



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

An Autonomous Institution

Coimbatore-35



Accredited by NBA – AICTE and Accredited by NAAC – UGC with 'A+' Grade
Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

DEPARTMENT OF IT

III YEAR/ VI SEMESTER

19HST105 ESSENCE OF INDIAN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

UNIT 2 INDIAN LITERATURE, CULTURE, TRADITION, AND PRACTICES
Kautilya's Arthashastra



KAUTILYA'S ARTHASHASTRA

The **Arthashastra** is an Indian treatise on politics, economics, military strategy, the function of the state, and social organization attributed to the philosopher and Prime Minister Kautilya (also known as Chanakya, Vishnugupta) who was instrumental in establishing the reign of the great king

Much of our knowledge about state policy under the Mauryas comes from the *Arthashastra* written by Kautilya (more popularly known as Chanakya), who was a Brahmin minister under Chandragupta Maurya.

The book, written in Sanskrit, discusses theories and principles of governing a state. The title, *Arthashastra*, which means -the Science of Material Gain/ or -Science of Polity/, does not leave any doubts about its ends. **Kautilya's** philosophy is based on the principles of "sam, dam, dand, bheda" (persuasion, temptation, punishment, and division) as various, different, and sequential means to achieve an end.

According to Kautilya, the ruler should use any means to attain his goal and his actions required no moral sanction. Though the kings were allowed a free rein, the citizens were subject to a rigid set of rules.

Arthashastra remains unique in all of Indian literature because of its total absence of specious reasoning, or its unabashed advocacy of real politics, and scholars continued to study it for its clear cut arguments and formal prose till the twelfth century.

Kautilya's *Arthashastra* is an important treatise of the Mauryan times. Kautilya helped the young Chandragupta Maurya, who was a Vaishya, to ascend to the Nanda throne in 321 BC. Kautilya's counsel is particularly remarkable because the young Maurya's supporters were not as well armed as the Nandas.



Kautilya continued to help Chandragupta Maurya in his campaigns and his influence was crucial in consolidating the great Mauryan empire.

It reflects the state of society and economy at that time and provides rich material for the study of ancient Indian polity and economy.



THANK YOU