

(C) Ashoka the Great (273–232 BCE)

Important Facts

- Father: Bindusara
- Capital: Pataliputra
- Governors before coronation: Ujjain & Taxila

Kalinga War (261 BCE)

- Massive destruction → Ashoka embraced Buddhism.

Graphic: Impact of Kalinga War

War → Mass Death → Regret → Dhamma Policy → Spread of Buddhism

4. Ashoka's Dhamma (Moral Code)

Principles

- Respect parents & elders
- Non-violence
- Religious tolerance
- Kindness to animals

Administration

- Dhamma Mahamatras appointed for moral propagation.
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5. Ashokan Edicts – Classification Graphic

Ashokan Edicts

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├— Rock Edicts (14 Major + Minor)

├— Pillar Edicts (7 Major)

└— Cave Inscriptions (3)

Languages & Scripts

- Prakrit (Brahmi)
- Kharoshthi

- Greek & Aramaic
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6. Provincial Administration

Graphic: Administrative Hierarchy

Empire



Province (Kumara / Aryaputra)



District (Pradeshta)



Village Group



Village (Gramani)

7. Central Administration (18 Tirthas)

Important Officers

- Prime Minister (Mantri)
- Treasurer
- सेनापति (Commander-in-Chief)
- Chief Justice
- City Administrator

Graphic: Power Structure

King

├— Council of Ministers

├— Military

├— Treasury

└— Judiciary

8. Mauryan Judicial System

Two Types of Courts

1. Civil Court – property disputes, contracts
 2. Criminal Court – state vs citizen cases
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9. Mauryan Society (Megasthenes' Division)

1. Philosophers
2. Farmers
3. Herdsmen
4. Artisans
5. Soldiers
6. Overseers
7. Councillors

Women's Status

- Divorce allowed
 - No Sati practice
 - Widow remarriage existed
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10. Trade & Economy

Major Ports

- West: Bharuch
- East: Tamralipti

Trade Routes

- Land & river routes
 - Active guilds: Shreni (guild), Nigama (traders)
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11. Mauryan Coins

Main Coin: Punch-marked silver coins (Pana)

Other coins: Gold, Copper

Symbols: Peacock, mountain, crescent

12. Kautilya's Saptanga Theory (7 Limbs of State)

State Element	Human Body Comparison
King	Head
Ministers	Eyes
Territory	Legs
Fort	Arms
Treasury	Mouth
Army	Mind
Allies	Ears

13. Mauryan Provinces (Ashoka Period)

1. Taxila (North-West)
2. Ujjain (West)
3. Suvarnagiri (South)
4. Pataliputra (East)
5. Tosali (Kalinga)

14. Importance of Mauryan Empire

- First large unified Indian empire
 - Strong central administration
 - Spread of Buddhism across Asia
 - Advanced governance & economy
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