Gita that relates to the leadership skills of resilience and adaptability is mentioned in Chapter-18 and Verse-58:

“अवश्यं चिन्नुद्दिन्नशब्दमानूद्यतेन माम्,

यः पार्थ विवशंस्त्वां निबद्धप्रतिक्रियाः क्रियाः ॥”

### Translation

O Partha, when the unavoidable sound of worldly affairs arises, it does not bind me, and one who remains unreactive and poised in such situations, O Arjuna, is truly wise.

This shloka points out the lessons that Lord Krishna gave Arjuna on perseverance and flexibility. Krishna makes a point of stating that a knowledgeable person never gets caught in or reactive to the constant distractions and disturbances of the world. Instead, they maintain their composure and lack of emotion, demonstrating resilience and adaptability in the face of difficulties.

Another verse is also very relatable with the skill of Resilience & Adaptability which is mentioned in Chapter-2, verse-14:

मात्रास्पर्शाः तु कौन्तेय शीतोष्णसुखदुःखदाः ।

आगमापायिनोऽनित्यास्तास्तितिक्षस्व भारत ॥

### Translation

“O son of Kunti, the contact between the senses and the sense objects gives rise to fleeting perceptions of hot and cold, pleasure and pain. These perceptions are transitory; endure them bravely, O Arjun.”

This verse highlights the fleeting nature of emotions and counsels Arjuna to handle them with patience. It serves as a reminder that in order to be an effective leader, one must be able to change with the times and resist giving in to fleeting joys or obstacles.

One of the most famous incidents in the Mahabharata is when Draupadi was humiliated publically in the court by the Kauravs. When she is being humiliated in front of the entire crowd by Duryodhana, Draupadi asks Lord Krishna for assistance at this difficult time. Krishna protects her from disgusting act and secures her dignity by giving her an everlasting saree. Through the event, Krishna’s quick resiliency in defending Draupadi’s honour and his adaptability in coming up with an innovative approach to the issue are demonstrated.

Another incidence that is giving the insight of the resilience & adaptability is When the Kaurava clan’s grand old warrior Bhishma fought in the crucial battle, he battled fiercely and proved to be nearly impossible to defeat. Krishna used his holy Sudarshana Chakra to create a illusion of sunset since he knew Bhishma’s demise was essential to the Pandavas’ victory. Bhishma, who made a vow never to fight at night, was forced to put down his weapons as a result. Krishna demonstrates his resilience and adaptability by strategically approaching the circumstance and making adjustments to get the desired result.

**Just and Ethical Leadership:** Shri Krishna sets the highest standards for morality and ethics. He ensures that his actions are in accordance with his firm devotion to dharma, or morality. Krishna serves as an example for others and promotes justice, equity, and honesty. He acts as the Pandavas moral compass, guiding them to choose the right path even under tough conditions. Krishna’s commitment to moral leadership has earned him the admiration and love of his followers.

One of the verses from the Bhagavad Gita that relates to the concept of just and ethical leadership, as represented by Lord Krishna in Chapter-3 and verse-21, is:

यत्र यत्र धर्मः श्रेष्ठः तत्र तत्र एव वितर्कः ।

यत्र यत्र प्रमाणं कुरुते लोकः तत्र तत्रानुवर्तते ।।

**Translation:** “Whatever action a great man performs, common men follow. And whatever standards he sets by exemplary acts, all the world pursues.”

Lord Krishna highlights the power of leadership in this verse, particularly that of a righteous and moral leader. The behaviour and actions of a leader serve as an example for others to follow. Leaders who exhibit morality and justice will encourage those around them to follow similar paths, just as a great person’s conduct influences other’s behaviour.

This verse supports the idea that leaders should serve as role models by upholding the values of righteousness, fairness, and ethics. They can have a good impact on both those who follow them and society in general by doing this.

The verse number 13 in Chapter 3 of Bhagvad Gita very simply gives the idea of Just & ethical Leadership which is as follows:

यज्ञशेषिताः सन्तः ते मुक्ताः सर्वकिल्बिषैः ।

भुञ्जते ते त्वघं पापायै पचन्ति आत्मकारणात् ।।

**Translation:** “The spiritually awakened, who eat in the spirit of sacrifice, are released from all kinds of sin. Others, who cook food only for themselves, eat sin.”

This verse places a strong emphasis on the values of setting an example, encouraging selflessness, and striving for the common good. Lord Krishna teaches that those who participate in actions with a spirit of sacrifice improve themselves and others around them, just as a leader who inspires others to behave generously and contribute to the welfare of the community.

