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CLASS: VII	SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE	TOPIC: HISTORY	CH-5 (THEME B)
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INDIA'S MIGHTY EMPIRES

A. Tick the correct option:

1. Which of the following was NOT a reason for the rise of the Magadha Kingdom? **A weak army.**
2. The famous book, Arthashastra, was written by whom? **Kautilya.**
3. What was the name of the war that changed Emperor Ashok's heart? **The Kalinga War.**
4. The Sarnath Lion capital has been chosen as India's: **National Emblem.**
5. The motto 'Satyameva Jayate' means **truth alone triumphs**
6. What were the powerful associations of traders and craftspeople called ? **Guilds (shrenis).**
7. The word 'empire' comes from the Latin word 'imperium', which means **supreme power.**

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. In ancient India, a smaller territory that paid tribute to the emperor was also called a **tributary state**.
2. The Magadha kingdom was located in parts of modern-day **Bihar**.
3. The last Nanda emperor, **Dhana Nanda** became unpopular because he treated his people badly.
4. Most of Ashoka's edicts were written in the **Prakrit** language using the **Brahmi** script.
5. The Mauryas built dome-shaped structures for worship called stupas, like the Great Stupa at **Sanchi**.
6. The **Sarnath** pillar capital has four lions and the dharmachakra.

7. The **Arthashastra** is a famous text on governance and economics.

C. Match the key figure or term with their description:

Key Figure/Term	Description
1. Kautilya	A wise mentor to Chandragupta Maurya.
2. Chandragupta Maurya	The founder of the Maurya Empire.
3. Emperor Ashoka	A ruler who gave up violence after the Kaling war.
4. Alexander the great	A Greek king who invaded India from the northwest.
5. Megasthenes	A Greek historian who wrote about India.
6. Arthashastra	A famous book on governance and economics.

D. Answer the following questions in brief:

1. How is an empire different from a kingdom?

An empire is a large territory ruled by a single, powerful leader (Emperor). Unlike a Kingdom, it is composed of many smaller territories that pay tribute to the emperor.

2. What were some of the main reasons a king would want to expand his kingdom into an empire?

The main reasons a king would want to expand his kingdom into an empire were for fame, to be remembered for a long time, to gain control over more resources (which meant more wealth and military power), and to become very rich. In return for tribute and loyalty, emperors usually allowed the local kings to continue ruling their own areas.

3. Why did Magadha become a very powerful kingdom?

Magadha became a very powerful kingdom due to following reasons:-

1. Rich land - It was in the fertile Ganga plains, which meant good farming, lots of timber from forests, and elephants useful for armies.
2. Iron Resources - Magadha had access to iron ore and other minerals from nearby hilly areas. This helped them make better farm tools (like iron ploughs) and stronger, sharper weapons for their army.
3. Good Trade - The Ganga and Son rivers were great for transport, boosting trade and the empire's income.

4. What was the political impact of Alexander the Great's campaign in India?

Alexander's campaign in India had a limited political impact. He didn't rule India for long. But it opened the door for cultural contact between India and Greece.

5. Name two reasons why empires eventually decline.

Two reasons for the eventually decline of empires.

1. Too Big to Control - The larger an Empire, the harder it is to hold together. Far-off areas are often the first to break away.
2. Economic Crises - Natural disasters like long droughts or floods could weaken an empire's economy and structure.

6. What is tribute, and why was it important for an empire?

Tribute was money or goods paid by smaller states to an emperor. It helped maintain the empire and its army.

7. What was the Saptanga theory, and who proposed it?

Kautilya explained that a strong kingdom is made up of seven interdependent parts, known as the Saptanga theory, which literally means 'seven limbs' or 'seven parts of a state'.

E. Answer the following questions in detail:

1. Describe the impact of the Kalinga War on Emperor Ashoka. How did his policies change after this event, and what actions did he take to spread his new message?

- One event changed Ashoka's life forever. He fought a terrible war against Kalinga (modern day Odisha). Seeing the huge number of deaths and destruction on the battlefield, Ashoka Was deeply saddened. He decided to give up violence and follow the path of peace and non-violence taught by the Buddha.
- Ashoka then sent emissaries (special messengers) to Sri Lanka, Thailand, Central Asia, and other places to spread the Buddha's message far and wide.

- He became known as a great communicator. He issued edicts (official declarations) carved on rocks or tall stone pillars across his empire. These edicts contained his messages for the people, encouraging them to follow dharma (moral law, righteous conduct, living in harmony).

2. Explain the importance of trade and trade routes in an empire's economy. What role did guilds play in supporting and organising this trade?

Running a huge empire, especially with a big army, costs a lot of money. Roads and ships need to be built. This is why trade was super important for empires. So, controlling trade routes across the empire and even beyond was vital. More trade meant more income for the people who made goods and more taxes for the emperor.

Guilds played an important role in supporting trade and crafts in ancient India. Their main features were:

- Guilds had their own elected leaders and officers.
- They helped each other by sharing resources and information about markets, supply and demand, and workers. They understood that working together benefited everyone.
- Guilds often had the 'freedom to make their own rules' for their members, and the king usually didn't interfere, especially if trade was doing well.

3. Based on the Arthashastra's Saptanga theory, explain the seven key parts that Kautilya believed a kingdom needed to be strong and prosperous.

The seven key parts that Kautilya believed a kingdom needed to be strong and prosperous are :-

1. The King (Swami): The king was the head of the kingdom. He had the duty to protect his people, make fair decisions, and rule wisely. Kautilya said that a good king should be brave, intelligent, and always think about the welfare of his kingdom.
2. Councillors and Ministers (Amatya): These were the trusted advisors and high officials who helped the king in making important decisions. Kautilya advised that ministers should be honest, experienced, and loyal to the king.

3. The Territory (Janapada): This meant the land of the kingdom and the people who lived there. A rich and fertile land helped in growing crops and feeding the population.
4. Fortified Towns and Cities (Durga): These were well-protected cities surrounded by walls and gates to defend the people from enemies. Forts also served as safe places for the army and stored food and weapons during war.
5. Forces of Defence and Law and Order (Danda): This included the army and the police.
6. The Treasury (Kosha): The treasury was the store of the kingdom's wealth.
7. Allies (Mitra): Allies neighbouring kingdoms. Good relations were friendly with them helped in trade and defence

4. Discuss the art and architecture of the Mauryan period. What are some famous examples, and what do they tell us about the culture and beliefs of that time?

The art and architecture of the modern period :-

- The mauryas were famous for their beautiful art especially there highly polished stone pillars.
- The Sarnath pillar lion capital is a famous example. It has four lions symbolising royal power , four animals that is elephant, Bull, horse and lion and the Dharmachakra i.e. wheel of the representing Buddha's teachings.
- Ashoka also built many stupas (dome-shaped structures for worship, often housing relics), chaityas (prayer halls), and viharas (monasteries for monks), like the Great Stupa at Sanchi.
- Other art included Rock cultures like a life size elephant at dhauri and Terracotta figur