CHAPTER FOUR

RELEVANCE OF KAUTILYAN ESPIONAGE TO MODERN POLITICS AND WARFARE

The end of the cold war had been a watershed event of the 20\textsuperscript{th} century, bringing with it hopes of stability, peace and prosperity in a tension-free world with minimal friction and distrust between nations. But, alas! This was not to be...

As post cold-war reality sets in, the much anticipated peace dividends continue to elude us and international understanding and security still stand hostage to crashes in stock-exchanges and evil designs of fundamentalists, terrorists or mercenaries. Unlike the cold-war period where security was primarily viewed in terms of relative military strengths in a superpower-dominated bipolar global system, it is now controlled by unpredictable stock-markets, economic one-upmanship and financial clout from oil-deposits. The former bipolar system has already led to a multipolar, polycentric international order in which several regional powers, with inter-personal differences of faith, wealth and ideologies, are expected to play important roles in shaping a new world order. The importance, aspirations and impact of these middle powers should not be
underestimated. A nation which fails to keep pace with these changes endangers its national security.

National security is the ability of a nation to safeguard its territorial, diplomatic and economic interests from external threats. Walter Lipmann defines it as “A Nation has security when it does not have to sacrifice its legitimate interests to avoid war and is able, if challenged, to maintain them by war.”¹ In other words, no country should be able to make us submit to their will and fancies. Cooperative international security through arms-control measures have also gained momentum, as a nuclear war can hardly be of advantage to either side and can at best serve as a deterrent. Some notable steps have been the Partial Test-ban Treaty, the Ban on nuke tests in outer space and the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Nevertheless, countries still bank heavily on their conventional moves for National security. Military strength, political stability, economic growth, cultural and psychological unity, blocking seditious moves of enemy countries like terror-strikes, guerilla warfare, fomenting insurgency and initiating counter-subversion all contribute jointly to this National security. Espionage can play a decisive role in ensuring most of these vital pre-requisites.
The twentieth century has seen revolutionary progress in the field of intelligence and espionage. Although the Orient, since RgVedic times, can claim to have given Espionage to the world five thousand years ago, the early part of the twentieth century saw most of the important intelligence operations emanate from Europe. However, only a several thousand people were involved in intelligence operations. Today, with the development of science and technology, international communications, diplomatic relationships and complex societies, advanced multi-disciplinary intelligence organizations equipped with numerous highly trained professional agents have emerged. Once relying mainly on spies and counterspies, defections and betrayals, it is now a world of hi-tech spy satellites, surveillance aircraft, cameras, radio-signal interception, Code-making and Code-breaking, ultra-speed computers and analysts with advanced knowledge of mathematics, physics, foreign languages, economics, engineering and so on, and costing more than a hundred billion dollars per annum. Its utility is felt both during War and peace. There has never been a war without spies, and there has never been a peace in which spies have not engaged in making preparations for a future war.
The craft of Espionage has had its share of successes and failures with significant impact on world events. Code-breaking inducted the US into the World War I and ensured the victory of the Allied Forces. The weak interpretation of intelligence prior to World War II enabled Hitler to lodge initial conquests on the Eastern front. In the later part of the century, the CIA failed to predict the Soviet missiles installed in Cuba, and the Israeli military intelligence ignored warning signs of the Egyptian attack on October 1973. The achievements have also been note-worthy. The development of TECHINT capabilities helped limit the fear of enemy superiority and surprise attack, negotiate Arms-control Treaties, and aided crisis monitoring. Dedicated spies like Richard Sorge in World War II, Eli Cohen and Oleg Penkovsky in the 1960s, to Olg Gordievsky have left indelible marks in the annals of spydom. The Watergate Scandal which led to the resignation of the President of USA, Richard Nixon, can be counted as a brilliant success of Espionage. Intelligence can also facilitate International Relations and Peacemaking initiatives. The fall of the Berlin Wall and the Unification of Germany, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the cold war, the Middle East peace process and the friendly
overtures between India and Pakistan are instances which fuel hope regarding the role of intelligence in times of peace.²

Much nearer home, our very own intelligence agencies have excelled and faltered at various levels to significantly influence South-Asian Politics. The Liberation of Bangladesh (erstwhile East Pakistan) from the tyranny and persecution of Pakistan was facilitated by India’s External Intelligence agencies, mainly RAW. Under its Project Poornima, India could surprise the world by detonating a 15-Kiloton plutonium devise at Pokhran without global interference or sanctions only because of top secrecy monitored by RAW. On April 26, 1975, Indian diplomatic initiatives could absorb Sikkim, a strategically important political entity, into its fold as the twenty-second State of the Indian Union. Ignoring all words of caution, the Promulgation of the state of Emergency (25-06-1975 to 21-03-1977) by Indira Gandhi on the instigations of the RAW, which reported only its breakthroughs and not the excesses committed, cast a gloom of despotism and repression in contemporary governance and throttled democracy temporarily. Effectively bestowing the power to ‘rule by decree’ by suspending elections and civil liberties, the Emergency remains one of the most controversial periods in the history of Independent India. Failure to
assess the strength of Bhindranwale’s Khalistani forces during Operation Bluestar in Amritsar (1984) stretched a deemed 5-hour operation into a full-scale artillery and tank-powered five day long battle with heavy casualties. More recently, infiltration along the LOC and armed occupation of Indian bunkers by ISI-trained Mujahideens months before the Kargil assault went undetected by our surveillance aircraft and border intelligence. The biggest challenges before India today are the menace of terrorism and Naxalism and the global economic slowdown. Obviously, we are treading on a double-edged sword and the smallest mistake can jeopardize National security.

With the changing equations in the world order, India today faces many challenges:

The political and economic hegemony of the USA manifested through arm-twisting issues of aid and loans, trade sanctions and technological deals. The Economic slowdown has taken some sting out of this bite lately.

i) The economic and political weakening of Russia has had negative security and geopolitical implications for India.

ii) The re-emergence of China with redoubtable motive towards India is a disturbing factor.
iii) India still has to enter the decision making Circle of the United Nations.

iv) As founder member, India should play a more assertive role in the NAM.

v) Asianism needs to be promoted for better understanding and cooperation in the neighbourhood. Bilateral trade, cultural tolerance and tourism can contribute significantly here.

vi) Pro-active measures to be taken to meet threats in Indian Ocean.

vii) Islamic Fundamentalism must be dealt with firmly yet diplomatically.

viii) Illicit international narcotics and arms trade, the pivots around which organized crime revolves and terrorism thrives are rapidly engulfing India within its tentacles.

ix) Economic Espionage\(^3\) is another area for concern and it has been affecting India stealthily for some time now. As economic strength becomes the new currency of power, theft of high-tech business secrets of commercial applications within the corporate sector can destabilize even the strongest military entity. Cyber-spying and
counterfeit currency has further endangered economic stability and the recession has affected many industries severely.

x) The age of Disarmament has seen Biological Warfare raise its ugly head with fresh vengeance. Anthrax, Smallpox, SARS, Bird-Flu are only some of the imminent Bio-Warfare threats of the 21st century.

