Class: BA Sixth Semester

Paper: Political Thought 6.1

Topic: Political Philosophy of Kautilya

Kautilya was an ancient Indian Political thinker. According to Max Muller, Kautilya was the first man who contributed to the political and economic development of the ancient India. He wrote the book “ Arthasashtra”.

**Kautilya’s view on State:** According to the Western Political thinkers a state should contains the four elements such as Population, Land, Government and Sovereignty. But according Kautilya an ideal state should have seven elements instead of the four elements as stated by the western political philosophers. He says that a perfect state should adhere all the seven elements in correct order. The seven elements of an ideal state are:

1. **Swamin:-** According Kautilya Swamin is regarded as the most important element of the state. Swamin means the owner of the state. In ancient India it was commonly known as KING. The king should be the sovereign authority of the state.
2. **Amatya:**- Kautilya says that a king alone cannot run the state in proper way. A king must be supported by some officials for smooth function of the state. These officials are known as Amatya or Minister. Amatya help the king by providing advice to run the administration of state.
3. **Janapada:**- Janapada means the population and the area of state. According Kautilya the land of the state should be fertile so that the people can produce easily and help the state for economic upliftment.
4. **Durga:** According Kautilya to protect the state from the aggression of the other state Durga plays a vital role. It provides the safe life to the people of state. So, Durga is an important element of the state.
5. **Treasury:** - Another important element of the state is treasury. Kautilya says that treasury is the economic backbone of the state. Treasury should be sound and strong to face the natural calamities and foreign invasion.
6. **Bala or Danda:**- To maintain the peace and tranquility in the state and to protect the state from the foreign invasion, strong military(Bala) force is very important. Kautilya says that a state should have six types of military (Bala) for the internal and external protection of the state.
7. **Mitra:**- By the word Mitra kautilya indicates that a state should have a good friendship with neighboring state. Because a state cannot become self depended and self sufficient. It has to depend on other state. So, a state should maintain a cordial relation with the other state.