1. **Question: Describe the Saptanga theory of Kautilya. (2017)**

**Answer:**

**Introduction**

Kaulilya was a great thinker of ancient of India. He was known as Chankya in ancient Indian history. His original name was Vishnu Gupta. It is believed that Kautilya was born around 325 B.C. in Takshila. He received his early education in the University of Nalanda. He was born in a poor Brahamin family. He met Chandragupta in Nalanda University and was deeply impressed by him. He was a friend, philosopher and guide to Chandragupta Mourya. Kaulilya’s name became very famous because of his greatest writing the ‘Arthasastra’. It deals with wide range of subjects such as internal and external administration, agriculture, army, coins, commerce, forests, accounts and civil and criminal laws etc. In his book, Arthasastra kautilya said about the four sources of law – ‘Dharma’, Evidence, History and Edicts of King. There are 15 books, 150 chapters and 180 topics in Arthasastra.

**The Saptanga Theory of State**

Kautilya recognises seven elements of the state. Sapta means seven and Anga means organ. These elements he compares to the different organs of the human body. These seven elements are the angas, which should be active and healthy for the smooth functioning of the body politics. Kautilya considered all these elements as being interdependent. These seven elements are respectively Swamin, Amatya, Janapada, Durga,.Kosha, Bala and Mitra.

1. **Swamin (King):** The first and foremost organ of the state is the king. All other organs of the state can prosper only if the king is good, able, effective and resourceful. The king should be born of a high family and pursue the qualities of virtue, truthful and enthusiasm. He should not always accessible to the people. He should not entrust his work to his immediate officers. He should be the foundation head of justice.
2. **Amatya (Ministers and Advisors):** The Ministers and officers constitute another element of Sovereignty. Kautilya says that for the success or failure of the king, Amatya plays an important role. Kautilya felt that in the absence of the strong Council of Ministers the king couldn’t attain anything. On the basis of efficiency Kautilya classified the officials into 18 classes. Among them Mantrin, Porahit, Senapati, Yavaraj, Dobarika, Antarvamosika, etc. are important. The Ministers are like eyes and ears of the king. Kautilya sets a set of qualifications for a person to be a minister. His character has been tested under the pursuits of religion, wealth, love and fear.

**Qualifications of Amayta**

* He should possess sharp intellect, strong memory power, energy and training in kinds of arts.
* He must be a man of proven administration capability.
* He should have controlled greed, anger, haste, and fickleness.
* He should be man of dignity and self- possessiveness.

1. **Janapada (Population and Territory):** ‘Jana’ means population and ‘Pada’ means territory. Janapada is another important element of the state. Without the Janapada there is neither the king nor the kingship. The people should possess the qualities of patriotism and loyal to the king as well as to the kingdom. They also should have the qualities of heroism, superior talents and skills. They should be capable of bearing the burden of taxation. The state should be full of intelligent masters and servants. Kautilya favoured vast territory for an ideal state, which gives military as well as economic advantages. The territory should have no muddy, rocky and uneven barren soil. Enough food grains and minerals must be available in the state.
2. **Durga (Fort):** Kautilya considered a strong fort is absolutely necessary for the protection of a state. The fort is vital to the existence and survival of the state. If the fort were secure, people would also be secure. He referred to four types of forts, viz. water fort, hill forts, desert fort, and forest fort. The fort must surround by all the cities and towns. He said that a well-protected fort would prevent any information from flowing out of the state.
3. **Kosha (Treasury):** The treasury should be a permanent source of revenue for the state. The king was advised to take 1/6 part of the produce as tax and there must be sufficient currency and valuable minerals, like gold. The king should collect taxes through his officers for the maintenance of the state. Kautilya went to the extent of saying that in case of great financial troubles, the king could collect taxes by demand. He advocated severe punishment for those who avoided the payment of taxes. He advised the king to use the people’s money wisely and keep proper accounts.
4. **Bala or Danda (Army):** The king ought to have at his command a commendable military force. The army must be well versed in military arts, be loyal and patriotic. Kautilya said that only people belonging to the Kshatriya community were eligible to join the army and it was a hereditary profession. It was the primary responsibility of the king to keep army under his control. Kautilya mentioned six types of army – 1. Hereditary, 2. Hired, 3. Armies of fighting corporation, 4. Armies belonging to a friend; 5. Armies belonging to enemies and 6. Armies of wild tribes.
5. **Mitra (Friend):** Kautilya considered the role of mitra was very important in times of critical conditions. The mitra should be one who was an independent king. The king as far as possible should try to build good friends. The friendship lessens the work of the king because the friend didn’t pose any security threat the state. The friend was to be time tested one. Kautilya contended that the friendship should be established with the powerful and trustworthy nations.