The Proxy war by Pakistan is certainly a heavy drain on Indian economy. Pakistan will keep the Kashmir Issue alive and try to internationalize it time and again, giving her an excuse to sponsor terrorism in India. Of late, the militant movement in Kashmir has lost popular support and enthusiasm as ‘Azadi’ is a non-functional concept for the ordinary Kashmiri today. As a frontline partner of US-led War against Terrorism, it cannot supply arms or personnel to the movement there. Undeterred, Pakistan now strikes at soft targets like hotels, housing estates, temples, crowded railway stations or schools to inflict maximum damage and thereby gain maximum publicity. Pakistan is also acquiring more submarines to update her naval inventory in the Indian Ocean. The main threat that China poses to India is military action through Tibet. Efforts by China to win over Myanmar are also ominous for India. Some militant outfits
have also found safe haven in Bangladesh and Bhutan. To top it all, there are conclusive reports of these neighbours encouraging cross-border terrorism against India by giving shelter to insurgents like the Ulfa, Mao-vadis, Nagas etc, shielding their training camps and providing monetary support.

A well-equipped and updated Espionage Network is evidently an utmost necessity to tackle this scourge. Acquisition of Intelligence, its thoughtful analysis and prompt execution into necessary action together constitute the realm of Espionage. Intelligence has two meanings, limited and broad. In a limited sense, Intelligence is simply properly processed information. Some 2500 years ago, Sun Tsu described it thus: What enables the wise sovereign and good general to strike and conquer and achieve things beyond the reach of ordinary men, is foreknowledge. The popular adage ‘Knowing is half the battle’ eulogizes such foreknowledge. Also relevant is the proverb, ‘To be forewarned is to be forearmed.’

In the broader sense, intelligence is the whole apparatus: collectors (spies and agents), researchers, compilers, evaluators, relaters, estimators, writers, disseminators, and a host of technicians with their gadgets, communications systems, libraries, files and production plants. On the counter-spying side, they are the spy-
catchers, censors, code-makers and breakers, loyalty checkers, plant
security experts and others, with their accessories and equipment.
The ultimate factor in this structure is the human being, who
monitors all this, i.e. the spy. The entire intelligence apparatus
towers over this secret operative like an inverted pyramid. Indeed,
**Applied Intelligence is the order of the day**. Corporate houses,
political organizations and military departments all rely heavily on
Intelligence and Espionage for ensuring a competitive advantage
over their rivals.

Intelligence is a means which enables any government or
military machine to have an edge in both peace and war. Intelligence
can be either strategic or tactical. Out of the diverse forms of
Intelligence, **HUMINT (Human Intelligence)** is the oldest of all.
**HUMINT**, a syllabic abbreviation of the words **HUMan
INTelligence**, refers to intelligence gathering by means of
interpersonal contact, as opposed to the more technical intelligence
gathering disciplines such as SIGINT, IMINT and MASINT. Human
Intelligence has a hoary antiquity. Indeed, this form of spying has
existed ever since the first caveman peered from behind a boulder to
inform himself of the size and number of clubs other prehistoric men
could employ to attack or repel one himself. Or again, it was seen in
the fervent plea of the Vedic seer to Lord Varuṇa to deploy his spies to rescue stolen cattle or in the song of Indra’s spies tracking down the demon Vṛtra. Surrounding the earth on all sides and shining with the golden jewels and hastening to fight they could not overcome Indra, who covered the spies of Vṛtra with the sun.

From the covert agents of Kauṭilya like कापटिक (pupils), उदास्थित (monks), ग्रहपतिक (farmers), वैदेहक (traders), तापस (mendicants), भिष्मुक्ती (nuns) etc to modern day POWs, defectors, informers and trained personnel of overt military reconnaissance, it has been man who has been the most prolific source of intelligence.

The other form of Intelligence, TECHINT, comprises SIGINT, PHOTO-INT and other subgroups. Speech, writing, printing, radio and wireless enabled Morse code and telegraph all form SIGINT. Photography and the invention of the flying machine created Imagery Intelligence (IMINT) and Photo Reconnaissance
The discovery of the Radar, just before the World War II, introduced a new form of tactical intelligence to the battlefield. To this was added Electronic Intelligence or ELINT, which covered activity from battlefield surveillance to electronic eavesdropping. All intelligence gathered thus must be properly analyzed and utilized requiring trained and committed officials.

All over the world, extraordinary progress has been achieved in the field of TECHINT, due to rapid advancement of science and technology. The USA maintains the most sophisticated capabilities and operations in the world today and as the forerunner in the War against Terrorism, shares much of this with allied nations. More than US $10 billion is assigned for SIGINT purposes.5 But while most countries have surged ahead in technical means of Intelligence collection, they have remained weak on HUMINT. Ferreting out facts and figures through computers, satellites, cameras, mobile networks etc has been excellent, but less has been accomplished in putting them into a coherent picture-analyzing trends, assessing situations, and warning of future contingencies. Some experts even tend to denigrate the importance of human assets because technical means are politically and intellectually more comfortable. US intelligence has been so much involved in TECHINT that it has
invested more in the former to the neglect of the latter. Such overreliance on TECHINT could be dangerous, because it does not always yield unambiguous evidence and razor-sharp analysis alone can read between the lines about the motive involved. Moreover, if the collector or user is not sufficiently aware of the importance of the intelligence available, the assessment of intentions will remain off the mark. The failure to predict the attack on Pearl Harbor, the bombing of the US Marine Barracks (Beirut 1983) and the latest hijacking attempt of the US airliner (Dec 09) have all been adjudged as cases of poor HUMINT.

Erik J Dahl has studied the Marine Barracks Bombing case in detail. On 23rd October 1983, a truck laden with over 12000 pounds of TNT crashed into the compound of the US contingent of the Multinational Force (MNF) at Beirut, penetrating the Battalion Landing Team Headquarters building and killing 241 US military personnel. Almost simultaneously, a similar truck bomb exploded at the French MNF headquarters, killing some 56 soldiers. These attacks had been preceded by car bomb attacks in Apr 1983 and Sept 83 on US Embassy in Beirut killing 35 US civilians. In Oct 83, the enemy had taken a familiar weapon—a car bomb—and greatly enlarged it into a far deadlier truck bomb. Commanders expected the
threat, but lacked the focused imagination and analytical ability necessary to anticipate this progression by the enemy. The problem was not insufficient data, but insufficient evaluation of data.

