

## CHAPTER – 4.3

### MAURYAS

#### **I. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN A WORD OR A SENTENCE EACH.**

1. Who founded the Mauryan dynasty?

A: Chandragupta Maurya.

2. Name the capital of Mauryas.

A: Pataliputra.

3. Which was the royal emblem of the Mauryas?

A: Dharma Chakra

4. Who wrote Mudrarakshasa?

A: Vishakadatta.

5. Who wrote Arthashastra?

A: Kautilya (Chanakya).

6. Who wrote Indica?

A: Megasthenes.

7. Who helped Chandragupta Maurya to establish the Mauryan empire?

A: Kautilya (Chanakya).

8. Who was the Nanda ruler defeated by Chandragupta Maurya ?

A: Dhanananda.

9. Who sent the Megasthenes as ambassador to the court of Chandragupta Maurya?

A: Greek ruler Seleucus.

10. Name the Greek ruler who defeated by Chandragupta Maurya.

A: Seleucus

11. Name the Mauryan ruler who followed Jainism.  
A: Chandragupta Maurya.
  
12. Where did Chandragupta Maurya spend his last days?  
A: Chandragiri Hills at Shravanabelagola in Karnataka.
  
13. Who was the greatest ruler of the Mauryan dynasty?  
A: Ashoka The Great.
  
14. Which Ashokan Edict speaks about the Kalinga war?  
A: XIII Rock Edict.
  
15. Name the Mauryan ruler who accepted Buddhism?  
A: Ashoka The Great.
  
16. Where was the third Buddhist Council held?  
A: Pataliputra.
  
17. Which was the biggest Stupa built by Ashoka?  
A: Sanchi Stupa.
  
18. Which is the National emblem of India?  
A: The National emblem is an adaptation from the Lion Capital of Ashoka, on the Saranath Pillar. It consist of an inverted lotus, the Dhramachakra and four lions seated back to back.
  
19. Who was the founder of the Shatavahana dynasty?  
A: Simukha.
  
20. Which was the capital of Satavahanas?  
A: Prathisthana.
  
21. Who wrote 'Gathasapthathi'?  
A: Hala.

22. Which was the inscription issued by Gautami Balashri?

A: Nasik cave inscription.

**II. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN TWO WORDS OR TWO SENTENCES EACH.**

1. Name any two important sources which help to know about Mauryan dynasty.

A: a) Arthashastra by Kautilya

b) Indica by Megasthenes

2. Name any two places where Ashokan inscriptions can be found in Karnataka.

A: a) Maski in Raichur district

b) Sannathi in Kalaburagi district.

3. Which were the two types of courts that existed in the Mauryan period?

A: a) Dharmastheyas (civil cases)

b) Kantakashodana (criminal cases)

4. What is the importance of the Maski edict?

A: The Maski edict refers to the king as 'Devanampriya Ashoka'. This confirmed that 'Devanampriya and Priyadarshi Raja' was none other than Ashoka himself.

5. Who was Megasthenes? Name his work.

A: Megasthenes was the Greek ambassador, sent by Seleucus, to the court of Chandragupta Maurya.

Indica is his famous work.

6. Who was Kautilya? What was his famous work?

A: Kautilya (other names- Vishakadatta and Chanakya) is a famous statesman of ancient India. He is the Brahmin of Takshashila who trained Chandragupta Maurya.

Arthashastra is his famous work.

7. Which ruler appointed the Dharmamahamathras? What was their duty?

A: Ashoka appointed Dharmamahamathras. Their duty was to spread Dharma among common people.

8. Name any two important rulers of Sathavahanas.

A: a) King Hala

b) King Gautamiputra Sathakarni.

9. Name any two architectural centres of Sathavahanas.

A: a) Nasik

b) Amaravathi.

### III. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN 15 TO 20 SENTENCES EACH.

1. Write about the achievements of Chandragupta Maurya.

A: Chandragupta Maurya was the founder of the Mauryan empire (first great empire of India), with Pataliputra as their capital. He established this empire with the help of Chanakya.

#### Conquest of Punjab and Magadha:

Chandragupta Maurya defeated the petty rulers of Punjab and then marched towards Magadha and defeated the last ruler of the mighty Nanda dynasty, Dhanananda and laid the foundation of the Mauryan Empire.

#### War with Seleucus:

Alexander had established his suzerainty over the north western parts of India and nominated representatives to rule over them. Chandragupta Maurya defeated them and annexed those territories to his empire. After Alexander's death, Seleucus became the master of the Greek empire over Central Asia.

Seleucus in order to reconquer these territories, entered into a war with Chandragupta Maurya but was defeated. Hence, Seleucus concluded a treaty with Chandragupta Maurya, according to which he gave a large territory which included Kabul, Afghanistan, Kandahar and Baluchistan. He also gave his daughter in marriage to Chandragupta Maurya.

