

6th Social Science Lesson 11 Notes in English

11. From Chiefdoms to Empires

1. Explain briefly about Gana - sanghas and Kingdoms

There were two kinds of government in north India during the sixth century BC (BCE)

Gana - sanghas – non monarchical states.

Kingdoms – monarchies.

The term '**gana**' means 'people of equal status'. 'Sangha' means 'assembly'. The gana - sanghas covered a small geographical area ruled by an elite group. The gana sanghas practiced egalitarian traditions.

A '**kingdom**' means a territory ruled by a king or queen. In a kingdom (monarchy), a family, which rules for a long period becomes a dynasty. Usually these kingdoms adhered to orthodox Vedic traditions.

2. What is Mahajanapadas

Janapadas became republics or smaller kingdoms. The wide- spread use of iron in Gangetic plain created conditions for the formation of larger territorial units transforming the **janapadas** into **Mahajanapadas**.

3. How was sixteen Mahajanapadas organized

Sixteen Mahajanapadas dotted the **Indo- Gangetic plain in the sixth century BC (BCE)**. It was a transition from a semi – nomadic kinship - based society to an agrarian society with networks of trade and exchange.

4. What are sixteen Mahajanapadas

Anga, Magadha, Vajji, Malla, Kasi, Kuru, Kosala, Avanti, Chedi, Vatsa, Panchala, Machcha, Surasena, Assaka, Gandhara and Kamboja

5. What are the four major Mahajanapadas

- Magadha in Bihar .
- Avanti in Ujjain .
- Kosala in Eastern Uttar Pradesh.
- Vatsa in Kausambi, Allahabad.

6. What are the four dynasties ruled over Magadha Empire/ Dynasties of Ancient Magadha

- The Haryanka dynasty

- The Shishunaga dynasty
- The Nanda dynasty
- The Maurya dynasty

7. Buddhist council

| Buddhist Council | Place | King |
|------------------|---------------------|------------|
| First | Rajagriha | Ajatasatru |
| Second | Vaishali | Kalasoka |
| Third | Pataliputra | Ashoka |
| Fourth | Kundalvana, Kashmir | Vasumitra |

8. who were called as Navanandas.

Nandas were the first empire builders of India. The first Nanda ruler was Mahapadma. **Mahapadma** Nanda was succeeded by his eight sons. They were, known as **Navanandas** (nine Nandas).

9. Explain Nalanda - UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Nalanda was a large Buddhist monastery in ancient kingdom of Magadha. It became the most renowned seat of learning during the reign of Guptas. The word Nalanda is a Sanskrit combination of three words **Na + alam + daa** meaning "no stopping of the gift of knowledge".

10. sources of Mauryan Empire

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Archaeo-logical sources | Punch Marked Coins. |
| Inscriptions | Edicts of Ashoka, Junagath Inscription |
| Secular Literature | Kautilya's Arthasastra Visakadatta's Mudrarakshasa Mamulanar's poem in Agananuru |
| Religious Literature | Jain, Buddhist texts and Puranas |
| Foreign Notices | Dipavamsa, Mahavamsa and Indica |

11. Megasthenese

He was the ambassador of the **Greek ruler, Seleucus**, in the court of Chandra Gupta. He stayed in India for **14 years**. His book **Indica** is one of the main sources for the study of Mauryan Empire.

12. Explain Mauryan Empire

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Capital | Pataliputra (present day Patna, Bihar) |
| Government | Monarchy |
| Historical era | c. 322 BC (BCE) – 187 BC (BCE) |
| Important Kings | Chandragupta, Bindusara, Ashoka |

13. What is Grandeur of Pataliputra

The great capital city in the Mauryan Empire, which had **64** gates to the city with **570** watch towers.

14. Chandragupta Maurya

- Chandragupta Maurya established the empire in Magadha.
- **Bhadrabahu**, a Jain monk, took Chandragupta Maurya to the southern India.
- Chandragupta performed Sallekhana (Jaina rituals in which a person fasts unto his death) in **Sravanbelgola** (Karnataka).

15. Bindusara

- Real name of Bindusara was **Simhasena**.
- He was the son of Chandragupta Maurya. Greeks called **Bindusara** as **Amitragatha**, meaning 'slayer of enemies'.
- During Bindusara's reign Mauryan Empire spread over large parts of India.
- He appointed his son Ashoka as a governor of Ujjain. After his death, Ashoka ascended the throne of Magadha.

16. Ashoka

- Ashoka was the most famous of the Mauryan kings. He was known as '**Devanam Piya**' meaning '**beloved of the Gods**'.
- Ashoka fought the Kalinga war in 261 BC (BCE). He won the war and captured Kalinga.
- The horror of war was described by the king himself in the **Rock Edict XIII**.

17. Which quotes describes Ashoka by H.G Wells.

“Ashoka shines and shines brightly like a bright star, even unto this day”

18. Explain about Lion Capital of Ashoka

The Emblem of the Indian Republic has been adopted from the Lion Capital of one of **Ashoka's pillars** located at **Sarnath**. The wheel from the circular base, the Ashoka Chakra is a part of the National Flag.