India, in particular, has been under the scanner of massive subversive attacks in recent years. With terrorist attacks in Varanasi, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Surat, Guwahati, apart from the metros like Delhi and Mumbai, it is clear as daylight that terrorists have the whole of India on their radar. In August 2008, National Security Advisor M K Narayanan had said that there are as many as 800 terrorist cells operating in the country. At least 232 of the country’s 608 districts are afflicted, at differing intensities, by various insurgent and terrorist movements. About 30 terrorist outfits are active in the North-East, Jammu and Kashmir and Central India, amongst whom the ULFA, NDFB, UNLF, Laskar-e-taiba are the deadliest, always one step ahead of the security forces. If we place CCTVs in Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus, they will simply target Pune, Kolhapur or Ghaziabad. It is impossible for technology to defend our 5000 plus railway stations! Clearly, although great expectations have been placed on modern technology in gathering Intelligence (TECHINT), the Human Factor (HUMINT) with its
capacity to measure, monitor, evaluate and analyze still holds the key to success.

Apart from sound technical knowledge, intelligence personnel must have keen insight, sharp acumen and infinite presence of mind to foresee impending strikes and forewarn in time. Good grounding in social sciences, foreign languages and geographical understanding of strategic locations are of paramount importance. Amazingly enough, The KAUṬĪYA ARTHASĀSTRA stresses on these very aspects and also insists on a strong hunger, ruthless passion and infinite self-control in a secret agent for ferreting out the enemy. He advises the spy forthright to employ ‘silent punishment’ towards his own party or that of the enemy, without hesitation, being possessed of forbearance in respect of the future and the present.

Fearless and undaunted by personal danger, Kauṭilya’s spies doggedly pursued their targets. Those spies in the land who are brave, have given up all personal safety and would fight, for the sake of money, an elephant or a wild animal, are the Bravoes. ये जनपदे शूषणः त्यक्तात्मानो हस्तिनं व्यालं वा द्रव्यहेतुः प्रतियोध्येयुस्ते
Those who are without affection for their kinsmen and are cruel and indolent are the Poison givers. ए बशुधु नि:स्नेहः। कृत्रिय अलसाश्च ते समदः। Interestingly, Kautilya lays great stress on **offence over defense** as the underlying principle in all spying activities. The secret agents in the Mauryan Administration, especially The RASADA (poison-givers) and TIKSNA (bravoes) were empowered to mete out exemplary punishment with an iron hand.

These secret agents, again, were constantly scrutinized. Kautilya categorically insists that only when there is agreement in the report of three spies, credence should be given. तत्त्वामेक्षवच्ये संप्रत्य:। In case of continuous mistakes on their part, Silent Punishment is the means of their removal. तेषाम् अभीक्षणविनिपाते तुष्णीदुः: प्रतिषेधः।

In a defensive mode, no security system can provide 24 x 7 hours protection to a billion people against trained terrorists. Even a Global War against terrorism is hardly feasible. So this **toughness of Kautilya** is worth emulation. His pragmatic, ruthless and tenacious pursuit and annihilation of evildoers, public
enemies, secessionists and infiltrators to propel his motherland to prosperity, if followed today, can augment our National security and boost our growth manifold. Guided by the Kautilyan Hallmark of Offence over Defense in Espionage undertakings, we can adopt the ‘offensive hunt’ strategy, which is the need of the hour. Intelligence operatives today must become hunters not gatherers. We cannot just sit back and gather information as it comes, analyze it and then decide what to do about it. Rather, we have to go out, hunt down and liquidate the terrorists. By tracking down and exposing their hideouts, the terrorists must no longer be the hunters, but the hunted. Kautilya’s guiding principle of नष्टं शार्यं समाच्छेत् (Evildoers must be treated evilly) is the need of the hour. Any amnesty or nonchalance shown towards seditious or divisive forces can cost the country dearly. It is heartening that of late, a slow percolation of Kautilyan thinking within India’s strategic discourse can be discerned. Defense analysts and policy makers are extending whole hearted support to counter-insurgency operations and are assisting the United Nations-American Intelligence backed War against Terrorism launched after the WTC attacks.14
Defense expenditures are reaching alarming proportions these days. Sadat Deger\textsuperscript{15} maintains that military expenditure in developing countries is large and rising; its economic effects are a matter of vital concern. Both theoretical and empirical arguments are provided to show that, though there are some beneficial spin-offs from defense, the overall impact is to lower the rate of resource creation significantly. This may have sizable negative effect on growth and development. The Business world Issue, 25 Feb-3 Mar 2008 reports that India’s Defense Budget has gone up by about a third in last five years. Defense expenditure is expected to snowball as Indian forces modernize and their role extends beyond protecting the borders — fighting insurgency in border and interior states, tackling terrorism in urban areas, and policing the South Asian region.

Kauṭilya attached great importance to diplomatic ‘Sangrāmika’, rather than to an armed struggle. This keenness to avoid strife by sheer diplomacy is extremely laudable. As tools of diplomacy, he invested envoys, messengers, and spies with great importance: ‘The spy had to be as swift as the wind and as energetic as the sun.’\textsuperscript{16} He laid more stress on finance than on military affairs. He asserted: It is the army which is dependent on
finance, not vice-versa. The focus was therefore on Espionage and Counter-Espionage to save colossal expenditure on war.

Major General V K Singh\textsuperscript{17} and Dr. Bhasyam Kasturi\textsuperscript{18} mention several lacunae in the functioning of the country’s top intelligence agencies today. The need to sharpen our HUMINT skills has been stressed upon. Other glaring defects are lack of accountability, leadership, coordination and self esteem, limited and transparency, complacency, anomalies in purchase in equipments, etc and above all, an ethos so essential for concerted team effort. The \textit{Kautiliya Arthasastra} can be both an eye-opener and a paradigm in many of these areas as well as serve as an inspirational force in enriching and rejuvenating our intelligence organizations. The means of starting undertakings, the excellence of men and materials, suitable apportionment of place and time, provision against failure and accomplishment of the work- this is the \textit{Mantra}.

\begin{quote}
कर्मणामार्म्भोपायः पुरुषद्वृत्तसंपद् देशकालविभागो विनिपातप्रतिकारः
कार्यसिद्धिरिति पंचांगो मन्त्रः \
\end{quote}

Despite the formation of the National Security Council, Joint Intelligence Committee, National Security Advisor, it remains a
known fact that secret agencies in India remain largely beyond scrutiny, accountability and oversight. However, Kautilya firmly lays down that the king is supreme and has final say in all spy-related issues. He is the adjudicator and the decision taker.

Spying, in recent times, is an exclusive and secretive affair. As a result, the motives and movements of a spy are often liable to suspicion and injury by hostile elements. The public is rarely articulated about forthcoming missions. Kautilya's espionage network involved nearly three-fourth of the population who understood its utility and cooperated eagerly. Ordinary citizens from nearly all walks of life like farmers, traders, ascetics, pupils, nuns, etc were deemed suitable for intelligence gathering, provided they had the necessary qualifications. Such wide participation was bound to yield better results. The Union Home Minister, Shri Shivraj Patil, while inaugurating the 42nd Conference (since Independence) of Directors General of Police and Inspectors General of Police on 3rd Oct 2007, urged for similar involvement of general public in aiding State-run intelligence agencies by using civil defense units for local policing, appointment of police volunteers and the concept of having security committees in villages.
Adhering to the machinations and tactics of Kautilya, a keen and shrewd observer of human nature, can take HUMINT to amazing heights of implementation. Sufficiently ruthless yet sensitive, penetrating yet balanced, aggressive yet impartial, Kautilya’s relentless pursuit of seditious elements and criminals, practically unaided by modern technical gadgets, is remarkably motivating and inspiring.

