

# Political Ideas of Kautilya

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- In the history of Indian Political thinkers, Kautilya occupies the place of higher thinker on all aspects of secular knowledge. He has the merit of being both a Political thinker and an economist of highest excellence. Kautilya's famous book Arthashastra contains every aspect of the welfare State from a practical and realistic point of view.

# 1. King

- Kautilya has given the highest position to the king or the master. He has described him as the representatives of God. He has laid down Certain qualification for the King. According to Kautilya, the King should Possess a very high character. He should Control his anger, pride, attachment etc. It is clear that Kautilya has given lots of power to the King but all the powers are given to him for the welfare of the State.

## 2. Council of Minister

- According to Kautilya, Council of Minister is for proper guidance of the king. He advised the king to take help from minister and consult them about different problems. He is not clear about specific no. of ministers but says that king should consult 3 or 4 ministers. In Arthashastra, there is a detail description of the qualification, the method of consultation, the procedure about holding meetings ,etc.

## 3. Judicial System

- In this book, a detail description is found about the Judicial System as well. The Judicial System suggested by Kautilya is very scientific and well planned. He writes about the rules and regulations for the procedure of the Court, acquiring evidence, listening to the witnesses, appointment of the Judges, Punishment ,etc.

## 4. Relation with other Countries

- Kautilya has laid down the Rules and Regulations about Inter- State Relations. The states have been divided into four categories-
  - a) Ally or Friendly State
  - b) Opponent or Enemy State
  - c) Ordinary or middle state
  - d) Indifferent State

For ensuring relationship with the four categories of state, Kautilya lays down different Principles.

## 5.Spy System

- Kautilya has given importance on the Spy System. This institution is important in order to acquire knowledge about the internal condition of the kingdom as well as the activities of rulers of other Countries.
- Types—
  - a) Institutional Spy
  - b) Communicable Spy

# 6. Ambassadors or Doot

- Kautilya has given an important position to 'Doot'. It is through doots that different states have a dialogue. In ancient India, it was through these ambassadors the relations should be established between different states.
- Functions:
  - a. to Carry the Message of the king to other king
  - b. See that the Principles of treaty are observed properly
  - c. Collect friends and make new friends
  - d. Plant the seeds of dissensions among friends of the enemy or opponent country
  - e. Have a thorough knowledge of the spy system



## 7. Administration of Cities and Villages

- In the times of Kautilya , the smallest unit of administration was the villages. Hence, he has given a long description of the administration of cities and village.

## 8. The theory of punishment or Danda

- Kautilya advocates the observance of discipline both in Individual and social life. Indiscipline leads to backwardness and disintegration. The application of punishment is justified on the ground that it is the safeguard of man's existence. Lawful application of punishment ensures complete happiness of the individuals and thereby respect towards the king increases.

## 9. Promotion of Good and suppression of Bad

- Being a realist, Kautilya recognized that there are both good and evil forces in every state. If good element like prosperity is found in the state, the bad elements like poverty also goes side by side. The ability of the king depends upon the promotion of good and suppression of evils. He was in favor of a Welfare State.

# 10. Principles of a State Policy

- About the state policy, Kautilya says that when the king is alert his servants also become alert and if the king is careless, his subjects also becomes careless. A careless king can destroy his kingdom and easily overpowered by his enemies. Hence king should perform his functions with absolute dedication.

- In short, it may be said that Kautilya in Arthashastra has presented a scientific and detailed picture of the administration and its elements. He should be credited for the fact that most of his ideas are scientific and still relevant. It can be concluded that Kautilya will remain valid and scientific as long as the Political Philosophy exists.