



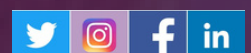
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CHANAKYA'S VISION OF BHARAT & STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY BY BRIG JS PUROHIT (RETD)

ORGANISED BY CENJOWS
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Vishnugupta Chanakya's writings in the Arthashastra are as relevant today as it was hundreds of years ago during the Mauryan Empire. It has been recognised globally as an essential instrument for learning about politics, warfare and strategy, and economics.

Brigadier Purohit initiated his lecture on the background of India during the time of Chanakya. He highlighted the cruel rule during the Nanda Dynasty and the events that led to the wrath of Chanakya. The speaker calls the Arthashastra a grand strategy, mightier than the works of Machiavelli, Plato, and other Western strategic thinkers.

Chanakya was a visionary thinker who had conceptualised years before his Western counterparts that every member of the society is the owner of the land. "In the happiness of his subjects, lies the happiness of the king," is considered to be one of the most essential shlokas in the Arthashastra, and the emphasis on the citizens makes it quintessential. Brig Purohit underscored that the net assessment methodology employed by the United States holds resemblance to the theories conceptualised in the Arthashastra.

Raksha, Palan, and Yogkshema are the three pillars of the book. Until all the organs of the state work for the national interest and the state remains protected, everything is futile, notes Brig Purohit. While talking about the relevance of Kautilyan strategic diplomacy, he adds that friends are decided on national interests; and that there are no permanent friends and permanent enemies in diplomacy. The alignment of a kingdom could be judged based on its geographical location through the Rajamandala Theory.

In the Rajmandala Theory, Vijigishu remains in the central; Ari, the immediate neighbours are the enemies; Madhyama is a far-off state that can come to the rescue at the time of need; and Udasina is a powerful state located far away that remains indifferent to the

developments. Today, if we put India or any other state in the middle like Vijigishu, in order to understand the relevance of this Kautilyan theory, we will observe the significance of this treatise. If we draw circles around India, we will see how there are always troubles pertaining to migration, borders, and resources amongst other things with our neighbours. Brig Purohit notes that Ari's neighbours become our natural friends. There are several such, like the Saptang Theory and the Six-Fold Theory that can act as catalysts for the leaders in administering the country and the legislators in formulating policies efficiently. The speaker ends his lecture with an emphasis on how if the United States acknowledges the significance of the Arthashastra, the treatise of Kautilya must be taught comprehensively to the students of strategic warfare and diplomacy in India as well.