


# KAUTILAYA'S ARTHASHASTRA

Post Graduate Department of Political Science of  
Patna University, Patna,  
Semester II syllabus

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# **KAUTILAYA'S ARTHASHASTRA**

**Kautilaya was also known as Vishnugupt, and Chanakya. He was a Brahmin Acharya of Takshila University in the Department of Political Science around 300 B.C**

**He wrote a masterpiece  on the statecraft known as Arthshastra based on kaam , artha and dharma which fulfills goal of life.**


**Prior to him Arthshastra was written by Manu, Brishaspati and Usanas but the complete book was written by Kautilaya on Administration .**

**It talks about central and local Administration, civil and criminal law and art of warfare.**


# INTRODUCTION

- ✘ **The rules and principles of governance as discussed in Arthshashtra is based on observation, analysis and deduction. It is an empirical work based on scientific approach.**
- ✘ **It is supplemented with interesting applications of historical method.**
- ✘ **Kautilaya's theories makes quite advance upon those of his predecessors**
- ✘ **He was not only concerned with systematizing his principles he made politics a matter of concern for all.**
- ✘ **He reminded his people that polity grows or perishes with civilization**

# POSITION OF THE KING

- ✘ Kautilaya feels that a King is the servant of the people.
- ✘ He is the linch pin of the administration and decides everything.
- ✘ He is the real director and has the power to replace bad officers with good ones.
- ✘ He strengthen the material elements of the state and bring remedies to the natural calamities. 
- ✘ King should control his kaam, krodh, mad,maan , lobh and harsh.
- ✘ There are three types of kings- Jayan most powerful, Nyuna weakest king and Sama king with equal strength
- ✘ He lays down the basis of dynasty rule and as king stands at the apex, success and failure of nation depends upon him and his assistants.

# KING CONT...

- ✘ According to Kautilaya Government is knowledge. Knowledge is divided into four categories –
- ✘ Trayi- knowledge of three Vedas i.e., Yajur, Rig and Saam
- ✘ Anvikas-philosophy of life, spiritualism
- ✘ Varta- philosophy of trade and commerce 
- ✘ Danda- the knowledge of governance and politics
- ✘ King possess three types of power Prabhu shakti, Mantri shakti and Utsah shakti. First is the power of military second is the power of advisory body and third is personal power of the king. The routine of the king is divided into eight halikas comprising 1-5 hours.

# COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND AMATYAS

- ✘ Kautilya considers appointment of ministers indispensable for the administration and gives a comprehensive scheme of their functions.
- ✘ King's duties are varied and wide spread which can be effectively executed by the Secretaries and Ministers
- ✘ There will be four fold test for appointment of Amatya i.e., virtue, wealth, desire and fear.
- ✘ Amatya remains the motive force behind the security and development of Janapad.

# SAPTANG THEORY

✘ Kautilaya creates 7 constituent elements of the state.

