Project Title: **STUDY ON SPY IN KAUTILYA`S ARTHASHASTRA IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER INDIAN TEXTS AND ITS MODERN PERSPECTIVE**

The Arthaśāstra deals with the internal as well as the external state affairs. According to Kautilya, the moral duty of a king is to increase prosperity, ensure judicial fairness and to provide national security. Emphasis is given on the importance of a network of spies and informers who do function as a surveillance corps for the king. Basically the kings see through the eyes of the spies “*rājānaḥcārcakṣuḥ”(Bhāravi’s Kirātārjunīyaṃ1.1)*

Since times immemorial, man’s curiosity and interest in self-protection has always kept him enthused about gaining specific information about their competitors and opponents. This inquisitiveness for information has led to the birth of an institution which is called as ‘Spying” and a person involved in this activity is known as ‘Spy’.

The reference about spies in Panini’s book ‘Aṣtādhāyī’ goes to prove that this organization existed even before Kautilya as an inseparable organ of governance We find the reference of spy in our ancient Sanskrit texts .The first mention of "Spaśa", appears in the Ṛgveda's 1stMaṇdala, where Varuṇa, the powerful Vedic God is depicted as resplendent in a golden robe with his spies seated around him. RājāRādhakānta Deva in the Sabdakalpadruma says that the noun Spaśa (masculine) means one who looks or beholds, a watcher, spy, or a messenger.References of spying are also found in puranas, works of Bhāsa, Kālidāsa, Māgh, Bāṇabhatta and others. In Rāmāyaṇa ofVālmīki, we find that Lord Rāvaṇa sent spies to estimate the strength of the monkey army of Lord Rāma in YuddhaKānḍa.Smritiśāstras like Manu Smriti, and Nitiśāstras like Kāmandak, Śukranīti etc also focus on spies and their activities.The act of spying has been designated as the "second oldest profession of the world" and its importance has been emphasized by statesmen and strategists globally.

It is clear that the present secret services are a contribution of ancient India. The spies and the act of spying are very much relevant in todays world too. The need for Espionage is at its peak today. The terrorist attacks carried out every day have brought intelligence issues to the forefront of all diplomatic affairs. Intelligence agencies are working overtime to smell terror before it strikes. Nosy neighbours like China, Pakistan or Bangladesh are constantly interfering into our matters. India, urgently, needs a vigilant yet benevolent regime, backed by optimal intelligence possibly as envisaged by Kautilya,

 In this research project an attempt has been made to investigate the relevance of Kautilya’s ideas on spies in modern time periods. Apart from this I want to focus on the women who take this profession since ancient India.