

Economic Trends since the Mauryan Age

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Abstract – The financial business of the Aryan period crystallised into organised structures and also institution during the Mauryan period. Industry and commerce progressed with the improvement in business and agriculture. The Mauryan state was more and econo-centric stress was laid on acquisition of wealth or artha. New conception of money and additionally way to get it generated conditions favourable for growth. The drop of Mauryan Empire considerably affected the progress. The political instability influenced the constant development of business and trade. The entry of feudal institutions came as a serious jolt to agricultural development. Though it had been compensated with the development of trade on non agricultural commodities. Foreign trade prospered together with the discovery of monsoon winds by Hippalaus. With the arrival of Gupta age foreign trade got brand new fillip. The conquest of Saurashtra area from the Sakas opened the gates for brisk Western trade. The merchants on the Gupta Empire enriched themselves and the state through effective outside trade. Craft and also merchant guilds played essential part in the brahminical dominance, intellectual tyranny, socio religious conception of economic activity, decline of art & monopoly and farming over international trade by external agents substantially influenced early Indian economy.

Key Words: The Economic Organization of the Aryan, Mauryas Period

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FINANCIAL LIFE UNDER THE MAURYAS:

The accession of Magadhan state subsequent conquests made the Mauryan kingdom into an imperial state. General peace and political stability promoted financial prosperity. Agriculture, trade & business flourished under the aegis of the Mauryan government. Each section: traders, craftsmen, cultivators, and herdsmen contributed the due share of theirs in the economic advancement of the state. Arthasastra of Kautilya was expressive of this truth. The state did care to market each element of financial life using numerous marketing programmes. Resource or alternatively revenue mobilization interest driven all of the initiatives of state towards economic development.

AGRICULTURE:

Agriculture depends mostly upon the accessibility of water. Monsoon precipitation was the main source of water resources. Rain water was saved on tanks, reservoirs and lakes for optimal utilisation in agriculture. The science of meteorology had taken shape during the Mauryan period as Arthasastra indicates. Observation of planets, rain and weather forecast gauging had been carried out by the state in the interest of cultivators. Large tanks, lakes, stations along with other distributaries have been built to give optimum crop insurance. Tank building was viewed as being an act of charity. Cultivators have been likely to keep the tanks in condition that is good.

Manual irrigation plus lift irrigation had been the chief method of synthetic irrigation. Irrigation through bullocks and wind power are known in Arthasastra. Kautilya fixes standalone water cess for every kind of irrigation: $\frac{1}{4}$ for holding water on shoulder, $\frac{1}{3}$ for lift irrigation and $\frac{1}{3}$ or maybe $\frac{1}{4}$ in the situation of water lifted from rivers, lakes and tank.

WEAVING:

Weaving became ideal during the Mauryan age. It's been attested by Megasthenes. He describes gold - studded and precious stone - studded dress materials and also muslin cloths. Arthasastra describes types of woollen stuffs, method of planning of covers, trousers of wool, curtains, floor coverings and plain blankets. Bengal started to be famous for the creation of soft and white fabric called dukula. Pandya country was reference to fiber - made garments as Suvarnakundyaka and Paundraka. They had been created from fibres of trees as vakula, vata, nagavriksha and lichuka. Madura, etc., Mahisa, Vasta, Vanga, Kashi, Kalinga, were popular cotton centres. Skins of lion, panther, tiger, sheep and goat had been used as coverlets and cloths. Birdwood has each praise for Indian expertise in weaving, which he calls immemorial and "marvelous glories of India".

METAL INDUSTRIES:

Arthashastra refers to 7 leading metals - gold, lead, zinc, copper, silver, iron and tin. These 7 metals were utilized to produce various alloy metals as bronze, etc, brass. Gold was equally a standard of medium and value of exchange. There seemed to be a superintendent of gold, whose responsibility was supervising the standard of gold. He ought to be an authority in the varieties and characteristics of different gold. The quality was tested on fire, using the mass of its, sound, colour, etc. Silver even acted as the place of exchange and also was utilized in the making of ornaments. Iron was made in lots. It was utilized in the creation of weapons and as a post of export. Indian iron was exported to Egypt as well as Indian - made sword was known on the Arab world. We're informed that the Indians understood the methods of creating metal. The progress made in metals influenced the battle machinery. Iron arrows have been substituted for deer horns. The fire arms called great machine and nalika as satghani and mahayantra, that may kill a 100 at a time, had been the products on the era. Lead was utilized in the preparation of gun powder & cannon balls.

MINING:

The progress manufactured in metallurgy and steel market during the Mauryan period shows the comprehensive mining operations. It's reported that Bengal was the chief centre of mining and also the Jains had been the professionals in the art of mining. Arthashastra represents area mines plus ocean mines. The superintendent of ocean mines was sure to gather conch shells, pearls, precious stones, diamonds, salt and corals. His duty integrated regulation of industry on the above products also. Generally there was in addition a specific department of land mining under an authority in mining assisted by an effective mineralogist. His responsibility was identifying the quality of minerals. The various sources of gold ore & processing strategies are precise out in Arthashastra. Because mines were created a supply of revenue, sophisticated arrangements were created for mining manufacture as well as operation of metals. Big mines were ordinarily leased out, while smaller ones had been exclusively mined by the state. Tax was levied after travelling the worth of paper, premium rate, state share, etc.

GEM INDUSTRY:

Gems were lots of and more useful than gold. They had been organized into mine groups and also were named navaratnas. Diamond, topaz, lapis lazuli, sapphire, agate, coral, pearl, emerald and ruby will be the 9 varieties of gems. Diamond was 400 times more valuable compared to gold. Pearls were in several colours: greenish, white, yellow, and red blue. They develop in fishes, bamboos, hogs, conches, snakes, shells and clouds. People of

Ceylon can make artificial pearls. Pearls have been collected mostly from shells or perhaps pearl oysters. They have been made in abundance of the pearl Fishery coast of Tamilnadu, Churna river bed of Kerala and also in Himalayas. The most effective pearl must be large, heavy, white, and brilliant, without bottom, circular, soft to touch as well as properly perforated. Megasthenes claims that the Indian Pearl was worth of thrice the weight of its in gold. The value and benefits of these gems were understood by Mauryan rulers. Arthashastra elaborates the administration of gem market through the superintendent of gems. He ought to be a master of the company. Government monopoly was required on specific kinds of gems, their sale and mining.

OTHERS:

Leather business may have gotten serious setback as a result of the ahimsa policy of Asoka. Though it carried on to survive also an extended time after the Mauryas. The toiletry industry made remarkable progress due to the constant tendency of individuals towards personal look and fashion. The broad prosperity of the Mauryan times prompted the trend. Various other craft and industries created their forward march as a result of the proper care taken by state towards promotion of material wealth. Distilleries and liquor industries have been brought under state management. Shipping industry even progressed under the Mauryas. In a nutshell the pre - Mauryan industries went on to draw the images of theirs on the economic system on the period.

CONCLUSION:

Under the Mauryas major industries have been brought under state management. Mining was nationalized and sea - wealth was fully used. Distribution and salt production had been brought under state monopoly right. Cotton, sugar and oil industries had been exclusively operated by the state. In the situation of liquor industry state control was maintained over distribution and also creation. Artisans have been provided shelter from natural calamities and anti - social elements. In the towns, city councils supervised the quality of items. The superintendents of mines, etc., liquor, weaving, ocean mines, had particular duties worried about the promotion of industries and mining.

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