1.Swami- king the brain of a human body

2.Amatya- Ministers the eyes of the Body

3.Janapad- territory and population as legs of the Body

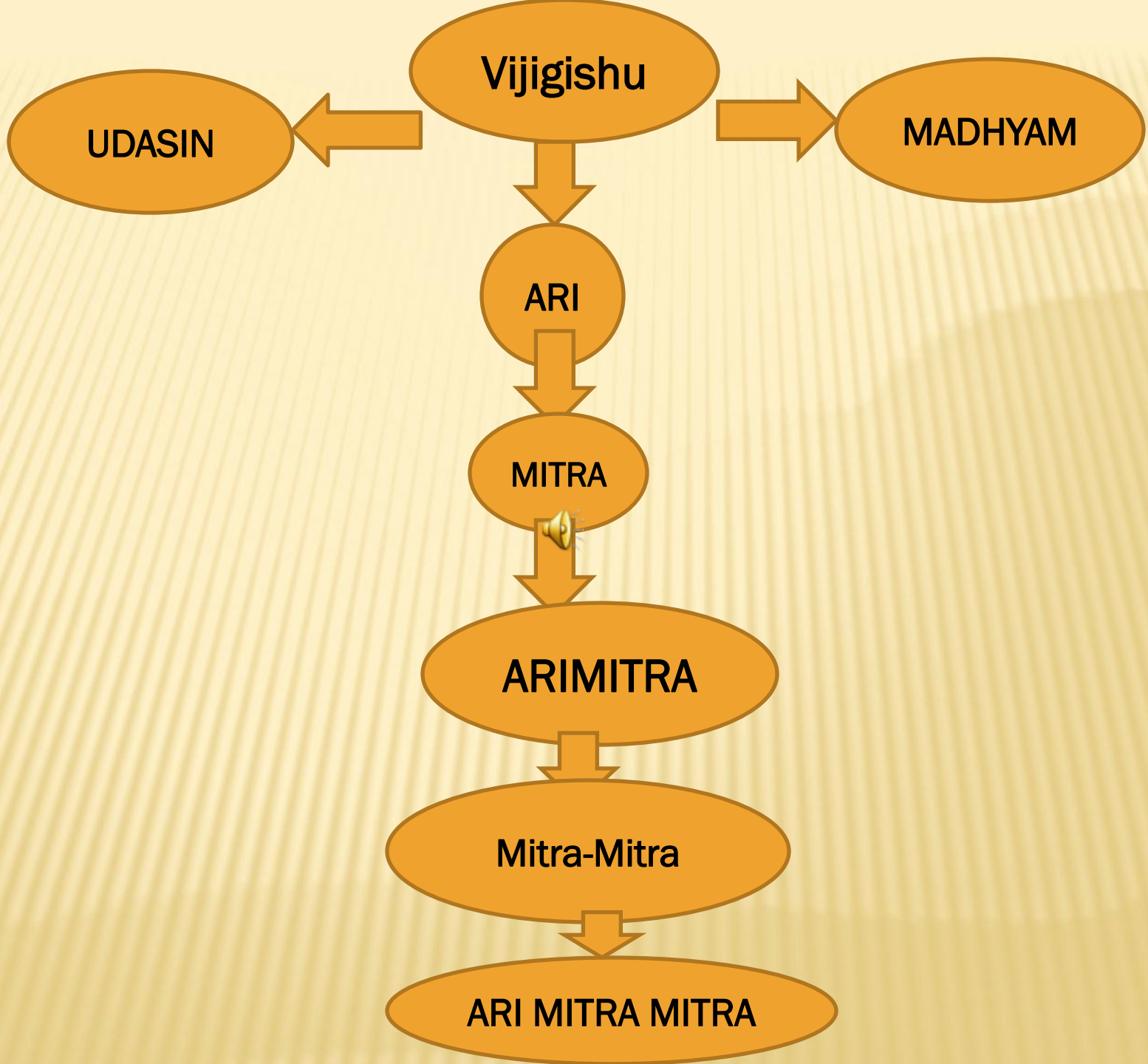
4.Durg- Fort as arms of the Human Body. He discusses four types of Forts- water fort, desert fort, jungle fort and mountain fort.

