This thesis deals with "State Control on Trade & Monopolies in Ancient India". As we all know the Mauryan Government was pioneer in introducing the policy of state trading and effective regulatory control of private sector industries and trade. The aim of the present project is to analyse the causes and circumstances that prompted the Mauryan Government to launch such an economic policy and the measures adopted by it, in so far as those are outlined in the Arthasastra or Kautilya.

It is also intended to make an in-depth study of the methods prescribed by Kautilya in giving effect to the policy of state control over the sources of wealth-producing economic activities viz Trade & Industry. But it is interesting to note that the private sector in industry or trade had not been completely shut out from the field by the induction of the new policy of state control. The state indulged in trade both in land & foreign in a considerable way, but the old order was not totally supplanted. It was brought under restrictive regulatory supervision of the state, commensurate with its policy mopping up as much wealth as possible with an
eye to prajāsukha but ensuring at the same time the free flow of production and trade on normal economic principles.

In this connection we propose to examine the nature & quantum of economic control exercised by the state through the policy of its monopoly right or by keeping under its exclusive control an appreciable portion of business and industry, operation in them being marked out of bounds for the private sector.

Though Kautilya's Arthasastra is our chief source book for the proposed study, other Smriti texts, the Dharmasastras as well as the epics and epigraphic records will also be examined to find out the currency and continuity of the policy of state trading and monopoly in the succeeding periods of ancient Indian history.

The findings of this research have been divided into following six chapters:

The first chapter contains discussion on the economic theories of state control on Trade & Industry its causes methods scope and relevance.

Attempts have been made in the second chapter to highlight the scope of state intervention in trade and
industry in the Pre Kautilyan age: i) The Indus civilisation; ii) Vedic period; iii) The Dharmasutra period; iv) Buddhist texts. The "laissez-faire" system, the rise of the setthis, causes that precipitated state control in the succeeding period.

The third chapter is devoted to the study of state control on trade as depicted in the Arthasastra of Kautilya, side by side the Classical Accounts as well as the inscriptions concerning the period under survey, are also studied to examine the actual practice.

The fourth chapter deals with state's monopoly control over industries as depicted in the Arthasastra; important industries are: i) mines, ii) currency, iii) economic and industrial products from forests, iv) Armament and ship building industry, v) manufacture of weights and measures.

The fifth chapter consists of state control on trade and industries in the post Maurya period, as gleaned from the Dharmasasthas of Manu, Nārada, Yājñavalkya, the Smriti texts, the epics as well as the epigraphic records.
The last chapter is a conclusion summarising all the arguments presented in the preceding chapters. It has also been examined whether welfare state was operative in ancient India.