

# ATOMIC ENERGY CENTRAL SCHOOL, NARORA

## CLASS VI

### HANDOUT OF MODULE 2/2

#### CHAPTER-8 HISTORY

#### ASHOKA, THE EMPEROR WHO GAVE UP WAR

##### ● **Military System:**

- (i) The Mauryas had established a vast empire with the help of a powerful army.
- (ii) Megasthenes, a Greek ambassador wrote that soldiers were most numerous class next to the cultivators.
- (iii) The Arthashastra mentions three types of soldiers namely, hereditary fighting class, mercenaries willing to fight for any government which engaged their services; and artisans.
- (iv) The army consisted of 6,00,000 infantry, 30,000 horsemen, 3,000 chariots and 9,000 elephant.
- (v) The army administration was under a commander-in-chief.
  - (vi) There were six specialized departments to look after the military administration.
  - (vii) Further the king appointed a number of trusted secret servicemen as spies. It helped the king to know what people thought about him.

##### ● **Achievements of Mauryas:**

- (i) The agriculture was the main occupation of the Mauryas.
- (ii) In addition, merchants were also found in large numbers.
- (iii) Division in society was based on the different occupations of people.
- (iv) Mauryan art and architecture in the form of stupas, viharas, pillars and rock edicts is very popular.
- (v) Megasthenes Indica and Kautilya's Arthashastra are two valuable sources of knowing about the Mauryas.
- (vi) The state became weak politically and financially after the death of Ashoka and started declining.