

MAURYAN EMPIRE

I was the founder of
Maurya Empire

I united most of the country.

My son was named Bindusara,
in the face of fear,
I would never flee.

Sources

1. Kautilya's: Arthashastra
2. Vishakhadatta's: Mudrarakshasa (written during Gupta Empire)
3. Megasthenes: Indica (in contrast)
4. Buddhist literature: Jataka tales, Dipavamsa/Mahavamsa, Divyadana

Origin of Mauryans

- According to:
- **Puranas:** he belongs to Shudras
- **Mudrarakshasa:** He belongs to Vrishal/Kulhina
- **Junagarh Rock Inscription:** he belongs to Vaishyas

Mauryan Rulers

- Nanda Dynasty last ruler Dhanananda lost to Chandragupta Maurya
↓
With the help of Kautilya (also known as Chanakya/Vishnugupta) } → 322 BC

Chandragupta Maurya

- Founder of Mauryan Dynasty
- Defeated last ruler of Nanda Dynasty: Dhanananda
- Defeated Seleucus Nicator (frontier of Alexander the Great)

↓
Megasthenes was in
court of Seleucus Nicator

- Son: Bindusara

Bindusara

- He is known as Amitrochates by the Greeks
- He patronised Ajivikas
- Son: Ashoka

Ashoka

- Ruled for: 12 yrs
- Fought Kalinga War (ended in: 261 BC)
- Adopted Buddhism
- He replaced Berigoshha with Dhammagosha

↓
Physical
Conquest

↓
Cultural
Conquest

Ashokan Edicts

- Found in two places:

1. Rocks

- a. Major: 14 → First to decipher: James Prinsep
- b. Minor: 15



Writings on Rock

2. Pillars

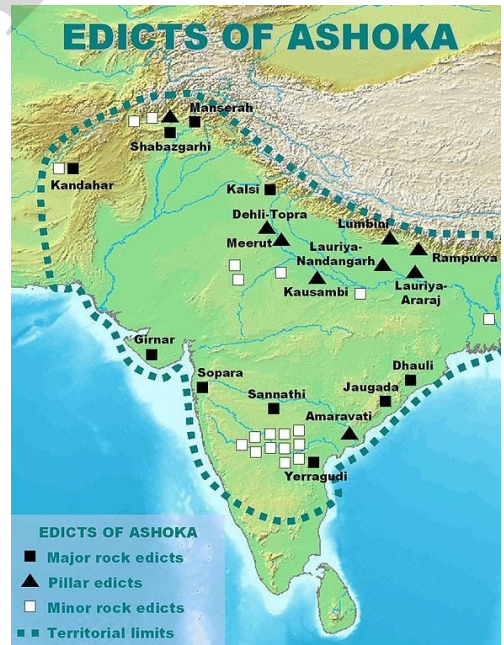
Major Rock Edicts

- Total: 14
- Language: 3
- Script: 4
- Major language used: Prakrit language
- Use of Brahmi and Kharoshti

↓
Introduced by Iranians

- Greek Language: Greek script
- Aramaic Language: Aramaic script
- In inscriptions he is mentioned as: Devanami
- Piyadashi

↓
Devon ka Priya (beloved of Gods)



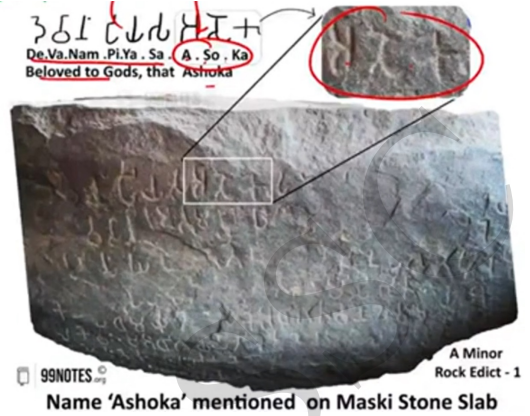
Major rock edicts	Inscription
I	Prohibits animal slaughter. Bans festive gatherings and killings of animals.
II	Medical care for man and animals. Mentions the Chola, Pandyas, Satyaputra and Cheras Kingdoms of South India, and the Greek king Antiochus II and his neighbours.
III	Generosity to Brahmins. Issued after 12 years of Asoka's coronation. It says that the Yuktas (subordinate officers) and Pradesikas (district Heads) along with Rajukas (Rural officers) shall go to the all areas of kingdom every five years and spread the Dhamma Policy of Asoka.
IV	Dhammaghosha (sound of Dhamma/righteousness) is ideal over Bherighosha (sound of war).
V	He mentions in this rock edict "Every Human is my child". Appointment of Dhammamahamatras is mentioned in this edict. Concerns about slavery
VI	Talks about King's responsibility towards welfare of people.
VII	Tolerance towards all religions and sects.
VIII	Describes Asoka's first Dhamma Yatra to Bodhgaya & Bodhi Tree.
IX	Importance of ceremonies of Dhamma; condemns popular ceremonies.
X	Condemns desire for fame and glory.
XI	Dhamma as the major policy to follow. It also includes respect for elders and concern for slaves and servants.
XII	Tolerance among different religious sects. Also written in Greek in the Kandahar Greek Edict of Ashoka. It mentions Mahamatras in charge of women's welfare.
XIII	It is the largest inscription from the edict. It talks about the Ashoka's (268 - 232 BCE) victory over Kalinga (262 - 261 BCE) and mentions his remorse for the half million killed or deported during his conquest, by Dhamma. Mentions Ashoka's Dhamma victory over Greek Kings Antiochus of Syria (Amtiyoko), Ptolemy of Egypt (Turamave), Magas of Cyrene (Maka), Antigonus of Macedon (Amiikini), Alexander of Epirus (Alikasudaro). Also mentions Pandyas, Cholas, etc.
XIV	Describes engraving of inscriptions in different parts of country.

