

MODULE-3
MAURYAS AD MUVENTAR
TOPIC- SAPTANGA THEORY OF STATE

PRIYANKA.E.K
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
LITTLE FLOWER COLLEGE, GURUVAYOOR

- 7 elements of state
- Mahabharata - 8 elements of state
- 1. Svami
- Head or master
- Element of headship-both monarchy or republic
- Support monarchy & pointed out defects of non-monarchical systems
- texts did not use the term Raja –prefer Svami
- Endowed with qualities – noble birth, wisdom, enthusiasm & personal ability

- Noble birth prevents people of humble origin being raised to kingship
- King of Arthasastra lives in a vulnerable world & has to exercise vigilance to safeguard his life & position
- Obligations of king-protection & welfare of his subjects
- **2. Amatya**
- All high ranking officials, counsellors, executive heads of dept
- Amatya- minister convey wrong impression that they were intended to act as ministers whose number was small

- Mahabharata- number of Amatyas is 37 7 distinguished from Mantrins-8 in number
- Constitute regular cadre of service from which all high officers such as chief priest, ministers =, collectors, treasurers, officers engaged in civil & criminal administration, heads of various departments
- Limit mantri at 3 or 4 Amatyas depends upon capacity to employ them
- Beginning Amatysa- friends, companions & courtiers of king- gradually became his officers

- Assign duties like agricultural operations, fortifications, welfare of the country, punishment, collection of royal dues
- In short- Amatyas stand for govt machinery
- 3. Janapada
- Tribal settlement
- Manusmriti, Vishnusmriti- mentioned as rashtra
- Yajnavalkyasmriti- Jana
- Janapada- territory & population
- Should have good climate, grazable land for cattle, yield grain with little labour

- Inhabited by industrious peasants capable to bear the burden of taxes & punishments
- Contain intelligent masters should be prominent dominated by members of lower castes & people should be loyal
- 4. Durga
- Called pura in Manusmriti
- Fortress or fortified capital
- Built at a central place, areas to be set apart for members of the different varnas & artisans as well as gods
- Gives direction for the construction of the main fort in capital city

- 5. Kosa
- Treasury
- Treasure accumulated by righteous & legitimate means
- Filled with gold, silver precious jewels & gems should be able to stand the strain of expenditure during times of adversity such as famines
- Maintaining army & keeping it loyal is not possible without treasury
- Land was the most important resource & source of revenue for the state
- Agriculture, animal husbandry trade- main occupations

- 6. danda
- Coercive power in the form of army
- Consists soldiers- infantry, elephants, cavalry
- Mahabharata- Ashtangabala- elephants, horse, chariots, infantry, boats, forced labour, indigenous hired soldiers
- Arthasastra- Kshatriyas imp element of army
- Manusmriti- brahmins & vaisyas allowed to bear arms in time of emergency- sudras not allowed
- Enlistment of vaisyas & sudras to army
- Should be loyal
- Some scholars – consider Danda as justice

- 7. Mitra
- Allies
- Should be hereditary not artificial
- Mandala theory of kings- immediate neighbours are natural enemies whereas the states after the neighbours are natural allies
- exclude priest from organs of state
- R.S.Sharma- Kautilya makes a deliberate & conscious attempt to free politics from the religion & morality-calamity of each preceding one is more serious ie., calamity affecting king is more serious than affecting Amatya