

“PURUSHARATH”- INTRODUCTION

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Puruṣārtha (Sanskrit: पुरुषार्थ) literally means an "object of human pursuit".

It is a key concept in Hinduism, and refers to the four proper goals or aims of a human life.

The four puruṣārthas are

- **Dharma (righteousness, moral values),**
- **Artha (prosperity, economic values),**
- **Kama (pleasure, love, psychological values) and**
- **Moksha (liberation, spiritual values).**

All four Purusarthas are important, but in cases of conflict, Dharma is considered more important than Artha or Kama in Hindu philosophy.

Moksha is considered the ultimate ideal of human life.

At the same time, this is not a consensus among all Hindus, and many have different interpretations of the hierarchy, and even as to whether one should exist.

Historical Indian scholars recognized and debated the inherent tension between active pursuit of wealth (Artha purusartha) and pleasure (Kama), and renunciation of all wealth and pleasure for the sake of spiritual liberation (Moksha).

The three *gunas* of human life

