

**Vidya Bhawan Balika Vidyapith, Lkr.**

**Class-6<sup>th</sup>, Sub. -Social Science, Date-15-04-2021**

**Ch1. History-When, Where and How**

### **Topic-Secular Literature**

Book or texts which are not of a religious nature are known as secular literature. Books such as Kautilya's Arthashastra, contain guidelines on how to run the government. The Mudra Rakshasa, a drama written by Vishakhadatta, provides valuable information about Nanda and the Mauryan dynasties of ancient India. Banabhatta wrote the Harshacharita, which gives information of king Harshavardhana, his conquest and administration.

A number of foreign travellers-Greeks, Romans, Chinese, Tibetans and Arabs visited India and left valuable accounts about lifestyle, customs and traditions of people. Megasthenes, the Greek ambassador in the court of Chandragupta Maurya, wrote the Indica, which gives an account Mauryan administration and society. Two Chinese travellers, Fa-hien and Hiuen Tsang came to India to study Buddhism and wrote about their experience . Fa-hien's description of Pataliputra and Gupta administration.

Chronicles are official records of a dynasties in a particular region. The Rajtarangini of Kalhana gives information about the kings of Kashmir from earliest times to the 12<sup>th</sup> century CE. Manuscripts have been written on perishable material . Many have been destroyed by insects or natural calamities. But a good number of these manuscripts have survived. These are preserved in temples and monasteries.

**Punit Kumar**