

The Rise of the Mauryan Empire

Chapter 5: The Rise of Empires · Topic 1

Key Concept

Chandragupta Maurya, guided by his advisor Chanakya (also known as Kautilya), unified much of the Indian subcontinent under Mauryan rule.

The Mauryan Empire had a well-organised administration, with the empire divided into provinces, each managed by governors reporting to the emperor.

Chandragupta's grandson, Ashoka, later expanded the empire further and became one of India's most famous rulers, known for his eventual embrace of Buddhism and non-violence.

The Mauryan Empire's administrative systems, trade networks, and cultural achievements had a lasting influence on later Indian history and governance.

Quick Revision Notes

- Chandragupta Maurya founded the Mauryan Empire around 321 BCE.
- Chanakya (Kautilya) was Chandragupta's advisor.
- The empire was divided into provinces with governors.
- Ashoka was Chandragupta's grandson.
- Ashoka expanded the empire and later embraced Buddhism.
- Ashoka became known for promoting non-violence.
- Mauryan administration was well-organised.
- The empire influenced later Indian history and governance.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research Chandragupta Maurya's rise to power.
- 2 Discuss Chanakya's role as an advisor.
- 3 Research Ashoka's transformation after a major war.
- 4 Explain how the Mauryan Empire was administered.
- 5 Discuss the Mauryan Empire's lasting influence.
- 6 Create a timeline of the Mauryan Empire's key rulers.