

CLASS:--12TH, HISTORY, CHAPTER:-2

Question 6.

How have the Prashastis drawn the factual information about the Gupta rulers?

Answer:

Prashastis were important source for reconstructing the histories of Gupta rulers. Historians tried to draw factual information from such compositions. These were composed in praise of kings in particular and patrons in general by poets. Harisena, the court poet of Samudragupta, composed the Prayag Prashasti (also known as Allahabad pillar inscription) where he described Samudragupta as the most powerful king of Gupta Empire who was equally powerful like God and protector of his poor subjects.

Question 7.

Mention any two features of the administrative system of the Mauryan Empire.

Answer:

Two main features of the administrative system of the Mauryan Empire were:

1. There were five major political centres in the empire viz, Pataliputra, Taxila, Ujjayini, Tosali and Suvamagiri.
2. The administrative control was strongest in areas around the capital and the provincial centres and these centres were carefully chosen by the kings.

Question 8.

How did Magadha become the most powerful mahajanapada between 6th and 4th century BCE? Give two reasons.

Answer:

Historians explained the reason behind the emergence of Magadha as the most powerful mahajanapada in the following ways:

- Agriculture was very productive in Magadha.
- Magadha was rich in iron mines which provided resources for tools and weapons. Further, elephants were found in large number in this region.

Question 9.

Explain why the communication along both land and riverine routes was vital for the existence of the empire during the period of Mauryan.

Answer:

During the Mauryan period, communication along both land and riverine routes was vital for the existence of the empire because:

- The Mauryan empire was a very vast empire. Thus, for political control, military activity and people's movement, both land and riverine routes were required.
- Communication through roadways and waterways were necessary for trade and commerce and also for the exchange of ideas and knowledge, etc.

Question 10.

Mention any two pieces of evidence which referred to Asoka as the most popular ruler of the 6th century BCE.

Answer:

Asoka was the most popular ruler of the 6th century BCE as:

- Historians found that the messages on Asokan inscriptions were very different from that of the most rulers and suggested that he was more powerful, industrious and humble than the other rulers.
- Asoka tried to hold his vast empire together by propagating Dhamma, the principles that were universally accepted by all.

Question 11.

Who deciphered the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts? What important facts were revealed through these scripts?

Answer:

James Prinsep deciphered the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts in 1838.

With the deciphered script, we know about the political, economic history and specially, the contribution of the king of that period.

Question 12.

Mention any two ways in which the inscriptions of land grants help us to understand rural society in ancient times.

Answer:

In ancient times, many land grants were recorded as inscriptions. We know these from:

- Many land grants were given to religious institutions or Brahmanas. Some feel land grants were done to extend agriculture to new areas.
- There were regional variations in the sizes of land donated, ranging from small to vast stretches of uncultivated land and the rights were given to donees, i.e. the recipients of the grant.