

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE SERIES - 4



38

KAUTILYA ON RAJANITI

(THE SCIENCE OF POLITY)



K.P.A.MENON



RASHTRIYA SANSKRIT SANSTHAN

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(THE SCIENCE OF POLITY)

DR. K.P.A. MENON



RASHTRIYA SANSKRIT SANSTHAN

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FOREWORD

I have great pleasure to present this volume of **Golden Jubilee of India's Independence Series** of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan to our esteemed readers. The Volume varily represents the goodwill and cooperation, the Sansthan has all along been receiving from the distinguished scholars all over the country.

The Sansthan was established in October, 1970 as an autonomous apex body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India with a view to promoting, preserving and propagating Sanskrit learning in all its aspects, with special reference to the in-depth shastraic learning. Apart from conducting the regular courses of studies at the constituent Vidyapeethas, it has been bringing out invaluable publications representing dissemination of knowledge contained in the various Shastras.

Thanks to the continued help, encouragement and support from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India that the Sansthan has grown by leaps and bounds and has been able to render its services to promotion of Sanskrit learning at national and international levels. Sansthan has decided to bring out 50 scholarly monographs by eminent Sanskrit Scholars of different fields as part of the academic programmes being organised to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence.

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the Indian rulers in the North-West, Chandragupta got control over the strategic region of Afghanistan and the treaty with Seleucas was sealed with a matrimonial alliance. Simultaneously he had to ensure lasting peace in the land and counter any attempt that might be made by the disaffected nobles and supporters of the old regime. These two tasks, simultaneously undertaken, must have kept him confined to the Northern Indian plains and hill regions. It is believed that he abdicated his authority after his objective was achieved and retired into the shades of the penance groves. So it is safe to conclude that his travels outside the empire must have been undertaken before he got involved in the war of annihilation against the Nandas. To some extent, this agrees with the theory of South Indian origin and his travels in search of his fortune.

The fact that Arthaśāstra had been accepted as an authoritative text in Ancient Kerala speaks about the greatness of the work on one hand and the discerning mind of the rulers and the people on the other. The people of our country had the tradition of accepting what is good irrespective of region or place of origin, ancient or of contemporary origin. It was the earliest among the playwrights of Kerala who asserted - गुणः प्रमाणं न दिशां विभागः । Vālmīki, Vyāsa, Kālidāsa, Bhāsa, Kauṭilya and Jayadeva were all as acceptable to the people of Kerala even as the products of Kerala poets like Mukundamala, Kṛṣṇakarnāmr̥tam and Nalodaya were acceptable to the people of Kashmir, Bengal, Gujarat and Rājasthan. So far as Kauṭilya's Arthaśāstra was concerned, without being satisfied with the original

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