19. How does the name “Dhammasoka” arises and what does it describes

After the battle of Kalinga, Ashoka became a Buddhist. He undertook tours (Dharmayatras) to different parts of the country instructing people on policy of Dhamma. **The meaning of Dhamma is explained in Ashoka's – Pillar Edict II**

It contained the noblest ideas of humanism, forming the essence of all religions.

20. What are the principles of Ashoka's Dhamma.

He laid stress on

- Compassion
- Charity
- Purity
- Saintliness
- Self-control
- Truthfulness
- Obedience and respect for parents, preceptors and elders.

21. What is Dhamma-mahamattas

The Dhamma-mahamattas were a new cadre of officials created by **Ashoka**. Their job was to spread dhamma all over the empire.

22. What are the script of the inscriptions during Ashoka period

- At Sanchi – **Brahmi**
- At Kandahar – **Greek and Aramaic**
- At North Western part – **Kharoshthi**

23. What does the Rock Edicts II and XIII of Ashoka refers

The Rock Edicts II and XIII of Ashoka refer to the names of the three dynasties namely **Pandyas, Cholas, the Keralaputras and the Sathyaputras.**

24. Describe the Centralized Administration during Mauryan period

- The king was the supreme and sovereign authority of the Mauryan Empire.
- Council of ministers known as **mantriparishad** assisted the King. Assembly of ministers included a **Purohit, a Senapathi, a Maha mantri and the Yuvaraja.**
- King had an excellent spy system.

25. Describe the Revenue System during Mauryan period.

- The land was the most important source of revenue for the state. Ashokan inscription at Lumbini mentions **bali and bagha** as taxes collected from people. The **land tax (bhaga)** collected was **1/6 of the total produce.**
- Revenue from taxes on forests, mines, salt and irrigation provided additional revenue to the government.
- Much of the State revenue was spent on paying the army, the officials of the royal government, on charities and on different public works such as irrigation project, road construction etc.

26. Describe the Judicial System during Mauryan period.

- The king was the head of the Judiciary. He was the highest court of appeal.
- King appointed many judges subordinate to him. The punishments were **harsh.**

27. Describe the Military Administration during Mauryan period.

The king was the supreme commander of the army.

A board of **30 members** divided into **six committees** with five members on each, monitored

- Navy
- Armoury (transport and supply)
- Infantry
- Cavalry
- The war chariots
- The war elephants

28. Describe the Municipal Administration during Mauryan period.

Board of 30 members divided into six committees. Each had 5 members to manage the administration of the city. Town administration was under **Nagarika**. He was assisted by **Sthanika and Gopa.**

29. What does the Junagarh / Girnar Inscription of Rudradaman describes.

The Junagarh / Girnar Inscription of Rudradaman records that the construction of a water reservoir known as **Sudarshana Lake** was begun during the time of **Chandragupta Maurya** and completed during **Ashoka's reign**.

30. Explain the currency during Mauryan period

The punch marked **silver coins (panas)** which carry the symbols of the peacock, and the hill and crescent copper coins called **Mashakas** formed the imperial currency.

31. Explain the Trade and Urbanization during Mauryan period.

Trade flourished particularly with Greece (Hellenic) Malaya, Ceylon and Burma. The Arthasastra refers to the regions producing specialized textiles – **Kasi (Benares), Vanga(Bengal), Kamarupa (Assam) and Madurai in Tamilnadu**.

| Main Exports | Main Imports |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Spices | Horses |
| Pearls | Gold |
| Diamonds | Glassware |
| Cotton textiles | Linen |
| Ivory Works | |
| Conch Shells | |

32. Explain the Art and Architecture of Mauryan

Mauryan art can be divided into two

- Indigenous Art: Statues of Yakshas and Yakshis
- Royal Art:
 - Palaces and Public buildings
 - Monolithic Pillars
 - Rock cut Architecture
 - Stupas

33. What is Yakshas and Yakshis

Yakshas were deities connected with water, fertility, trees, the forest and wilderness. **Yakshis** were their female counterpart.

34. Stupas

A Stupa is a semi – spherical dome like structure constructed on brick or stone. The Buddha's relics were placed in the centre of the dome.

35. Monolithic Pillar – Sarnath

The crowning element in this pillar is **Dharma chakra**.

36. Rock cut Architecture

- Rock – Cut Caves of **Barabar and Nagarjuna Hills**
- There are several caves to the north of Bodh Gaya. **Three caves in Barabar hills** have dedicative **inscription of Ashoka**. And three in Nagarjuna hills have inscriptions of **Dasharatha Maurya (grand son of Ashoka)**.

37. Ancient name of places and its modern names

| Ancient name | Its Modern name |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Rajagriha | Rajgir |
| Pataliputra | Patna |
| Kalinga | Odisha |

38. The Great Wall of China

It is an ancient series of fortification. During third century BC (BCE) emperor **Qin-Shi Huang** linked these walls on **Northern border** to protect his empire.

39. Temple of Zeus of Olympia

An ancient temple in Olympia, Greece, dedicated to the **god Zeus**, constructed during **fifth century BC (BCE)**, It is one of the **seven wonders** of the ancient world.