



LESSON-14

THE FIRST EMPIRE

NOTES:

- Chandragupta Maurya founded the Mauryan Empire, he was guided by Chanakya to become the king.
- Chanakya was appointed as the Prime Minister.
- Chandragupta was a great warrior and ruler.
- He was succeeded by his son Bindusara.
- Again Bindusara was succeeded by his son Ashoka, who was the most famous of the Mauryan kings.
- He wanted to be the emperor of the whole India.
- To consolidate his empire, he undertook military campaign against Kalinga.
- He defeated Kalinga in a bloody war and annexed it.
- The sight of the large scale carnage moved Ashoka. It marked the turning point in the life of Ashoka.
- He stopped all the forms of violence and became a strict vegetarian.
- He became a devout Buddhist and began to spread the teaching of Buddha.
- He believed that high ideal could lead people to live peacefully and co-exist in a harmonious environment. This was called Dhamma of Ashoka.
- Ashoka built a number of rock edicts and pillars to spread the message of Buddhism.
- Ashoka appointed Dhamma Mahamattas to do the welfare of the Dhamma.
- He even sent his son and daughter to Sri-Lanka to spread Buddhism outside India.
- The king was the head of the administrative system of the Mauryans.
- The Mauryans were well known for their administrative system of urban administration, provincial administration and military administration.