2. What were the measures taken by Ashoka for the spread of Buddhism?

A: The measures taken by Ashoka to spread Buddhism were:

a) He visited Buddhist holy places such as Lumbini garden, Kapilavastu, Gaya, Saranath and arranged discourses on religion.

b) He built a large number of monasteries all over his empire and spend large sums of money in endowing them.

c) He spread the doctrines of Buddha by engraving them on rock pillars and cave walls throughout his empire.

d) He appointed officers called Dharmamahamathras, Yukthas, Rajjukas and Sthree Adhyaksha Mahamatras (especially for women) to spread Dharma among people.

- e) He organized the third Buddhist Council at Pataliputra to settle the internal differences among monks.
- f) Ashoka sent missionaries to Afghanistan, Burma, Srilanka and Europe. He send his son Mahendra and daughter Sanghamithra to Srilanka with a Bodhi sapling as a sumbol of peace.
- g) He also undertook many welfare activities like building rest houses, public wells, hospitals etc.

3. Describe the administration of Mauryas.

A: The Mauryans established an efficient system of administration and were among the first to establish a uniform system of adinistration. Arthashashtra played an important role in their administration

The Central Government:

King: The king was the head of the state and the chief of legislative, executive, judiciary and military powers. The main duty of the king was to look after the welfare of the people.

Manthri Parishad:

This is the council of ministers that assist the king in the administration. Each minister was in charge of one or more departments.

Secretariat:

Administrative matters were divided into 30 departments,such as irrigation, market, education etc., each under a superintendent.

Administration of justice:

King was the highest court of appeal. There were two types of courts in the towns :

- a) Dharmastheyas which death with civil cases
- b) Kantakashodana which death with criminal cases.

Village assemblies and its headmen handles cases in their areas.

Revenue administration: Land revenue was the main source of income. 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the produce was fixed as tax.

Provincial government: Mauryan empire was divided into five provinces each under a 'Governor'. The provinces were further divided into districts that were governed by 'Sthanikas'.' Gramika' was the head of the village and 'Gopa' was the official in charge of 10 villages.

City Adminstration: the administration of cities were entrusted to a committee of thirty members divided into six boards of five each. They looked after roads, markets, hospitals, temples etc.

Military administration: The military was very well organized and efficient during their reign. The king personally led the army during wars. The different sections here were :

- a) Navy

- b) Transport
- c) Infantry
- d) Cavalry
- e) Chariots
- f) Elephant force.

4. Explain the contributions of Mauryan Art and Architecture.

A: Mauryas built various buildings, palaces and monuments. Ashoka used stones for buildings rather than wood and brick.

Stupas: Stupas were dome like mounds of brick or stone, built in honor of Buddha. Ashoka built about 84000 stupas all over his empire. Sanchi stupa is the biggest and the only surviving stupa.

Palaces: Chandragupta Maurya's palace at Pataliputra was very famous.

Caves: Ashoka and his grandson built many caves for the Buddhist monks, in places like Gaya, Nagarjuna hills etc.

Pillars: Ashoka built more than 30 pillars. The most important among them is the Saranath pillar from which our national emblem is taken. It consist of the inverted lotus, the Dharmachakra and the four lions sitting back to back.

**IV. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN 30 TO 40 SENTENCES EACH.**

1. Explain the life and achievements of Ashoka.

A: Ashoka was the greatest ruler of the Mauryas and one of the renowned rulers in the world. He ruled from 273 – 232 BCE.

The Kalinga war:

Kalinga was a powerful kingdom in India and Ashoka wanted to conquer it. So he marched against it and a fierce battle was fought and resulted in the killing of almost 1,00,000 soldiers. XIII Rock Edict tells about this. Ashoka was filled with sorrow at the sight of the bloodshed and decided not to wage any more wars in the future. Instead of 'Digvijaya' (military conquests), he adopted the policy of 'Dharmavijaya' (winning the hearts of people).

Later on he embraced Buddhism under the influence of Upa Gupta, a Buddhist saint. His empire extended from Kashmir and Afghanistan in the North to Karnataka in the south, Baluchistan in the west to Bengal in the east.

Edicts of Ashoka :

Ashoka was the first to issue Edicts in India. It tells us about religion, society and administration during his period. They refer to the king as 'Devanampriya' or 'Priyadarshi' The edicts are classified into :

- a) Major rock edicts

- b) Minor rock edicts
- c) Pillar inscriptions
- d) Cave inscriptions.

Religion: Ashoka made a great contribution to religion. And he undertook various measures for the spread of Buddhism in India as well as outside India.

- a) He visited Buddhist holy places such as Lumbini garden, Kapilavastu, Gaya, Saranath and arranged discourses on religion.
- b) He built a large number of monasteries all over his empire and spend large sums of money in endowing them.
- c) He spread the doctrines of Buddha by engraving them on rock pillars and cave walls throughout his empire.
- d) He appointed officers called Dhramamahamathras, Yukthas, Rajjukas and Sthree Adhyaksha Mahamatra (especially for women) to spread Dharma among people.
- e) He organized the third Buddhist Council at Pataliputra to settle the internal differences among monks.
- f) Ashoka sent missionaries to Afghanistan, Burma, Srilanka and Europe. He send his son Mahendra and daughter Sanghamithra to Srilanka with a Bodhi sapling as a sumbol of peace.
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