His spies were instructed to work round the clock and report all suspicious activities and incidents, however insignificant they might appear. Encouraging the spies with money and honour, the minister should say, ‘Regarding the king and me as your authority, report to us at once any evil of any person which you may notice.’

Another noteworthy aspect is that three prominent genres of Kautilya’s spies, Udāsthita, Grhapatika or Vaidehaka are persons whose original occupations or livelihoods are not faring well or have depleted altogether.

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Kauṭilya observed that such dire and difficult times must have made them more alert and dutiful, because any complacency, negligence or blunder now would push them into irrevocable hardship. Fraudulent and degenerate ascetics and vagabonds were also pressed into service. Hence, it can be expected that even in present times, the underdog, if given a second chance may often show more diligence, commitment and honesty than others. Moreover, their original professions will also provide them a credible cover while they execute clandestine duties of espionage.

While implementing the fourfold tests of the integrity of ministers, Kauṭilya insists that the king should make an outsider the object of reference and not make himself or the queen the target of corrupt ministers, if any.

तस्माह हाम्हिर्मणं कुल्म कार्यं चतुर्विधे ।
शौचाशौचममात्यानां राज्य मार्गेत सत्रिभि: ॥ २२

The reason given is: Corruption, once it sets in, is incurable and irreversible, as water once poisoned can rarely be rid of it. २३ The author of Nitimiti, a commentary on Kauṭilya’s Arthaśāstra, suggests that here Kauṭilya means that for the purpose of tests, a traitorous officer should temporarily replace the king and the wife of
such an officer should substitute the queen. The caution that all such operations should specifically be carried out by the Sattris or spies suggest their tremendous importance in the scheme of things. The practice of using dummies of VIPS in nabbing hardcore assailants and bombers is employed even now and can be further augmented by Kautilya’s strategies.

The **strong punishments** meted out to erring agents as mentioned in Chapter I, 12, 16 is also exemplary. In matters where national security was at stake, Kautilya was fiercely uncompromising and unrelenting. Obviously, such harsh punishments were intended to serve as **deterrents** to complacency, corruption or negligence in secret agents. ‘**Perform or perish**’, this tenet of Kautilya, though severe, seems relevant even today, when temptations of wine, woman and wealth rampantly lead to grave peril and spies and security personnel are often caught unawares. Even high officials during certain past battles were found partying and idling, oblivious to approaching enemies and thereby causing considerable damage. The unobstructed sneak-assault of Pak troops and artillery onto the Indian Border-checkpost and near successful attempt at crossing the Hussainiwala Bridge, Dist. Ferozepur,
Punjab during the 1971 Indo-Pak War was, according to insiders, a result of such stark negligence.

Internal vigilance within the espionage network was well-organized. A remarkable way of preventing distraction, dissension, defection or desertion amongst spies, especially Double agents, was keeping their sons and wives in the custody of the king, till the work of the spy was over.

This move served many purposes. Relieved of family responsibilities, albeit temporarily, these spies performed better. Fearing harm and hardships of their family in case of possible failure also made them more agile and duty-bound. The family remained protected from possible abductions and coercions for vital secrets by enemy spies.

In the volatile and high-risk situation faced by modern day secret agents, families and spouses of spies should emphatically be protected with Z-security to ensure their optimal functioning.
Another noteworthy ploy was to identify and ferret out the enemy's spies, especially Double agents, deputed against him by the king. For confirming suspicions about probable double agents of the enemy hidden in his own cadres, the spy watching over a suspected double agent would adopt similar guise or cover, for e.g., if the Udbhayavetana is disguised as a Kusilava, the spy to watch over him would also appear as a Kusilava. This would mislead the suspect, weaken his guard and dupe him into divulging his identity unknowingly.

Another clever tactic adopted was to station some officials of unquestionable integrity and loyalty at the frontiers. It was made out that they have a motive for possibly training traitor like Kāma, Krodha, Lobha etc. The enemy spies feel tempted to try to seduce such officers and through them the king. They could thus be identified quickly and punished suitably.
While carrying out a high-level secret operation, undertaking or counsel, even irresponsible gestures and expressions of envoys, ministers, and monarchs can divulge or leak vital information. Behavior other than normal is termed as Gesture by Kautilya. Putting a particular look or air on the face is Expression. Both gestures and expressions should be controlled or concealed. Even talking in sleep or drunkenness, excessive amorousness, tirade of malice towards hated or despised persons can bungle all secret counsel and hence, Kautilya advises extreme restraint, caution and vigilance over appointed officers. He even suggests isolation of such officers, if necessary, till completion of the undertaking. Such stringent measures are maintained in military matters till date but should be implemented authoritatively in civilian lines also. Ministers, bureaucrats, and top civilian intelligence officials should be brought under its purview.

मन्त्रभेदो हि दूतामत्यवस्त्रामामिनिमिलिताकाराभ्याम् । इत्क्षतमन्यथावृति: ।
आकृतिग्रहणमाकारः । तस्य संवरणमायुक्तपुरुषरक्षणमा कार्यकालादिति । तेषां हि
प्रमादमदसुपप्रलापः , कामादिहित्सेकः, प्रच्छन्नोजवमतो वा मन्त्र भिन्नकि ।
तस्मादश्रेण्यन्त्रम् । २८
The Envoys of Kautilyan Espionage performed multifarious activities, some of them pertinent to and replicable by his modern-day counterpart. Apart from conveying messages of his king in an objective but well-meaning manner to the enemy king and maintaining diplomatic goodwill between two countries, the scanty technical help available, necessitated wide-ranging functions by the Envoy through his secret agents like surveillance of human terrain, forts, settlements etc in foreign territory for strengthening future military campaigns.

The envoy should establish contacts with forest chieftains, frontier-chiefs and chief officials in the cities and towns of this journey. He should observe terrains suitable for an army, for fighting, for reserves and for retreat, for his own state and for the enemy. And he should find out the size of the forts and the country as well as the strong points, sources of livelihood, defenses and weak points (in the enemy’s territory). He should enter the enemy’s residence with permission. And he should deliver the message as given to him, even when danger to his life is seen in doing so.
Today, most of such surveillance work is carried out by satellite imaging, sophisticated spy cameras fitted with telescopes, radio-signaling etc. However, results show that interpretation and analysis of such technically-generated information, although both time and money-consuming, is not always error-free. Hence, any first-hand information gathered by the envoys’ agents, however small, can be significantly useful and is always appreciated.

