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Subject: - General & Environmental
Studies (GES)

B.COM Part III (Group A)

Topic - Dynasties (Empire) in Indian History

Maurya Dynasty (322-185 BC): -

Chandragupta Maurya (322-289 BC): -

Overthrew the Nanda rulers of Magadh. Founded the Maurya Dynasties with the help of Kautilya as well as the first great empire in India. He expelled the Greeks from the Punjab and Sind, defeated Seleucus, captured Magadh and included almost the whole of North India including a large part of Gandhar in his empire. He died or abdicated in 298 BC at Shravasthi, Kelgola in Karnataka.

Ashoka (273-232 BC)

Ashoka the grandson of Chandragupta and son of Bindusara was a

great emperor, unique in many ways. He waged only one war and that came to be the turning point in his career. He died or abdicated in 298 BC at Shravanbelgola on Chandigiri hill.

Ashoka's Dharma.

Ashoka's religion was not Buddhism or any other particular sect. His religion was a code of morals and essence of all religions. Main characteristics of Ashoka's Dharma - Emphasis on ethical ideals, non-violence, religious toleration, universalism were the main characteristics of his religion. His imperial policy was affected by his religion after the era of Kalinga. The era of 'Digvijaya' was over and the era of 'Dharmavijaya' was begun.

The Mauryan empire was divided into four main provinces:

1. Uttar Path

It included Kamboj, Gandhar, Kashmir, Punjab and Afghanistan. Taxshila was its capital.

2. Avanti Rashtra

Ujjaini was its capital. It included Kathiwar, Malva, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

3. The Madhya Desha or Prachi

Megadha was called as Prachi. Its capital

Was Patliputra. It included Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal.

4. Dakshina patna

It included provinces south to the Vidhyanagar. Suvernavin was its capital.

The Mauryans public works:-

The state took considerable interest in irrigation because it was a major source of revenue. To this effect it built dams, ponds and canals etc. There were certain regulations regarding the use of water resources and breaking these was a state offense. The state also helped its citizens during natural calamities like floods, famines etc. From Ashokan inscriptions, we also know that medical treatment and medicines were made available to both humans and animals. The Arthashastra mentions that the king should look after orphans, unattended women etc. An important aspect of public works was the laying down and repair of roads and opening of rivers. Thus, it can be said that the state did spend a certain amount from its revenues on public works.

This must have increased during the time of Ashoka due to his concern for public welfare and paternal attitude towards his subjects.