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# Arthashastra and Kautilya: The First Classical Administrative Text and the First Administrative Philosopher

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## Introduction

Kautilya, also known as Chanakya or Vishnugupta, was the great philosopher, thinker, teacher as well as an astute administrator, master statesman and royal advisor. He was a knowledgeable Prime Minister in King Chandragupta Maurya's court; in fact the founder of Maurya Empire.

He authored the ancient Indian political treatise, the Arthashastra and Nitishashtra. In this article Arthashastra will be focused and discussed in terms of administrative thoughts. He expressed his views on a range of issues including state, governance & good governance, corruption, disaster management, dharmniti, war, social structure, diplomacy, ethics, administrative laws, political problems, establishment of law and order and politics etc.,. Arthashastra is the classique book which still touches on all dimensions of politics, governance and administration. In fact, it is the greatest Indian treatise on the art of government and administration. Kautilya's thoughts are relevant in the modern era. He wrote Arthashastra very wisely, interestingly and innovatively. Many important matters that are discussed or told today have been mentioned long ago by Kautilya in his Arthashastra. The word 'Arthashastra', predicated divergent strands- artha and dharma, artha alluding to material well-being and dharma to spiritual good. Kautilya weaves these two together and presents to us a theory of state which is both rational-prudent and abstract-ideal. This paper will deal with his thoughts on Good Governance, corruption and disaster management.

## Good Governance

During 90s, the World Bank identified some aspects of good governance. In the year 2002, the World Bank, for the first time, in its report (Governance and Development) defined and emphasized on the need and importance of 'Good Governance'. But it is not new for Indians.