Motivation could work wonders, according to Kautilya. He opined that spies should be encouraged with honour and money as rewards for their services.\(^{30}\) The stationary spies (samsthas) received 1000 *panas* each, the wandering spy(sanchara) 500 *panas*, and the servants leading the spies got 250 *panas* or in proportion to their services per annum.
As mentioned earlier, the Samsthas also got large landed estates or factories for their own maintenance and also for their subordinates.

In the Chapter on Suppression of Criminals (कण्टकशोधनम्), Kautilya has intensely sought to eradicate corruption from all rungs of society and administration. Modest to heavy fines have been imposed to limit corrupt practices in various occupations like washer men, artisans, artists, goldsmiths, physicians, dust-washers etc.

For traders who conspire together to hold back wares or sell them at a high price, the fine was one thousand panas.

Hoarding and black-marketing by unscrupulous traders, which eat up market resources like cancer, are rampant till today. As in Kautilya’s times, they should be dealt with strongly. The standard equipment used for weights and measures during sale should be checked frequently, because they are likely to be tampered with by unscrupulous traders for deceiving the customer.

Indeed, this section on ‘suppression of criminals’, with its basic objective of deterring future crime and lawlessness, can be a valuable guideline for modern vigilance departments. The racketeers who dealt with fake currency were particularly derided by Kautilya,
for counterfeit currency can jeopardize a country’s economy. To such swindlers of public wealth, Kautilya prescribes the highest penalty of Death. He emphatically laid down that for one causing a counterfeit coin to be made or receiving it or sending it into circulation, the fine is one thousand panas. But for one inserting it in the treasury, the penalty is death.

Kautilya is quite strict and merciless here, and in my opinion, rightfully so. Spying, locating and guarding against persons with secret income are other principle areas of concern for Kautilya. Thirteen varied malpractices of citizens who enjoy secret means of income that actually drain the National exchequer are enumerated in this chapter. Kautilya has instructed the king to be stringent and cautious about these persons, and constantly observe their activities through spies.

Modern day Sting Operations are comparable to these tactics where an agent, posing as a beneficiary, a criminal partner or a potential victim of any of these malpractices, actually records his audio or video interfaces with the perpetrators of such undercover operations and later produces these as incriminating evidence for
legal action or public exposure. Adhering to Kautilyan tactics, spies can detect thieves by themselves posing as thieves and instigating them to become accomplices in crime. If they yielded, these thieves could be arrested. Secret agents appearing as old thieves should, after winning the confidence of actual thieves, go along with them, collect evidence and then get them arrested. Hereafter, the Administrator should point them out to citizens and country people, saying, "The king has studied the lore of catching thieves; it is under his instructions that these thieves have been caught; I shall catch others too. You should therefore restrain your kinsmen who may have criminal tendencies."

पुराणचोरयव्यञ्जना वा चोरानुप्रविश्वस्तथे व कर्म कारये युग्महेन युग्मः। गृहीतात्
समाहता पौरजनपदानां दर्शवेद्। 'चोरग्रहाणि विद्यामधीते राजा, तस्योपदेशादिमे
चोर सृहताः, भूयश्च गृहीतायमि, वार्तितयो वह स्वजनः पापाचारः' इति।

Secret punishment meted out to seditious elements was much more severe in Kautilya’s age as compared to modern times. The strategies adopted were quite ingenious and bloodcurdling, obviously serving as effective deterrents.

Aiding the prince escape from captivity was a major assignment of Kautilyan secret agents.
If the prince were taken hostage, secret agents disguised as artisans or artists, should dig a hidden tunnel and carry away the prince through it. Or secret agents disguised as traders can administer poison to guards through cooked food and fruits. Setting fire to the house and smuggling out the prince in the ensuing commotion was a popular trend. Or made to appear as a corpse, the secret agents could carry him out. They could also appear as foresters and misdirect the pursuing guards. Or, taking up weapons smuggled in by secret agents, he could assault the captivators and escape.

Storming the bastion of hijackers after stealthy approach to rescue the hostages is practiced by intelligence agencies till today and the KA will definitely unveil new dimensions for them.
Kauśalya’s views on the destructiveness and vainness of human vices is both humbling and stimulating. In the Chapter VIII, Section 129, titled पुरुषव्यसनवर्गः, he enumerates the three vices springing from anger and the four vices emanating from lust. कोपजस्तिवर्गः कामजस्ति चतुर्वर्गः: । Verbal injury, violation of property and physical injury are vices springing from anger. वाक्यपारुषमर्यादा दण्डपारुषमिति। । Hunting, gambling, women and drinks are the vices springing from lust. कामजस्ति मृगया चूतं स्त्रियं: पानमिति चतुर्वर्गः।

Of all these vices, Kauśalya cautions that addiction for women is most devastating and decadent. निष्प्रादेयं स्त्रीव्यसनम् । अदर्शम् कार्यनिर्वेदं कालातिपातनावन्धरो धर्मलोपशं तत्ज्ञानो विषयाद्यांवन्धश्च। । Addiction to women restricts all deliverance. Failure to show himself, a aversion for work, absence of material good and loss of spiritual good by allowing the right time to pass, weakness in administration and addiction to drink result from addiction to women. Such addiction or attraction to unapproachable or unsafe women leads to total ruin. अगाभे च स्वरूपितिः। । The infamous Visakanyās or seductress-spy exploited this weakness in male.
bastions of power and contrived the downfall of many promising monarchies or republics.

Lust, according to Kautilya, means the favouring of evil persons and anger means the suppression of good persons. Because of the multitude of evils resulting from them, both are held to be a calamity without end. Kautilya concludes his discourse on the lethal outcome of all vices by advising the king to give up all anger and lust, the starting point of all calamities.

असतं प्रग्रहः कामः कोपश्रावग्रहः सताम्।

व्यसनं दोषबाहुत्यादत्यानबुभयं मतम्॥

तस्मात्कोषं च कामं च व्यसनारम्भमत्वान्॥

परित्यज्येन्मूलप्रव वृहस्पेवी जितेन्द्रियः॥ ४४

Such abstinence and firm resolve of the king surely inspired ordinary mortals to follow, building a strong, clean and progressive society conducive to development and expansion.

The most befitting instance of the appalling degeneration of modern statesmen and bureaucrats in the grip of lust and wantonness can be none other than that of Matahari, the beautiful spy active during World War I. A Dutch dancer and courtesan, Margaretha Geertruida Zelle McLeod, enticed French officials with her exquisite
beauty and duped them to divulge many vital military secrets which she reportedly passed on to the Germans. Although executed for treason by the French in 1917, many still believe she was innocent. **Josephine Baker**, exotic dancer and entertainer, was also a spy. During World War II, she gathered intelligence for the French underground.

Besides such enchantresses, there have been woman spies who scored over their male counterparts in espionage over the years with their sheer wit, charisma and courage. Iva Ikuko Toguri d’Aquino better known as the 'Tokyo Rose', Harriet Tubman, Mary Edwards Walker, Sarah Emma Edmonds, Ethel Rosenberg are some famous names among many. The riveting exploits of **Princess Noor Inayat Khan**, a descendant of Tipu Sultan, ruler of Mysore, deserves special mention because of her illustrious Indian origin. Born into a titled Indian Muslim family in 1914, she enrolled in Special Operations Executive, in Great Britain and was trained as a wireless operator. She was the first female radio operator to be landed in enemy occupied France during World War II.