5. Kosha- Treasury as the heart of the body

6.Dand-Army as the shoulder of the body

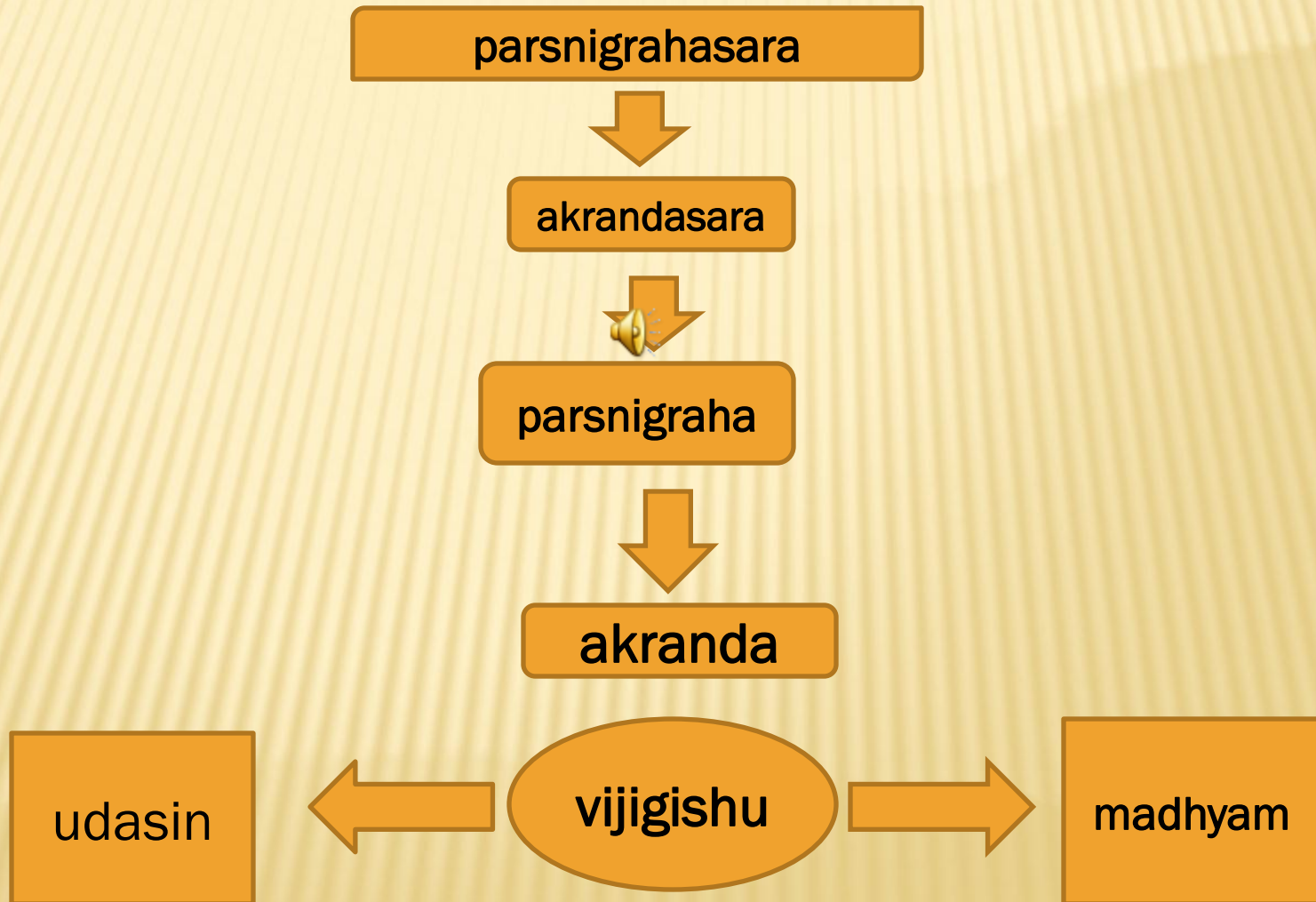
7.Mitra- friend as the mind of the human body.

Shantiparv of Mahabharat includes Ari as an eighth element of State which is regarded as optional by Vishnugupta.





# MANDAL THEORY



# MANDAL THEORY

- ✘ Kautilaya discusses about a circle of kings consisting of twelve states. At the centre is the Vijigishu the Conqueror who has two goals to have war and to conduct peace.
- ✘ The neighbouring state of Vijigishu is its natural enemy i.e., Ari
- ✘ Next to Ari is the state of Mitra who is friendly to Vijigishu
- ✘ Next is Mitra Mitra which is an ally of friendly state
- ✘ Next to Mitra is the state Ari Mitra Mitra which means friend of enemy's friend
- ✘ This is the premise of international relations prescribed by Vishnugupt

# MANDAL THEORY

- ✘ On the rear side of Vijigishu is the Akranda which is again enemy.
- ✘ Behind that is parsnigraha which is the friend of conqueror.
- ✘ Then comes Akrandsara friend of enemy and finally friend's friend.
- ✘ At the two sides are states which are Udasin (neutral) and Madhyam (intermediary)
- ✘ These two states are more powerful than Vijigishu but remains apathetic.

