

---

# **7. MAURYAS AND KUSHANS**

## II. Answer the following questions in brief.

1. List the sources which reflect upon the history of Mauryas.

**Ans:** Megasthenes India, Kautilya's Arthashastra, Mudrarakshasa written by Vishakadutta are the sources which reflect upon the history of Mauryas.

2. Name the important cities during Ashoka's period.

**Ans.** Pataliputra, Taxila, Ujjain, Kalinga and Suvarnagiri were the five important cities of Ashoka period.

3. Ashok has been named as great by the historians. Give reasons.

**Ans:** Though Ashoka won the Kalinga war, he was disturbed by the deaths and the pain of Battle. He considered victory of religion is better than the victory in the battle field. He was inspired by the Buddhism. Made donation to Buddhist Monasteries and Viharas. Declared that all his citizens are his children, declared that all should be loyal to their parents and respect their elders and gurus. Showed compassion to poor and slaves too. He said 'Live and Let live' that is why Ashok has been named as great by the historians.

4. Describe Ashoka's administration.

**Ans:** Ashoka carried on the administration from different centres. All centres proclaimed the aspirations of the king. His aspirations were expressed through edicts. Those edicts are of the first their kind in the history of India. They can be seen on rocks and stone pillars and different parts of India. Ashoka had taken various measures for the development of agriculture. Special concessions were given to agriculture. Many officers were appointed for different departments. Though land tax was the main source of income other taxes were also collected. Spies

kept the kind informed. In addition to internal trade, foreign trade was also carried through sea and land routes.

**5. Which dynasty did the Kushans belong to?**

Ans. The Kushans basically from nomadic tribe which had migrated to India from central Asia. They were the progeny of "Yuchi".

**6. What was the extent of Kanishka's empire?**

Ans. Kanishka's rule had spread up to Sanchi in the south and Banaras in the east. His kingdom which included central Asia too, was a vast empire. Purushapura was his capital.

---