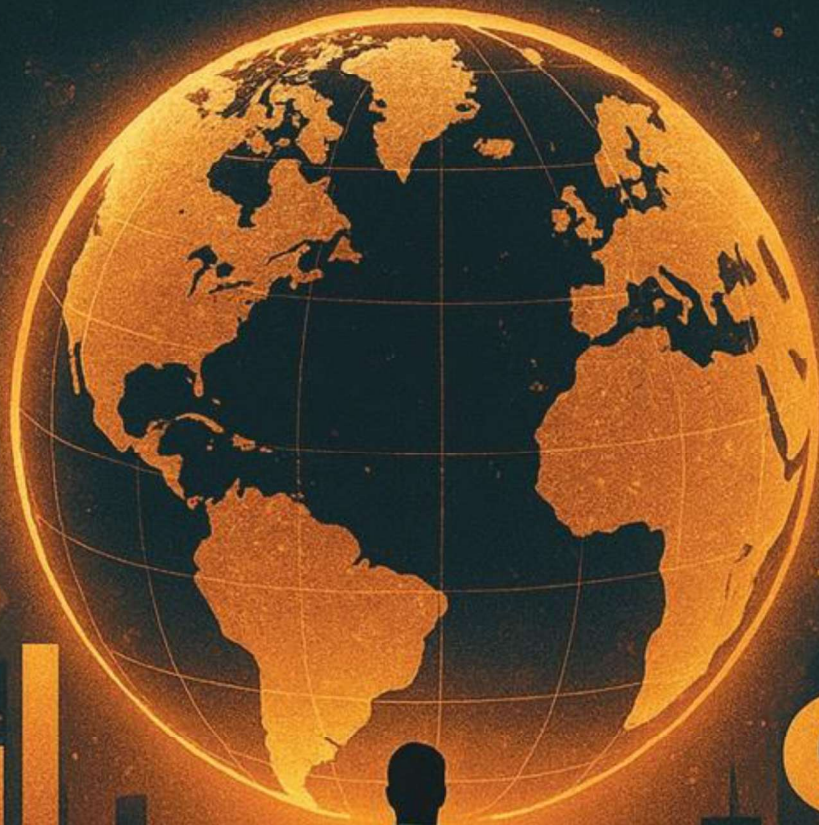


GLOBAL SHIFT

COMMERCE AND ECONOMICS IN THE
AGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY
VOLUME-II



Dr. Sheneela G. C

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TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY
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CHAPTER-11

From Arthashastra to Globalization: Ancient Indian Perspectives on Commerce and Economics

Dr. Divya R. Panjwani

Assistant Professor

Department of Education, Integral University

Ms. Henna Punjabi

Assistant Professor

TransStadia University, Ahmedabad

Introduction

Commerce and economics are as old as human civilization. The ways in which societies organize production, trade, and distribution of wealth have continuously evolved in response to political, technological, and cultural transformations. The modern global economy—driven by free markets, global supply chains, and digital technologies—is often perceived as entirely novel. However, a closer look reveals that many foundational principles of commerce and economics were articulated in ancient civilizations, including India. Ancient Indian scriptures such as the Vedas, Smritis, Arthashastra, Mahabharata, and Jataka tales contain rich descriptions of trade, taxation, labor organization, and ethical considerations in economic life (Sharma, 2010). This chapter explores the global shifts in commerce and economics across history while simultaneously situating ancient Indian contributions within this trajectory. It demonstrates how Indian knowledge systems, particularly Kautilya's Arthashastra, provided early systematic frameworks for economic governance and commercial practices. By comparing ancient Indian insights with later global developments,