Editorial

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The origin of this special issue has its roots in a desire amongst academics and practitioners to distil the wisdom from various facets of Indian philosophy and present it for possible use and deployment in modern management. In this context, an International Conference on Management in the New World Order was organised by the Indian Institute of Management at Ranchi. A rigorous process resulted in less than 60 manuscripts being presented at the conference from an initial abstract pool of over 200 abstracts. Some of the more refined manuscripts that were presented at the conference have been collated in this special issue after another round of reviews.

The Indian philosophy has many schools of thought, both orthodox and heterodox in nature. Some of well-known orthodox schools of thought are — Nyaya, Vaisesika, Samkhya, Yoga, Purva Mimamsa, and Vedanta while Jainism and Buddhism would represent the heterodox schools. This special issue does not include a complete coverage of these schools of thought through the various manuscripts compiled; it however broaches a few of these schools of thought and their potential implications to the modern world

Mishra and Mishra broach the Yoga school of thought in their paper. They discuss the Yoga Sutra of Patanjali in the context of management of emotions which would be very relevant in today's workplace. Arora et al. draw from some of the sacred texts of Hinduism such as the Bhagavad Gita, the Mahabharata, and the Ramayana in their paper and relate them to modern day context. They conclude that many aspects of modern management familiar to us such as – goal orientation, motivation and leadership amongst others were already discussed in these texts which date a long way back.

Chandrashekhar and Shivdas touch upon the 'Wheels of Yagna' and the traits of an Yagna entrepreneur and elaborate the fact that an ethical enterprise can be run successfully even in an ultra-competitive world. Rath focuses on Chanakya, a brilliant scholar from Taxila University, one of the only two universities of its time the other being Nalanda University, and also an advisor to a well-known Mauryan King of India. They highlight the fact that Chanakya's doctrine extended to many aspects of management and governance known today at both an entity level as well as at a country level.

Bonin and Meera have attempted to empirically test Patanjali's aphorisms and relate them to certain aspects of modern management with limited success. However this is an appropriate approach to enquiry not only into Patanjali's aphorisms but also the Yoga school of thought. Nain provides a more general introduction to the various philosophical concepts from Indian philosophy. This broad sweep goes past the philosophical schools and also touches on two medical treatises Charaka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita.

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Charaka listed around 500 types of plants while Sushruta listed more than 100 surgical instruments in their respective treatises. The fact that these Samhitas were authored a long time ago reflects the prevalent knowledge of the period in India.

Thus, this special issue should be seen as a precursor to a systematic exploration of the wealth of literature, ideas, and codified practical wisdom that exists in the realms of Indian management. This issue has been compiled in fond hope and expectation that it would create a desire amongst researchers across the world to further inquire into the philosophical and historical aspects of Indian management and relate the same to modern management practises.