The Princess eluded the dreaded Gestapo for many months, cycling, with transmitter in tow, from one "safe house" to another. "Madeleine" (Noor's code name) ultimately became the sole
communications link between her unit of the French Resistance and home base, across the channel. Sadly she was captured by the Germans and executed. One of only three women SOE to be awarded the George Cross, she did not yield to torture and her last word was "Liberte". 

Today, women are very much a part of space age information-gathering and have earned high level positions in both military and civilian intelligence agencies. It is a career path with vast possibilities and one that any woman could lucratively follow. It is evident, however, from studies of female espionage in modern era that the scope of their work is still not as wide-spread or far-reaching as in Kautilyan times. Kauṭilya’s women spies had access to all vital places, elite or common-place. She commanded trust and respect of courtiers and villagers alike, by dint of her numerous occupational covers of ascetic, mendicant, wandering minstrel, cook, seamstress, queen’s attendant, beggar, garland seller, courtesans and so on.--- In short, their sphere of influence permeated all pertinent circles of administration. Indeed, intelligence experts today can reap rich dividends by adopting Kauṭilya’s remarkably effective network of female spies. Interestingly, Pakistan’s Espionage network frequently uses women spies, blackmail, and fear-tactics as advocated by
Kautilya. In the 1980s, the ISI had allegedly recruited a senior Indian Armed Forces attache by trapping him with the help of an attractive woman in Karachi and then blackmailing him with her help. He was called back to India under some pretext and removed from the armed forces. Mysteriously enough, he was not prosecuted.

In the 1970s, a British woman had been recruited by the Indian Embassy in Paris to work as a telephone operator. She had helped the MI-6 (the British intelligence service) in clandestinely recording the telephone conversations of all Indian diplomats posted in Paris. She had caused considerable damage before she was detected and sacked. The most significant and deadly addition to this list of women spies functional against India is the recently arrested Ms Madhuri Gupta (IFS), a Second Secretary in the Press and Information Wing of the Indian Embassy in Islamabad, who was allegedly working for Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence or for the intelligence agency of a Western country through its intelligence officer working under the cover of a diplomat in Pakistan. Western intelligence agencies, particularly the Central Intelligence Agency, have in the past tried to recruit Indian diplomats posted in Indian missions abroad through blackmail or offer of money or offer of resident status in their country.
The spies had significant role in the king’s military expeditions. They kept vigil over the king’s army especially in the rear end of the convoy, because this area is most vulnerable and if overcome by the enemy, can affect the king’s march ahead considerably. Even a small disturbance in the rear can undermine large gains in front, according to Kautilya:

अत्यः पश्चात्कोपो महानु पुरस्ताल्लभ इति अत्यः पश्चात्कोपो गरीयान्.  ⁴⁶

Taking advantage of the king’s absence due to a military campaign, treasonable men, enemies and foresters add fuel to such smoldering disturbances or a rising of the constituents augment them, leading to mutinies, uprisings and damage to life and property which eat up the gains in front even if obtained. A revolt in the interior of a country again, says Kautilya, is a greater evil than a rising in the outer regions. अभ्यन्तरकोपो बाणकोपात्पापीयानित्युत्क पुरस्तात्.  ⁴⁷

During his campaigns, a king should prevent such disturbances in the rear by appointing a regent aided with troops and secret agents who by using conciliation and gifts, ploys fomenting dissension or sheer force shall quell all revolts and rising constituents, either in the outer or in the interior regions. Interior revolts are engineered by treacherous ministers, chaplain,
commander-in-chief and the crown prince and outer revolts are instigated by chief of the countryside, the frontier officer, forest chieftain or vassals. Revolts, according to shrewd foresight of Kautilya, are caused by those who instigate and those who respond to this instigation. Between the two types, success over those who respond is of greater advantage. For those who respond are full of guile, not those who instigate. When they are subdued, the instigators would not be able to instigate others.

Spies proved useful in creating dissension amongst seditious and disgruntled elements in the outer and inner regions. To quash those responding to instigation from the interior, they can make use of conciliation and gifts. Giving a position and showing honour is conciliation. Favours and exemptions or employment in works is gifts. To those responding to instigation from the outer region, dissension and force should be
applied through spies to suppress them. बाहोषु प्रतिज्ञपत्सु भेददण्डो प्रयुक्तः। If all these measures fail, silent punishment was the last resort. "दृष्णानुप्रविष्णावा तीक्षणाः। शास्त्रसमर्थां हन्यो।"

The razor-sharp insight of Kautilya is evident in his observations regarding the policy towards Oligarchies which evolved from clan rule. The annexation of an oligarchy is best amongst gains as here a select council of statesmen and elders ruled a group of fairly large political units. Oligarchies being closely knit are unassailable for enemies. In fact, satiating the interest of historians, Kautilya mentions some powerful contemporary Samghas or oligarchies. The Kambojas, the Surastras, the Ksatriyas, the Srenis and others, Kautilya says, live by an economic vocation and the profession of arms. The Licchivikas, the Vrjikas, the Mallakas, the Madrakas, the Kukuras, the Kurus, the Panchalas and others make use of the title of kings. Spying proved useful in finding out loopholes and defects in the oligarchies too. Creating differences, discord and division within them through spies will keep them preoccupied with mutual hatred, enmity or strife, weaken their solidarity and bind them to the suzerainty of the powerful.
king. An instance of the divisive strategies suggested by Kautilya is:

Borrowing for temporary use vehicles or money from members of the oligarchy, he should give a well-known article to a chief of the oligarchy. When it is demanded back by them, the secret agent should say, ‘It has been given to such and such a chief.’ If the chief, on being previously misled by the same spy, had not informed his colleagues, it would lead to strife. Another tactic was that the weaker king’s kingdom should be annexed by the stronger king, employing the secret agents.

Disguised as hunters, meat-sellers, artisans, actors, monks, actors, traders etc, should infiltrate forts of the enemy and on the invasion by his own country, open the gates and enable their destruction. Such outwitting of the enemy does seem impossible in today’s age of CCTVs and Photo I-cards, but was the assault on The Taj, Mumbai on 26-11-09 by a band of fully armed hardcore terrorists posing as teenager students any different? Obviously, the surprise element was the ace up the sleeve for Kauṭilya’s spies in such sneak operations and given the perils on detection involved, possibly executed by fearless suicide squads.
The **Military and other security personnel** were also perennially under the scanner of the spies. Nothing can be more detrimental to growth than corruption in the forces. The soldier is the strongest bastion of safety of a nation and dishonesty and fraud here can erode all hope. Prostitutes, artisans and actors would assist the spies to secretly monitor and report erring soldiers.

