

India During the Maurya Period

Chapter 7: India During the Maurya Period · Topic 1

Key Concept

The Maurya Empire was founded by Chandragupta Maurya around 321 BCE, eventually unifying most of the Indian subcontinent.

Chandragupta's advisor Kautilya (Chanakya) wrote the Arthashastra, a treatise on statecraft, economics, and military strategy.

Ashoka, Chandragupta's grandson, expanded the empire but later embraced Buddhism after the bloody Kalinga War, promoting peace and non-violence.

Ashoka's edicts, inscribed on pillars and rocks throughout the empire, promoted moral values and are important historical sources.

Quick Revision Notes

- Maurya Empire founded by Chandragupta, ~321 BCE.
- It unified most of Indian subcontinent.
- Kautilya (Chanakya) wrote the Arthashastra.
- It covers statecraft, economics, military strategy.
- Ashoka expanded the empire.
- He embraced Buddhism after Kalinga War.
- He promoted peace, non-violence after that.
- His edicts on pillars are historical sources.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research Chandragupta Maurya's rise to power.
- 2 Discuss the Arthashastra's significance.
- 3 Research the Kalinga War and its impact on Ashoka.
- 4 Discuss Ashoka's edicts and their messages.
- 5 Draw a timeline of the Maurya Empire.
- 6 Discuss why Ashoka is considered an important ruler.