# FOREIGN POLICY

- ✘ It is a six fold policy based on –
- ✘ Sandhi ( Peace) is an alliance between two kings
- ✘ Vighraha( hostility) it is towards enemy king
- ✘ Asana (quiet) the policy of remaining neutral
- ✘ Yana (marching) the preparation of war
- ✘ Samshraya (Shelter) seeking protection of the stronger state
- ✘ Dwaidibhaw (Double Policy) effort of seeking peace with one state and hostility with the other

The king must always prepare for war but hope for peace. If there is equal advancement in war and peace, the state should resort to peace and shelter seeking should be the last resort, instead double policy should be followed.


# FINANCIAL POLICY

- ✘ Treasury has its source in the agriculture and mines and from the strength of treasury army is born. Through treasury and army king rules over the people.
- ✘ A state with depleted wealth becomes a liability
- ✘ Material wealth is important and it is the duty of a king to amass wealth by any means even by duping the masses.
- ✘ War always leads to destruction of life and property and therefore should be avoided
- ✘ Inactivity of the state ruins the prosperity so activity must always go on for welfare of the people.

# LAW, JUSTICE AND PUNISHMENT

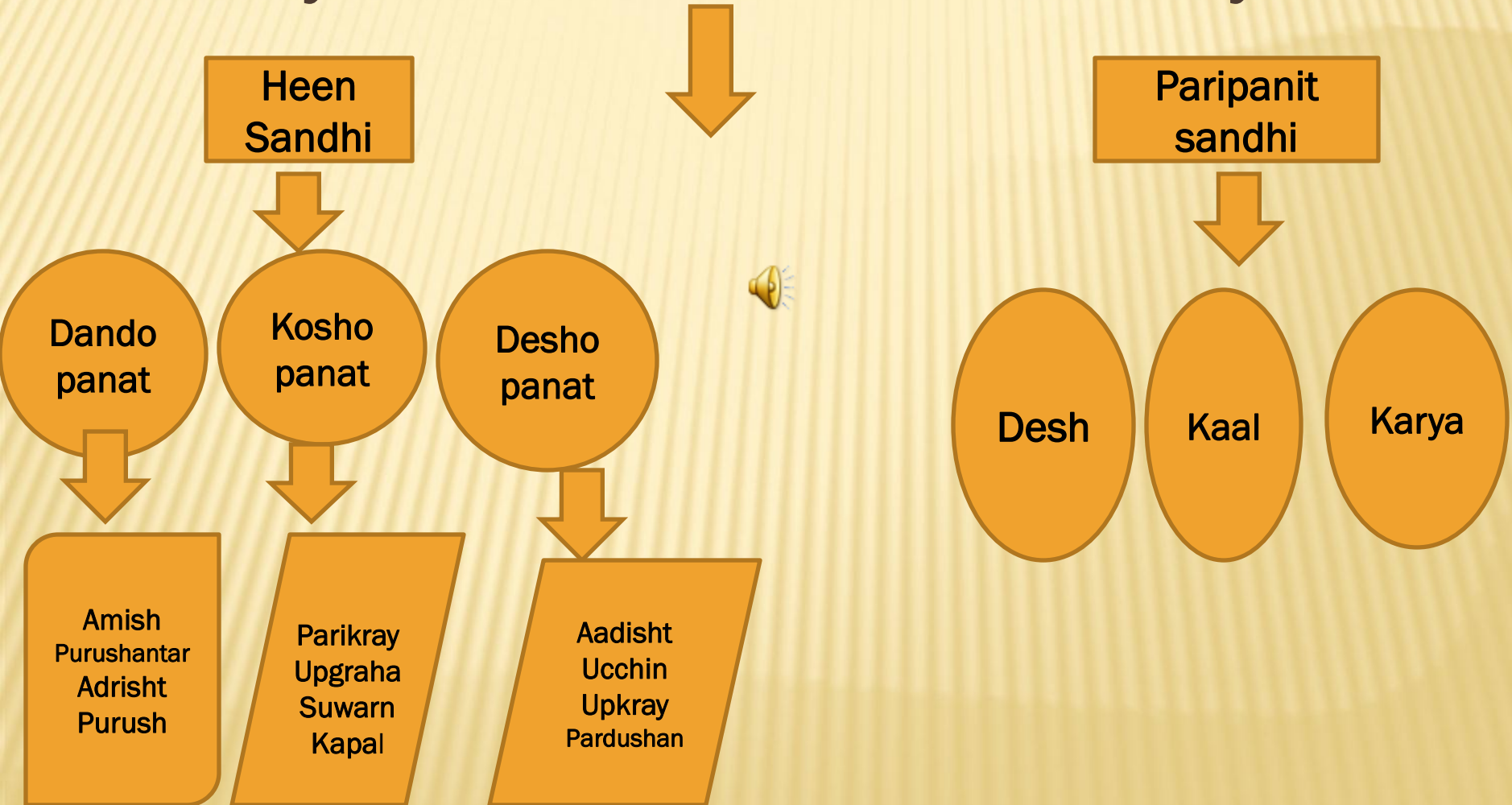
- ✘ Anger is the cause of all hatred, rivalry and disputes.
- ✘ Law based on customs stand for righteousness and justice.
- ✘ In the absence of punishment strong swallows the weak and anarchy prevails 🏰
- ✘ Punishment is the root of discipline and is the source of the prosperity of the people.
- ✘ For justice to prevail judges should interpret the laws without any bias and should be impartial towards all human beings. Therefore king or swami should control law under his supervision so that just social is created.