The age of Disarmament has seen **Biological Warfare** raise its ugly head with fresh vengeance. Biological Warfare involves the intentional use of disease-producing micro-organisms like bacteria, viruses, fungi and rickettsiae in support of military and paramilitary operations. The Toxins or poisons produced by living organisms (plants, animals and bacteria) are equally lethal biological warfare agents; however, some of them are being chemically produced nowadays in laboratories also. Anthrax, Smallpox, SARS, Bird-Flu, and Swine-flu are only some of the imminent Bio-Warfare threats of the 21st century; scientists are studying many more such potential killers. In order to provide an effective Bio-Defense, a network of
preventive and protective efforts are being developed which include Anti-microbial, Antitoxins or serum-therapy, vaccines and so on.

Amazingly, some two thousand three hundred years ago, their intense familiarity and dexterity in life-sciences and toxicology must have motivated Kautilya to entrust his spies with the deadly task of handling biological and chemical weapons. Kautilya himself appears to have been very knowledgeable about herbs, roots, animal remains, natural toxins and other organic matter that could potentially harm and subvert the enemy.

Indeed, the KAUTILIYA ARTHASASTRA can be a remarkable eye-opener here. Kautilya’s profound knowledge of the Ancient Indian medicine-system of Ayurveda is evident in these potions and concoctions he enlists mostly in the thirteenth and fourteenth chapter of his magnum opus, for overpowering the enemy.

An interesting instance of Kautilya’s extraordinary flair for indigenous medicine and alchemy is the making of a fire-mixture from the powder of all metals, of the color of fire, or the powder of Kumbhi, lead and tin, mixed with the flowers of Paribhadraka and Palasa, the soot of Kesa, oil, wax and pine-resin makes a fire-mixture, one that kills the trusting. An arrow smeared with such a
Ancient civilizations all over the world are known to have acquired considerable prowess in Biological and chemical warfare. Commonly cited examples include the use of poison arrows by aboriginal tribes in South America; the use of diseased cadavers in the siege of Kaffa in the fourteenth century; the gift of smallpox-infected blankets by British to American Indians and the contamination of water supplies. Impediments like a) need for stable biological agents b) predictability c) insufficient incubation d) the large scale manufacture of modern weaponry and e) the nuclear revolution had diminished their relevance slightly but with the advent of Disarmament and the end of the Cold War, Biological and Chemical weapons have once again come to head the list of threats to International security. Indeed, George Friel, the Commanding General of the US Army’s Chemical and Biological Defense Agency, states that Biological Warfare is the ‘one major threat that still poses the ability for catastrophic effects on a theater-deployed
The ability of Biological weapons to serve as a strategic deterrent has important implications for international politics, mainly because it provides even 'weak' states to deter threats to their vital secrets. Moreover, biological warfare can harm stealthily and treacherously, even without disclosure of source, making it most deadly and dangerous. Without the recovery of actual delivery systems used to spread BW agents, it can be difficult to distinguish a naturally occurring disease outbreak from one that has been intentionally created. Iraq developed and weaponized biological agents during the 1980's and could have used them during the 1991 Persian Gulf War. The anthrax powder sent through postal mail to strategic addresses in the USA caused considerable damage and panic, especially to soft and defenseless civilian targets. According to US Government sources, some hundred countries possess the indigenous technological capacity to launch BW programs and about seventeen countries are suspected of actively pursuing or already possessing biological weapons. The possibility of non-state actors using such weaponry is even more dangerous as they are outside the control of political conventions or treaties. Compared to nuclear weapons, biological weapons are less expensive and depending largely as they do on dual-use technologies and materials,
their development and production is much easier. Besides, their export controls are less effective and monitoring their spread is also difficult. Clearly, biological and chemical weapons, like nuclear weapons, can serve as useful strategic deterrents and as last-resort weapons to protect the vital interests and core-values of states. The psychological effects can be quite devastating too. An article published under the aegis of SIPRI (the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) noted, 'Poison and disease can unnerve people to an extent which other dangers cannot; and the outbreaks of mass panic, hysteria and the superstitions they have provoked in the past are well-recorded'.

The amazing attention and elaborate emphasis given to biological and chemical weapons by Kautilya is noteworthy and can provide the much required impetus to Indian military capability if judiciously tapped. Environmental scientists at the University of Pune, in collaboration with the ministry of Defense, Govt. of India, are already engaged in research on a particular Kautilyan medicinal potion that can improve Night vision and Hunger resistance in the battlefield.

Kautilya suggested that the rear of any military expedition was always more susceptible and should be targeted to seriously
undermine an enemy. Biological warfare proved particularly useful here because the guerilla tactics employed in these conditions required the elements of surprise and stealth. Disease-causing germs, fire-inducing material and contamination of food, fodder and water with ingenious poison-potions were profusely and diversely used on the exposed enemy lines by covert means. Agents disguised as vendors in cooked meat, cooked rice, wine should sell poisoned items to the enemy alluring them with cheap prices or credit sales. Women spies and their children, purchasing wine, milk, curds, butter or oil, should pour them in their own vessels already containing poison and then return them complaining of poor quality.\textsuperscript{67} The resultant weakening of the rear area from these underground tactics could disrupt mobilization of troops, destabilize support systems of food, water, medical aid, reinforcements etc and even discourage potential allies, a big blow to the enemy. Hence he recommends that after catching birds like hawks, crows, pheasants, kites, parrots, Sarikas, owls, and pigeons, the king, through spies, should tie fireballs to their tails and release them in the enemy’s fort. Or, from a camp stationed at a (safe) distance from the enemy’s fort, he should set it on fire with human fire, being guarded by bows with flags raised aloft. Secret agents, serving as guards inside the
enemy’s fort, should place a fire mixture in the tails of ichneumons, monkeys, cats and dogs, and let them loose in the stores of reeds, fortifications and houses. Again, placing fire in the interior of dried fish or in dried meat, they should have it carried in through birds by offering it to crows. 

Kautilya stresses use of certain articles which can retain fire within themselves for long. Balls of sarala, devadaru, stinking-grass, bdellium, pine-resin, sala-resin and lac and the dung of monkeys, camels, goats and sheep are such articles.

A high quality Fire-mixture of organic, biodegradable and thereby eco-friendly material is recommended. Kautilya’s
Environment concerns are evident here.

Environment concerns are evident here.

However, Kautilya has maintained that such weaponry should not be of counter-force value but they should be used only as a **last resort** knowing that they can have negative features also. When fighting is possible, he should not at all make use of fire. Fire is unreliable and is a divine calamity. It destroys innumerable creatures, grains, animals, money, forest produce and goods. A kingdom, whose stores have been exhausted, even if obtained, leads only to loss. 

