

CHAPTER FOUR



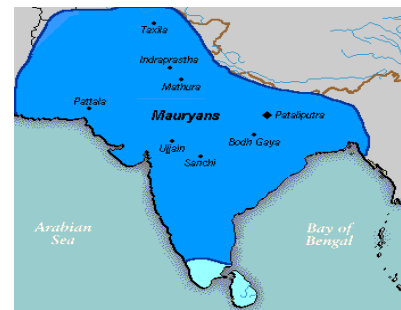
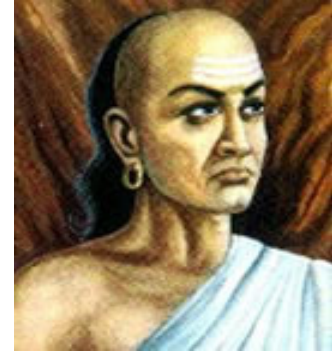
Chanakya Neeti

4.1 Chanakya

Date of Birth: 350 BC

Date of Death: 275 BC

- Chanakya, also known as Kautilya or Vishnugupta, was born in Pataliputra, Magadh (modern Bihar in India), and later moved to Taxila, in Gandhar province (now in Pakistan).
- He was a professor (acharya) of political science at the Takshashila (Taxila) University and later the Prime Minister of the Emperor Chandragupta Maurya.
- He is regarded as one of the earliest known political thinkers, economists and king-makers.
- He was the man to envision the first Indian empire by unification of the then numerous kingdoms to fight against the Greek conqueror Alexander.
- His foresight and wide knowledge coupled with politics of expediency helped found the mighty Mauryan Empire in India.
- Two books are attributed to Chanakya: Arthashastra, and Chanakya Neeti.
- Arthashastra (literally 'the Science of Material Gain' in Sanskrit) is arguably the first systematic book on economics.
 - It discusses monetary and fiscal policies, welfare, international relations, and war strategies in details.
- Many of his Neetis or policies have been compiled under the book title Chanakya Neeti.
 - It is a treatise on the ideal way of life.
- His main philosophy was "A debt should be paid off till the last penny; an enemy should be destroyed without a trace".



The Maurya Empire at its largest extent under Ashoka the Great.



Silver punch mark coin of the Mauryan empire, with symbols of wheel and elephant. 3rd century BCE.



- Ashoka was the grandson of Chandragupta who was made a king by Chanakya. Ashoka became one of the great emperors of India and we see his dharm chakra on the Indian flag, coins, currency notes etc.



- The twenty four spokes in this chakra wheel represent twenty four virtues/values:

- Love for all beings
- Courage
- Patience
- Peacefulness
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control
- Selflessness
- Self sacrifice
- Truthfulness
- Righteousness
- Justice
- Mercy
- Graciousness
- Humility
- Empathy
- Sympathy
- Supreme knowledge
- Supreme wisdom
- Supreme moral standards
- Hope, trust
- Faith in the goodness of God or nature.



This is the famous original sandstone sculpted Lion Capital of Ashoka preserved at Sarnath Museum which was originally erected around 250 BCE atop an Ashoka Pillar at Sarnath.

4.2 – 4.15 Chanakya Neeti

Chanakya Neeti slokas are useful slokas composed by Chanakya (Kautilya), for our day-to-day life and environment. These slokas give us very valuable insight into society and political life. They were written in Sanskrit two thousand years ago. Even today these slokas are applicable to our life as they were more than 2000 years ago. Some of them are given below:

1. विद्वत्त्वं च नृपत्वं च नैव तुल्यं कदाचन ।
स्वदेशे पूज्यते राजा विद्वान् सर्वत्र पूज्यते ॥

vidvatvan cha nRipatvan cha naiva tulyam kadaachana
svadeshe poojyate raajaa vidvaan sarvatra poojyate

Scholar and king are never comparable.

King is worshipped in his country, but the scholar is worshipped everywhere.

2. पण्डिते च गुणाः सर्वे मूर्खे दोषा हि केवलम् ।
तस्मान्मूर्खसहस्रेषु प्राज्ञा एको विशिष्यते ॥

pandite cha guNaaH sarve moorkhe doShaa hi kevalam
tasmaan moorkha sahasreShu praaJnyaa eko vishiShyate

Noble people have all good qualities and fools have only bad qualities.
So, people respect only one noble person instead of a thousand fools.

