

Is Panchatantra relevant today for business and commerce schools?

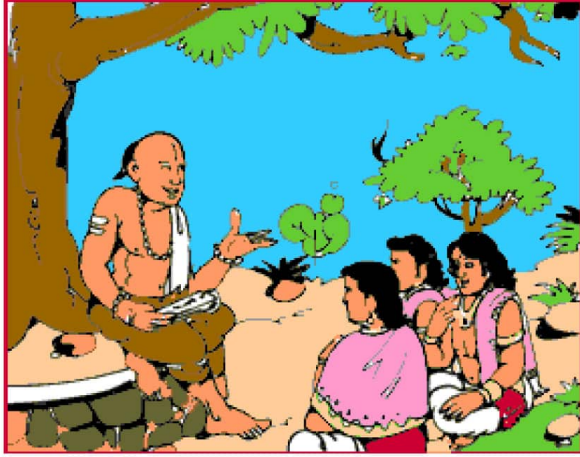
Long time ago, there lived a king called Amarshakti, who ruled the kingdom of Mahilaropya. He had three sons - Bahushakti, Ugrashakti and Anantshakti.



The King decided that he had to crown one of his sons as the King after him but they were not interested in learning anything.

The king called all his ministers and discussed it with them.

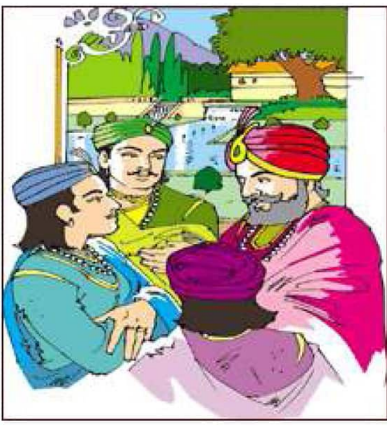
Finally one of the ministers - Sumati spoke, "We can call in Vishnu Sharma. He is an excellent guru who can teach Neethi Shastra in a very short time". The king agreed.



Vishnu Sharma taught in such a manner that the princes listened to each story with great interest and wonder because he had compiled the Panchatantra - books based on animal stories.

The Panchatantra [in Sanskrit 'Pancha' means five and 'Tantra' means 'principles'] ***is a collection of short stories under five headings -***

1. *Mitra Bhedha* [The loss of friends]
2. *Mitra Samprapti* [How to win friends]
3. *Kakolukiyam* [Of owls and crows]
4. *Labdha Prasanam* [Loss of Gain]
5. *Aparikshita Karakam* [Rash Actions]



After six months when the sons returned to the kingdom, the king was amazed!

The stories of Panchatantra are not just relevant that day, but holds good even now!

The beginning sentence of the Panchatantra in Sanskrit reads like this:

'All the worldly wisdom and inner meaning of life which was written anywhere in any book was compressed in the five books by the shrewd Vishnu Sharma!'

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