For the protection of the four **Varnas** (of subjects) from unrighteous, cruel and treacherous enemies, Kautilya strongly justifies secret administration of **poison**, especially made of herbs, animal secretions or toxins that often defy detection. Modern toxicologists have expressed awe and admiration at the extraordinary accuracy and precision attained in the study and applicability of these poison-weapons, as found in the **KAUTILIYA ARTHASAstra**.
Secret agents, preferably approved men and women of the Mleccha communities, disguised as humpbacks, dwarfs, Kiratas, dumb, deaf or blind persons, idiots, and in appearances credible as to country, dress, profession, language and birth, should introduce group of poisons like Kalkuta and others on the person of the enemy.\textsuperscript{73} The Mlecchas or the menial class appeared to have acquired better prowess in these covert practices than the nobles or Aryans. That Kautilya made his arguments about espionage, power, governance and statecraft, without a any prejudice in religion or divinity, makes him a true founder of what we now call political realism and social liberalism.

The deadliness of Kautilya’s potions prescribed for enemy kings were unfailing in their strike rate, according to his Arthasastra. They could be applied directly but were particularly effective as polluters of fodder, fuel and water. The spies could carry out these guerilla assaults clandestinely infiltrating enemy lines disguised as commoners.\textsuperscript{74}

Some of these lethal concoctions may be mentioned here.
a) Powder of the speckled frog, the insects called Kaundinyaka and krkana, the pancakustha and the centipede, the powder of uccidinga, kambali, satakanda, idhma and the lizard, the powder of the house lizard, the ‘blind reptile’ the krakantaka, the ‘stink-insect’, and the gomarika, mixed with the sap of bhallataka and avalguja, causes instantaneous death, or even the smoke of these can cause death.

b) The dried mixture of any one of these insects boiled with the black serpent and priyangu can be lethal.

c) A concoction of elaka, aksi, guggulu, halahala, together with the flowers of bhallataka, yatudhana, avanu, dhamargava and bana, mixed with the blood of a goat and man, was specially deadly. A half of this preparation, introduced in water with barley meal and oil-cake, can poison a huge reservoir of water, even one hundred dhanuses in extent. Whoever drinks this water or even touches it is poisoned.
Some toxins were assured breeders of debilitating diseases and disabilities like leprosy, paralysis of tongue, cholera, fever, blindness and insanity and strongly advocated by Kautilya. Considering its epidemic potential of mass destruction, low incubation period and high lethality, the Cholera-inducing mixture of matrvahaka, anjalikara, pracalaka, the frog, aksi and piluka is likely to draw special attention from toxicologists, biotechnologists and defense analysts.

Kautilya’s spies were instrumental in deceiving and quashing the enemy’s designs in several other extraordinary ways. During their long sorties in remote and difficult terrain on clandestine missions, the secret agents and soldiers adopted the food-mixtures recommended by Kautilya that could restrict hunger for months. The powder of sirisa, udumbara, and sami, mixed with clarified butter, is
a recipe against hunger, effective for half a month. That recipe prepared out of Kaseruka, the bulbous root of the lotus, the root of sugarcane, lotus-fibres, durva grass, milk, ghee and cream, is effective for one month. Drinking, with milk and ghee, the powder of masa beans, barley, kulattha, and the roots of the Darbha grass, or valli, milk and ghee boiled together in equal quantities, or the paste of the roots of sala and prsniparni along with milk, or partaking of milk boiled together with that, along with honey and ghee, on is able to fast for a month. जिरिषोदध्वरसादीचूर्ण सर्पिष्ठ संहृत्यार्थमासिक: क्षृष्णोगः। कर्षोकोतप्रकर्मुक्तमवस्तूवश्यार्ययृतमण्डसिंहो मासिक: । माष्यकुलकान्तमूलचूर्ण वा क्षीरघृताभ्याम, वल्लीक्षीरघृतम वा समसिंह, सालप्रसिनिर्णमूलकल्कं पयसा पीत्वा, पयो वा तस्सिंहं मधुघृताभ्यामसिन्ठवा मास्मुपवसति ।

This remarkable practice has generated tremendous interest in recent years considering its benefits in long-drawn military or surveillance operations. Researchers and analysts are weighing its feasibility in modern context which, if implemented successfully, can be quite a leap ahead.

Kautilya’s spies and infantry must surely have heeded to his recommended potions that, used as foot-salves, prevented
exhaustion and soreness of feet even after long, continuous walking
during secret missions and military expeditions.

Smearing sandals made of camel-hide with the fat of the owl
and the vulture, covering them with leaves of banyan trees, one can
walk **fifty yojanas** without being fatigued. The bone-marrow or
semen of the hawk, the heron, the crow, the vulture, the swan, the
plover, and the viciralla enables one to walk untired for **hundred
yojanas**. Similarly useful is the bone-marrow or semen of lion, tiger,
leopard, crow and owl.

Although some quarters have criticized the ethics, credibility
or financial feasibility of related research involving dissections of
animal specimens, Kautilya seems to have remarkably anticipated
such predicament and thereby justified his stand with ample
conviction by laying down that the king’s men (his spies and
military) should frighten and unnerve the enemy with these evil,
miraculous portents; because it is for the **noble cause** of the
consolidation of the kingdom. Kautilya also recommends similar action to suppress revolts and separatist forces.

अनिप्रेषद्वृत्तोत्पत्तिः परस्योद्भवगमाचरेत् |
आराज्यायेति निर्वाचः समानः कोष उच्चते ॥ ८१

Kautilya’s proposals for enhancing night vision and camouflaging for secret agents and soldiers, are also worthy of investigation and possible incorporation in modern warfare techniques. ८२

Clearly, Kautilya’s espionage system formed the largest networking base on which the colossal structure of Mauryan administration was built, his secret agents the strong pillars of dependability and competence on which the first concept of India as a ‘Nation’ was visualized, and Kautilya, the statesman par excellence, himself a veritable beehive housing numerous incredibly industrious spies whose tireless devotion and commitment made the Indian sub-continent a force to reckon with in South-Asia.

The uniqueness, triumph and brilliance of Kautilya’s espionage lies in the opportunity it extended to every individual, irrespective of caste, colour or creed, to contribute in the well-being,
growth and security of society. Hardly was any profession, livelihood, or social strata left unrepresented in Kautilya’s Espionage network. Such mass-participation in any single endeavor for social, economic and political betterment was new to civilization and the response and support it enjoyed was reflected in the exceptionally popular and enduring Mauryan regime. The king, though at the top of the Intelligence pyramid, was driven forth by the lower echelon of officials, councilors, ministers down to the common man doubling as spies spread out over the length and breadth of the empire. A silent upheaval of combined efforts, Kautilya’s espionage was a great leveller. Modern social scientists and intelligence-pundits endorse the example of the Israel’s Mossad which has achieved wide public cooperation in intelligence-processing, but India can take pride that this model concept already existed here since centuries, and can be gainfully pursued even today.

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66 Funded by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) since Sept 2007, the Dept. of Environmental Science, University of Pune has reportedly carried out controlled research on this and final results are awaited, vide www.iricen.gov.in/modules.php?name=Forums&file...t=1374, www.tribuneindia.com/2002/20021104/nation.htm.

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