3. चला लक्ष्मीक्षाः प्राणाश्चलं जीवित यौवनम् ।
चलाचले च संसारे धर्म एको हि निश्चलः ॥

chala lakshmiishchalaH praaNaashchalam jeevita yauvanam
chalaachale cha samsaare dharmeko hi nishchalaH

Wealth comes and goes, life and youth goes from the living.
In this world of coming and going, 'dharma' alone is firm.

4. वरमेको गुणी पुत्रो न च मूर्खशतान्यपि ।
एकश्चन्द्रस्तमो हन्ति न च तारगणोऽपि च ॥

varameko guNii putro na cha moorkhashaataanyapi
ekashchandrastamo hanti na cha taaragaNo.apicha

One good and noble child is better than a hundred fool children.
Only one moon lights the sky, where as thousand stars do not.
Similarly, one noble child brings fame and respect to family than hundred fools.

5. दूरतः शोभते मूर्खो लम्बशाटपटावृतः ।
तावच्च शोभते मूर्खो यावत्किञ्चिन्न भाषते ॥

doorataH shobhate moorkho lambashaaTapaTaavRitaH
taavachcha shobhate moorkho yaavat kiJNchinna bhaaShate

Wearing expensive dresses a fool looks like a scholar from a distance.
But when he opens his mouth his ignorance comes out.

6. उत्सवे व्यसने चैव दुर्भिक्षे राष्ट्रविप्लवे ।
राजद्वारे स्मशाने च यतिष्ठति सः बान्धवः ॥

utsave vyasane chaiva durbhikshe raaShTraviplave
raajadvaare shmashaane cha tiShThati sah baandhavaH

He who stands with, in good times, bad times, drought, riot, war, king's court and after death is a real friend.

7. परोक्षे कार्यहन्तारं प्रत्यक्षे प्रियवादिनम् ।
वर्जयेत्तादृशं मित्रं विषकुम्भं पयोमुखम् ॥

parokshe kaaryahantaaram pratyakshe priyavaadinam
varjayetaadRisham mitram viShakumbham payomukham

Break all your relations with such a friend who talks sweetly in your presence and brings harm at your back. Such a friend must be left just like a pot of poison with cream of milk on top.

8. दुर्जनः प्रियवादी च नैव विश्वकारणम् ।
मधु तिष्ठति जिह्वाग्रे हृदये तु हलाहलम् ॥

durjanaH priyavaadii cha naiva vishvaakaaraNam
madhu tiShThati jihvaagre hRidaye tu halaahalam

An evil person must never be trusted even if talks sweet.
Because an evil person has sweet on tongue, but has a heart filled with poison.

9. सर्पः क्रूरः खलः क्रूरः सर्पात् क्रूरतरः खलः ।
मन्त्रौषधिवशः सर्पः खलः केन निवार्यते ॥

sarpah krooraH khalaH krooraH sarpaat krooratarah khalaH
mantraushadhivashaH sarpaH khalaH kena nivaaryate

Snake is cruel and an evil person is also cruel, but an evil person is crueller than a snake.

Snake can be controlled by mantra and medicine, but how can an evil person be controlled?

10. हस्ति हस्तसहस्रेण शतहस्तेन वाजिनः ।
शृङ्गिणो दशहस्तेन स्थानत्यागेन दुर्जनः ॥

hasti hasta sahasreNa shatahastena vaajinaH
shRiNginaNo dasha hastena sthaanatyaageNa durjanaH

A distance of a thousand hands in case of elephant, hundred hands for a horse, and ten hands for cattle should be maintained. But, in case of an evil person one must leave the place.

11. अर्थनाशं मनस्तापं गृहे दुश्चरितानि च ।
वंचनं चापमानं च मतिमान् न प्रकाशयेत् ॥

arthanaasham manastaapam gRihe dushcharitaani cha
vanchanam cha apamaanam cha matimaan na prakaashayet

A wise man should not reveal the - loss of wealth, sadness in heart, family scandal, abusive language used by others and insult.