Krishna makes multiple attempts at mediation to stop the Kurukshetra war before it starts. As a representative of the Pandavas, he personally visits the Kaurava court to offer a solution that is peaceful and makes a number of adjustments, such as granting the Kauravas solely five villages rather than the entire kingdom. This demonstrates his dedication to attempting to come up with a peaceful solution and avoiding unnecessary conflict.

Krishna is a supporter for equality and justice. He assures the Pandavas receive an appropriate part of the kingdom after they were harmed by the Kauravas through cunningness and deception. He reveals the wrongs committed against the Pandavas in the Kaurava court, demonstrating his dedication to defending justice and fairness.

**Inspiring and Transformative Leadership:** The most significant leadership quality of Shri Krishna may be his power to elevate and transform people. Krishna’s divine brilliance, knowledge, and charisma win over the hearts and minds of

everyone in his surroundings. His example inspires the Pandavas to confront their fears, accept their responsibilities, and defend what is right. Krishna’s inspired leadership leads the Pandavas on a path to spiritual and personal growth, enabling them to become better versions of themselves.

The verse number 23 in Chapter 16 demonstrates the skill of inspiring & transformative leadership is as follows:

“यः शास्त्रविधिम् उत्सृज्य वर्तते कामकारतः ।

न ससिद्धिम् अवाप्नोति न सुखं न परां गतिम् । ।”

### Translation

“Whoever discards the scriptural injunctions and acts according to their own desires attains neither perfection, nor happiness, nor the supreme destination.”

This shloka places a strong emphasis on the value of following by moral standards and regulations as opposed to only pursuing one’s own wishes. Leading by example and demonstrating their devotion to morals and values is a common strategy used by inspirational and transformative leaders to inspire and change others around them.

Also the verse number 23 in Chapter 3 represents the following skill of Lord Krishna:

“यदि अहं नवर्तेयं जातु कर्मणि अतन्द्रितः ।

मम वर्तमानुवर्तन्ते मनुष्याः पार्थ सर्वशः ।।

**Translation:** “For if I do not perform my prescribed duties, all men would follow my path in all respects, O Arjuna.”

Lord Krishna emphasises the need of leading by example in this following verse. He emphasises that if he didn’t carry out his responsibilities, others might do the same, which might cause uncertainty and disorder. This highlights the idea of leading by example and the duty of leaders to motivate and direct followers by their own deeds.

The incidence is also there which depicts the transformative leadership role. Krishna plays a crucial role in forming alliances for the Pandavas before the war. He secures support from various kings and warriors, contributing to the transformation of a scattered group into a formidable army.

During the battle, Krishna’s strategic intelligence is made clear. He acts as Arjuna’s charioteer, leading him across the battlefield and offering him strategic guidance. One such instance is when he recommends employing Bhima to assassinate Duryodhana, the Kauravas’ leader.

### Conclusion

As a result, Shri Krishna’s leadership in the Mahabharata is characterised by his optimistic attitude, excellent communication, strategic thinking, emotional intelligence, and remarkable decision-making abilities. Because of his mentoring, servant leadership, persistence, and

moral behaviour, he makes a great leader. Due to his ability to influence others by his divine presence and wisdom, Krishna stands out as a great leader. People are still inspired by Shri Krishna's remarkable leadership traits from the Mahabharata and assisted in their own leadership journeys today. In the Mahabharata, Shri Krishna demonstrates leadership abilities that expand far beyond only his vision and plan. Together, his knowledge, empathy, communication, strategic thinking, conflict-resolution skills, and other traits develop a picture of a versatile leader who not only guided his followers through difficult times but also had a big impact on the principles of leadership and behaviour.

In the Mahabharata, Lord Krishna demonstrates the ideal combination of strategic thinking, compassionate communication, and pervasive dedication to righteousness in his leadership abilities. This shows how Krishna's leadership went beyond established norms and provides enduring insights about successful leadership. Krishna's role as a great strategist during the Kurukshetra war serves as an illustration to his strategic skill. He developed comprehensive war plans, determined strengths and weaknesses, and adjusted tactics to new situations. His leadership vision is demonstrated by his capacity to predict outcomes and make intelligent decisions.

Krishna demonstrated compassionate leadership in his ability as a communicator by understanding the worries and objectives of each person. He efficiently and relatably offered his advice, earning their respect and devotion. His conversation with Arjuna in the "Bhagavad Gita" demonstrates his ability for handling difficult emotions and promoting courage.

He demonstrated moral leadership by putting principles ahead of self-interest. His diverse and inspiring leadership style is demonstrated by the willingness to assist and advise leaders while respecting their individuality. Finally, the Mahabharata's portrayal of Lord Krishna's leadership offers an effective model of planning, empathetic communication, and unbreakable ethical devotion. His extensive leadership style continues to be relevant today and functions as a timeless model for leaders in a variety of situation.

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