- × Saam
- × Daam
- × Danda
- × Bhed
- × Diplomacy occupies a prominent place in the realm of national and international politics.
- × Arthashastra defines diplomacy as personal quality of the ruler to unite all constituent elements of the state and desire to conquer entire earth.  
Diplomacy is constructed on the basis of interrelationship between group of 12 states which affects the fortunes of the state's sphere of influence.

- ✘ Vishnugupt talks about three types of war,
- ✘ 1.open war which is a hot war between two Janapads for imperialism.
- ✘ 2.concealed war which is also known as guerilla war, war in disguise
- ✘ 3.silent war which we talk in  terms of cold war or war of nerves.
- ✘ However he discourages war as the last resort. War with strong is like fighting on foot with an elephant to be crushed to the ground. War with weak is like pelting stones on the earthen weapon to break them into pieces and to have war with equal is to bang two unbaked earthen pots breaking both equally.



✘ Kautilaya talks about two kinds of treaty.



# CRITICAL ESTIMATE & CONCLUSION

- ✘ The political philosophy of Kautilaya was subject to vehement criticisms because he was very pragmatic in his approach and at time times unethical in getting things done.
- ✘ He promoted espionage, religious exploitation and even amusement for the downfall of enemy kingdom.
- ✘ He is criticized for being selfish in giving the throne of Magadh to Chandragupta, his loved pupil.
- ✘ Despite all criticisms, no one can deny the fact that his ideas on Kingdom and International Relations are oldest and still relevant in the present political scenario.
- ✘ Machiavelli of Italy gave similar ideas in his book **Prince** and both are often compared but certainly Vishnugupta was the father of Statecraft, administration, economy and foreign policy.

# SUGGESTED READINGS

- ✘ R C Gupta- Indian Political Thought
- ✘ Jaico Publishing- Kautilaya's Arthashashtra
- ✘ A S Altekar- State and Government in Ancient India
- ✘ Roger Boesche-  Kautilaya: The First Great Political Realist
- ✘ Acharya Rajeshwar Mishra- Mahaan Chanakya
- ✘ <https://aspirantforum.com>>kautilaya
- ✘ [Htpps://www.academia.edu](https://www.academia.edu)>kautilaya