12. धनिकः श्रोत्रियो राजः नदी वैद्यस्तु पंचमः ।
पंच यत्रनविद्यन्ते तत्र वासं न कारयेत् ॥

dhanikaH shrotriyo raaja nadii vaidyastu panchamaH
pancha yatra na vidyante tatra vaasam na kaarayet

Wealthy people, scholars, king, river and doctor; where these five are not there, one should not live in that place.

13. यस्मिन् देशे न सम्मानं न प्रीतिर्न च बान्धवाः ।
न च विद्यागमः कश्चित् तं देशं परिवर्जयेत् ॥

yasmin deshe na sammaanam na priitir na cha baandhavaaH
na cha vidyaagamaH kashchit tam deshambhavarjayet

The country where people do not have respect or friends or love and where there are no scholars; one should leave that country.

14. मनसा चिन्तितं कर्म वचसा न प्रकाशयेत् ।
मंत्रेण रक्षयेद्दूढम कार्यं चापि नियोजयेत् ॥

manasaa chintitam kaaryam vaacha na prakaashayet
mantrena rakshayed goodham kaarye chaapi niyojayet

Do not reveal what you have planned to do, the best counsel is to keep it a secret and try to execute it with determination.

15. व्रथा वृष्टिः समुद्रेषु व्रथा तृप्तेषु भोजनम् ।
व्रथा दानं धनाढेषु व्रथा दीपो दिवाऽपि च ॥

vRithaa vRiShTiH samudreShu vRithaa tRipteShu bhojanam
vRithaa daanam dhanaaDheShu vRithaa deepo divaaapi cha

Rain over ocean is meaningless, meaningless is feeding a well fed person,
charity to a rich person is meaningless, meaningless is lighting lamp in daylight.

16. ऋणशेषश्चाग्निशेषो व्याधिशेषस्तथैव च ।
पुनश्च वर्द्धते यस्मतस्माच्छेषं न रक्षयेत् ॥

RNasheShashcha agnisheSho vyaadhisheShastathaiva cha
punashcha vardhate yasmaat tasmaachchheSham na rakshayet

Loan should be completely paid back, fire should be removed completely,
and root of illness should be completely removed. Otherwise these three again grow up.

17. नाऽस्ति मेघसमं तोयं नाऽस्ति चात्मसमं बलम् ।
नाऽस्ति चक्षुसमं तेजो नाऽस्ति धान्यसमं प्रियम् ॥

na.asti meghasamam toyam na.asti chaatmasamam balam
na.asti chakshu samam tejo na.asti dhaanyasamam priyam

No drink is better than rain water, no power is equal to will power,
no light is brighter than vision of eyes, no wealth is more satisfying than food.

18. अतिदर्पे हता लङ्का अतिमाने च कौरवाः ।
अतिदाने बलिर्बद्धः सर्वमत्यन्तगर्हितम् ॥

atidarpe hataa laNkaa atimaane cha kauravaaH
atidaane balirbaddhaH sarvamatyantargahitam

Lanka was destroyed because of too much pride of Ravana;
Kauravas were destroyed due to too much pride;
Bali was bound because of too much giving; too much of everything is bad.

19. दारिद्र्यनाशनं दानं शीलं दुर्गतिनाशनम् ।

अज्ञाननाशिनि प्रज्ञा भावना भयनाशीनि ॥

daaridrya naasanam daanam sheelam durgati naashanam
ajnyaana naashini prajnyaa bhaavana bhaya naashiini

Charity destroys poverty, good behavior destroys trouble,
intelligence removes ignorance, and confidence(worshipping God) removes fear.

20. शैले शैले न माणिक्यं मौक्तिकं न गजे गजे ।

साधवो नहि सर्वत्र चन्दनं न वने वने ॥

shaile shaile na maaNikyam mauktikam na gaje gaje
saadhavo naahi sarvatra chandanam na vane vane

There is no gem in every mountain, and no pearl on the forehead of every elephant;
similarly noble people are not found everywhere and sandalwood trees are not seen in
every forest.

21. स्वदोतं मर्दितं चैव रज्जुभिः परिवेष्टितम् ।

मुक्तं द्वादशभिर्वर्षैः स्वपुच्छं प्रकृतिं गतम् ॥

svadotam marditam chaiva rajjubhiH pariveShTitam
muktam dvaadashabhir vaShaiH prakRitim gatam

Massaging dog's tail with oil and keeping it straight with rope around it for twelve years
does not make it straight. Similarly, a person's natural behavior and characteristics
cannot be changed.