Kalinga War

→ Was ancient name of coastal in Orissa

Minor Rock Edicts

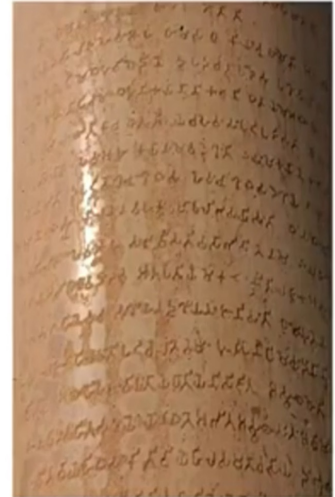
- Four:
- › Maski → Karnataka
- › Gujjar → Madhya Pradesh
- › Brahmagiri
- › Nittur



1st to decipher Ashoka's Edicts: James Prinsep in 1837

Pillar Edicts

- Total: 7



- Delhi-Topra Pillar Edict: only with 7th edict
- Use of only one language and only one script
 - ↓ Prakrit
 - ↓ Brahmi

- Lauriya: Aaraj → Bihar
- Lauriya: Nandagarh



From Rampura

- Only bull found

- Shows Dhammaparivartan of Ashoka
- He made this to commemorate the 1st Sermon of Buddha



Sarnath

- Declared National Emblem on: 24 Jan 1950

Barabar Hill Caves

- Bihar
- Ashoka built this cave for Buddhist



- Lomas Rishi Caves: Bihar

- Nagarjuni Caves: Bihar

↳ Built by Dashrath Maurya
(grandson of Ashoka)



- Last ruler of Maurya Dynasty: **Brihadratha**
↳ Defeated by **Pushyamitra Sunga**

Maurya Administration

- Saptanga Theory by Kautilya: 7 elements to rule an administration
 1. King: Raja
 2. Secretary: Amartya
 3. Territory: Janpada
 4. Fort: Durga
 5. Treasure: Kosha
 6. Army: Sena
 7. Friend: Mitra

Officers

1. Sannidhata: Chief treasury officer
2. Samharata: collector general of revenue

Two types of court

1. Civil: Dharmastya Nyayalaya → Vyavaharika
2. Kantakashodhan Nyayalaya → Pradeshta

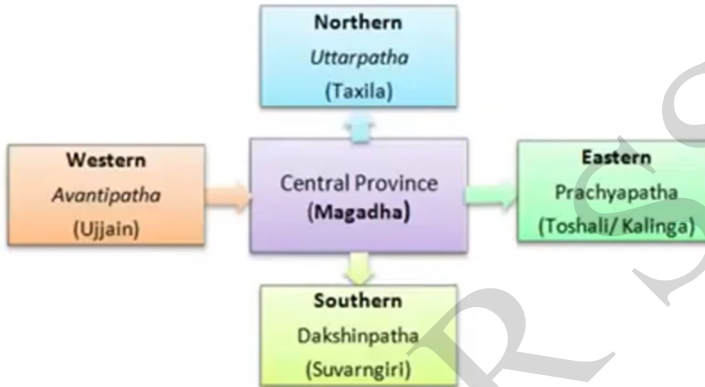
- **Gopa**: Responsible for account
- **Akshapatalik**: Accountant general
- **Nagarka**: responsible for city administration
- **Sitadhyaksha**: accounted for Agriculture
- **Samshtadhyaksha**: responsible for market
- **Navaadhyaksha**: accounted for ships
- **Shulkadhyaksha**: accounted for Toll Tax → To check if people are following concepts of Dhamma
- **Dhamma Mahamattas**: New post created by Ashoka

According to Megasthenes (as mentioned in Indica)

- Municipal admin: 6 committees/5 members each

- Army: of 6 committees/5 members each

Provincial Administration



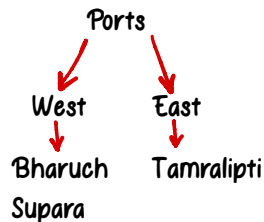
- Society: 4 varnas
- According to Indica
- > Society divided into: 7 varnas
- > No slavery

According to Arthashastra

- > Women occupied a high position
- > Part of Army

Economy

- Ashoka had lowered the tax values
- People didn't had to Bali (voluntary offering)





One Liners (MCQs)

- Name used for the Indian subcontinent by ancient travellers like Megasthenes, Fa Hein, Huey Tsang, Al Beruni, Ibn Batuta, etc for active contribution of Indian traders: Suvarna Bhoomi
- Dynasty that ruled from 320 AD-550 AD: Gupta Dynasty
- Name of Ashoka's daughter who carried out his duties of Buddhist missionary: Sanghamitra → In Ceylon
- "Kantakasodhana", type of court was present in: Mauryan Empire
- Ashokan inscriptions in 1877 was published by: Alexander Cunningham (Father of the Archaeology)
- First empire to use elephants in war on large scale: Magadha
- 'Atavika Rajya' referred to: Forest Kingdom
- Types of sacrifices performed in ancient India to establish a position: Vajapeya, Rajasuya, Ashwamedha
- Ceylonese chronicle that acted as an important literary source of the Mauryan Empire