PREFACE

Indological studies on polity and statecraft have always fascinated and stimulated me. Ancient Indian Espionage has remained an integral part of governance and administration since time immemorial. References to the institution of spying in ancient literature are found beginning from the Rgveda up to the works of great commentators like Sureshvarachārya on Yājñavalkya Saṁhitā and Nilakaṇṭha on the Mahābhārata. Āchārya Kauṭilya, the master statesman and strategist of the Mauryan Age, deserves special appreciation for systematically codifying available information and propounding a unique concept of Espionage as a vital instrument of statecraft and governance. Even today the practical application of Kauṭilyan Espionage in conducting military manoeuvres, strengthening peace initiatives and dominating the power-politics of the entire South-Asian region is remarkable. This dissertation entitled ‘CONCEPT OF ESPIONAGE IN KAUṬILIYA ARTHASAṆTRA: ITS RELEVANCE TO PRESENT ERA’ intends to examine the concept of Espionage as revealed in Kauṭiliya Arthasāstra and also find out its relevance in present era.
My revered supervisors have constantly guided me throughout this demanding endeavor which shall be rewarded only when it generates interest in modern researchers and statesmen. Although I have studied the source-text thoroughly, I admit that in view of the vastness of material available on the subject, I could not help but resort to the famous STHĀLIPULAKANYĀYA here and there. I seek pardon for any shortcomings and humbly submit with the words of Kālidāsa:

आ परितोषाहितुष्ण न साधु मन्ये प्रयोगविज्ञानम्।
बलवदपि शिक्षितानामात्मन्यप्रत्ययं चेतः॥

Dated 17-09-2010

SHILPI DUTTA MAJUMDER
N S Avenue, Silchar.