22. न च विद्या समो बन्धुर्न च व्याधिसमो रिपुः ।

न चापत्यसमः स्नेहो न च दैवात्परं बलम् ॥

na cha vidyaa samo bandhur na cha vyaadhisamo ripuH
na cha aapatyasamsaH sneho na cha daivaatparam balam

There is no friend like knowledge, no enemy like disease,
no love like love for son, and no power like God's power.

23. शान्तितुल्यं तपो नास्ति न सन्तोषात्परं सुखम् ।
न तृष्णायाः परो व्यधिर्न च धर्मो दयापरः ॥

shaantitulyam tapo naasti na santoShat param sukham
na tRiShNaayaaH paro vyaadhirna cha dharmo dayaaparaH

There is no penance better than peace, no happiness better than satisfaction,
there is no disease worse than greed, and no better dharma than kindness.

24. यथा चतुर्भिः कनकं परीक्ष्यते निघर्षणच्छेदनतापताडनैः ।
तथा चतुर्भिः पुरुषः परीक्ष्यते त्यागेन शीलेन गुणेन कर्मणा ॥

yathaa chaturbhihiH kanakam parikshyate nigharShaNa chchedana taapa taaDanaiHi
tathaa chaturbhiH purushaha pariikshyate tyaagena sheelena guNena karmaNaa

As gold is tested in four ways by rubbing, cutting, heating and beating; in the same way
a man is tested by his renunciation, conduct, qualities and actions.

25. अभ्यासद्धार्यते विद्या कुलं शीलेन धार्यते ।
गुणेन ज्ञायते त्वार्यः कोपो नेत्रेण गम्यते ॥

abhyaasadhaaryate vidyaa kulam sheelena dhaaryate
guNena jnyaayate tvaaryaH kopo nethrena gamyate

Knowledge is maintained through practice, family's name by its credentials,
a noble person is known by his good qualities, and a person's anger from his eyes.

26. पुष्पे गन्धं तिले तैलं काष्ठेऽग्निं पयसि घृतम् ।
इक्षौ गुडं तथा देहे पश्यात्मानं विवेकतः ॥

puShpe gandham tile tailam kaaShThe.agnim payasi ghRitam
ikshau guDam tathaa dehe pashya atmaanam vivekataH

Scent in flower, oil in sesame seeds, fire in wood, ghee in milk, sweetness in
sugarcane, and soul in body are not seen from outside. The wise should make an
endeavor to know the soul and the God.

27. नाभिषेको न संस्कारः सिंहस्य वने ।
विक्रमार्जितसत्वस्य स्वयमेव मृगेंद्रता ॥

naabhisheko na samskaaraha simhasya vane
vikramaarjita sathvasya swayameva mrigendrataa

There is no official coronation ceremony held to declare that lion is the king of the jungle. He becomes king by his own attributes and heroism.

28. क्षणशः कणशश्चैव विद्यां अर्थं च साधयेत् ।
क्षणे नष्टे कुतो विद्या कणे नष्टे कुतो धनम् ॥

kshaNashaha kaNashashchaiva vidyaam artham cha saadhayet
kshaNe nashTe kuto vidyaa kaNe nashTe kuto dhanam

One should learn from every moment and one should earn from every bit. If you waste a second (kshaNa) you cannot get knowledge (vidyaa) and similarly if you waste a bit (kaNa) you cannot get money (artham).

29. दुर्जनेन समं सख्यं प्रीतिं चापि न कारयेत् ।
उष्णो दहति चांगारः शीतिः कृष्णायते करम् ॥

Durjanena samam sakhyam preethim cha api na kaarayet
UshNo dahati chaangaaraha sheetihi kRishNayatthe karam

One should avoid friendship or warm relationship with a wicked person. If hot, coal burns your hands; if cold, it blackens your hands. Similarly, wicked people cause problems -whether they are good or bad- to you.

