

Indian Political Thinkers

JANUARY '26

1st Week - 001-364

01

THURSDAY

7/02/26

“Kautilya”

Nature of the State and Kingship.

For Kautilya the state is people organised with the King exercising full authority over his subjects. It is a kingdom, in which all lead a disciplined life. The king will be wise and virtuous. Other officials will be there to advise the king to efficiently administer.

The Kautilya's King is himself under the law, which he is supposed to obey himself. King to be dedicated to public service, as Kautilya says, “in the happiness of his subjects lies the king's happiness, in their welfare, his welfare. He shall not consider as good only that which please him, but treat as beneficial to him whatever pleases his subjects.” The state is kingdom, it is monarchical in form.

TES :

APPOINTMENTS :

PHONE/E-MAIL :

WK	S	M	T	W	T
01					
02	4	5	6	7	8
03	11	12	13	14	15
04	18	19	20	21	22
05	25	26	27	28	29

The king was powerful, but powerful within limits. The people admitted the king's authority, but the admission was to their welfare. The king had possessed powers, because he was to perform certain duties. The people had duties because they had a regard for his authority.

* Characteristics of the State

→ The Kingdom is presided over by the around whom revolve all powers.

→ The king's powers are absolute, but are exercised within the limits of the Dharma.

→ The king rules to promote the happiness and welfare of his subjects.