

The Mauryan Empire

Chapter 4: The Mauryan Empire · Topic 1

Key Concept

Chandragupta Maurya, advised by Chanakya, unified much of the Indian subcontinent, establishing an efficient, centralised administration.

The empire had a well-organised bureaucracy, with the emperor supported by ministers, and a network of spies to maintain control and information.

Ashoka, Chandragupta's grandson, expanded the empire further but transformed after the bloody Kalinga War, embracing Buddhism and promoting non-violence.

Ashoka's edicts, inscribed on rocks and pillars, spread messages of morality and good governance, leaving a lasting legacy on Indian history.

Quick Revision Notes

- Chandragupta Maurya founded the Mauryan Empire around 321 BCE.
- Chanakya was his advisor.
- The empire had a centralised administration.
- It had ministers and a network of spies.
- Ashoka was Chandragupta's grandson.
- He transformed after the Kalinga War.
- He embraced Buddhism and non-violence.
- His edicts spread messages of morality.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research Chandragupta Maurya's achievements.
- 2 Discuss Chanakya's role as an advisor.
- 3 Research Ashoka's transformation after Kalinga.
- 4 Explain how the Mauryan Empire was administered.
- 5 Find an example of an Ashokan edict.
- 6 Create a timeline of the Mauryan Empire.