30. चिन्तनीया हि विपदां आदावेव प्रतिक्रिया ।
न कूपखननं युक्तं वह्निना गृहे ॥

Chintaneeyaa hi vipadaam aadaaveva pratikriyaa
Na koopakhananam yuktam vahnina gRihe

One should not start digging the well after the house has caught fire; but one should be proactive and prepare the solutions for anticipated problems.

31. ज्येष्ठत्वं जन्मना नैव गुणैर्ज्येष्ठत्वमुच्यते ।
गुणात् गुरुत्वमायाति दुग्धं दधिं घृतं क्रमात् ॥

jyeshthatwam janmanaa naiva gunair jyestatwamuchyate
gunaat gurutwamaayaati dugdham dadhim ghRitam kramaat

Greatness is not by birth; greatness is determined by a person's qualities. Ghee is derived from curd; which in turn is derived from milk.

32. उद्यमेन हि सिध्यन्ति कार्याणि न मनोरथैः ।
न हि सुप्तस्य सिंहस्य प्रविशन्ति मुखे मृगाः ॥

udyamena hi siddhyanti kaaryaaNi na manorathaihi
na hi suptasya simhasya pravishanti mukhe mRigaaha

Any work will not get accomplished just by desiring for its completion. A prey by itself will not enter into a sleeping lion's mouth. The desires and capabilities of a person should be complimented by his/her efforts and hard work to achieve the goal.

33. न चोरहार्यं न च राजहार्यं न भ्रातृभाज्यं न च भारकारि ।
व्यये कृते वर्धत एव नित्यं विद्याधनं सर्वधनात्प्रधानम् ॥

na chorahaaryam na cha raajahaaryam na bhratrabhaajyam na cha bhaarakaari
vyaye kRite vardhata yeva nityam vidyaadhanam sarvadhanaat pradhaanam

It cannot be stolen by thieves, nor it can be taken away by kings; it cannot be divided among brothers and it is not heavy. If spent well, it always keeps growing. The wealth of knowledge is the most superior wealth to all.

34. अल्पानामपि वस्तूनां संहतिः कार्यसाधिका ।
तृणैर्गुणत्वमापन्नैर्बध्यन्ते मत्तदन्तिनः ॥

alpaanaamapi vastoonaam samhatihi kaaryasaadhikaa
tRiNair guNatvam aapannair baddhyante mattadantinaha

The greatest of tasks can be accomplished by completing the smaller tasks-This is similar to a thick rope that is used to bind a wild elephant in rage. Thick rope gains its strength from the numerous small threads that are bound together.

35. प्रभूतं कार्यमल्पं व यन्नरः कर्तुमिच्छति ।
सर्वारम्भेन तत्कार्यं सिम्हादेकं प्रचक्षते ॥

prabhootam kaaryamalpaam vaa yannaraha kartumichchati
sarvaarambhena tatkaaryam simhaadekam prachakshate

One excellent thing we can learn from a lion is to make a whole-hearted and strenuous effort at the start of whatever one wishes to accomplish even if it a small task.

36. गते शोको न कर्तव्यो भविष्यं नैव चिन्तयेत् ।
वर्तमानेन कालेन प्रवर्तन्ते विचक्षणाः ॥

gate shoko na kartavyo bhavishyam naiva chintayet
vartamaanena kaalena pravartante vichakshanaaha

We should not mourn for what is past, nor should we worry about the future. The wise men think of and work according to the present needs and circumstances.

37. गुणैरुत्तमताम याति नोच्चैरासनसमिस्थितैः ।
प्रासादशिखरतो अपि काकः किं गरुडायते ॥

gunairuttamataam yaati nochchairaasan samsthitaihi
praasaada shikharato api kaakaha kim garudaayate

A man attains greatness by his merits, not simply by occupying a high position. Can a crow be called a Garuda simply because he is sitting at the top of a palace?

38. प्रियवाक्यप्रदानेन सर्वे तुष्यन्ति जन्तवः ।
तस्मात्तदेव वक्तव्यं वचने का दरिद्रता? ॥

Priyavaakya pradaanena sarve tushyanti jantawaha
tasmaatadeva vaktavyam vachane kaa daridrataa

All creatures are pleased by sweet tongue and loving words; therefore, we should always speak sweetly to please all. One should never be bankrupt of sweet words.

