**ANCIENT HISTORY**

## ASHOKAN EDICTS

1. **Major Rock Edicts**
   - There are 14 Major Rock Edicts found from 8 places
   - The Language used is Prakrit and the script used is Kharosthi and Brahmi(Oldest form of Devnagiri)
   - Places where rock edicts were found are – Kalsi, Uttarakhand; Sopara, Maharashtra; Girnar, Gujarat; Yerragudi, Andhra Pradesh; Dhauli, Orissa; Jaugada, Orissa.
   - First edict – Ashoka gives the message of non-violence & not to waste money for useless social ceremonies.
   - Ninth edict – In this also Ashoka instructs his subjects not to waste money on social ceremonies.
   - Second edict – instructed his physicians to visit far fledged areas and cure people and animals and also to grow more plants.
   - Seventh edict – Ashoka gives the message of religious tolerance. This is also repeated in twelfth edict.
   - Thirteenth edict – Ashoka mentions the details of Kalinga War. Some western kings were also discussed in this. These are: Antiochus II Theos of Syria, Ptolemy II Philadelphos of Egypt, Magas of Cyrene, Alexander II of Epirus and Antigonus II Gonatas of Macedonia.

2. **Pillar Rock Edicts**
   - There are 11 pillars and these have been found in India and Nepal
   - Sites where these pillars have been found are: Inside Feroz Shah Kotla, Delhi (was orginally in Meerut); Delhi's Ridge, near Delhi University; Topra, Haryana (later shifted to Delhi); Allahabad, U.P (originally at Kosambi); Lauriya-Areraj, Bihar; Lauriya-Nandangarh, Bihar; Sankissa, Rampurva; Sarnath; Sanchi; Nilgriva.
   - We find the message of 'Dham' (Dharma) in these pillars.
   - These Ashokan pillars were all Sandstone pillars. The sandstone was brought from Chunar, UP.
   - These pillars are all Monolithic structures (built from a single rock). The capital part was carved from a different stone and mounted onto the pillar. These were usually animal figures.
   - The Lion Capital found in both Sanchi and Sarnath became our national emblem.
   - Other animals are Horse, Elephant and bull. Horse signifies Buddha leaving home on his horse – Kanthaka; Elephant is in reference to the dream that Buddha's mother had about conceiving a white elephant.
   - Bull refers to the zodiac sign of Buddha which was Tauras.
   - Dham is a Pali word. It is called Dharma in Sanskrit and means Established Social Order. It was only a Code of Conduct.
     Messages given by Ashoka in his Dham are:
       - Religious tolerance
       - Non-violence
       - Respect towards elders
   - To implement Dham, Ashoka appointed a new officer called Dhamma Mahamatra.

3. **Minor Rock Edicts**
   - These are inscribed on 15 rocks found in different parts of India. These are called minor rock edicts as the message

o Some places where Minor Rock Edicts were found are: Maski, Raichur district in Karnataka; Brahmagiri, Karnataka; Gujarra, Madhya Pradesh; Nettur, Andhra Pradesh
o Only at these four places Ashoka has used his name. In all other places he used his title – "Devanam Piyadasi"

**Mauryan Art**

It is categorized into:-
- Art which was patronized by the state
- Folk Art

> Sanchi Stupa
>> o It was built by King Ashoka
>> o It is near Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh
>> o It was made of mud, bricks and stone
>> o Central chamber of all stupas are generally with relics of Buddha or any other Buddhist monks
>> o The topmost part of a stupa in called 'Harmika'
> Pillar of Ashoka
>> o It was an important piece of Mauryan Art and was a monolith structure
>> o It was about 50 feet tall and weighed about 50 tonnes
> Folk Art
>> o The most important in folk art is pottery
>> o It is called "Northern Black Polished Ware"

| Buildings and Monuments are examples of State sponsored art |
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| Sculptures and pottery are examples of Folk art |

| Terracotta structures are one of the great contributions of Mauryans in the field of art. |
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| Ringwell is another important thing which developed during the Mauryan period. |

**Decline of Mauryan Empire**
> Ashoka was followed by weak kings which led to the downfall of the empire
> Brihadrata was the last ruler of Mauryan dynasty
> He was killed by the commander In chief of his guard Pusyamitra Sunga who then established the Sunga dynasty.
> The arrival of foreign rulers like the Indo-Greeks and others were also factors in decline
> Spread of knowledge and technology making several rulers less dependent on the Mauryan Empire was another major factor.

**POST MAURYAN PERIOD**

> 2$^{nd}$ century BC to 3$^{rd}$ century AD – 500 years
> This refers to the period after Mauryans and before Guptas
> Influx and influence of foreigners
>> o **Indo – Greeks** also known as Bactrians (Originally Greek by origin but settled in Bactria)
>>> - Demetrius was one of its first kings to attack India.
>>> - First to introduce gold coins and first to inscribe dates on coins
>>> - The concept of 7 days in a week was given by the Indo – Greeks
>>> - They developed structural art famously known as Gandhara School of Art. The others during this time were Mathura School of Art and Amaravati School of Art
>> o **Shakas,** also known as Scythians, were Central Asian tribe.
>>> - They regularly attacked South Asia and Southeast Asia

- These type of tribes were known in ancient times as barbarics
- One of their headquarters was Ujjain (MP)
- The Junagarh inscription in Gujarat which is attributed to King Rudradaman is the first ever inscription written in chaste Sanskrit

- o **Parthians**, also known as Pahlavas
    - They were basically Iranians and came to India in 1st century AD
    - Famous Parthian king was Gondaphernes

- o **Kushans**, also known as Yeuchi tribe
    - They came in 1st century AD and had their empire from western part of China to Afghanistan, Kashmir and all the way till Allahabad.
    - Peshawar and Mathura were their headquarters
    - Kujul Kadhphises, Vema Kadphises and Kanishka were their great kings who came to India.
    - Charaka, a great medical scientist is believed to have been in Kanishka's court. He wrote the first scientific book on medicine in India called Charaka Samhita.
    - They introduced the tradition of Devkul (worshipping the ancestors) and stirrups which made horse riding safer and more comfortable.
    - They introduced trousers, overcoats, leather shoes, hats etc.
- o **Satavahans**, also known as Andhras
    - This dynasty was founded by Simuka in 1st century BC
    - Other Famous kings are Pulomavi, Gautamiputra and Satakarni.
    - Official language was Prakrit.
    - According to archaeological sources, Satavahanas were the first in India to give land grants and they gave it to the priest class.
    - They introduced lead coins and promoted trade & commerce.

- ➢ **SANGAMA DYNASTY**
    - o The Sangama Dynasty was founded by Harihara I and Bukka
    - o Bukka's successor, Harihara II, continued Bukka's campaign through southern India and managed to take control of coastal Andhra between Nellore and Kalinga and conquer the Addanki and Srisailam areas as well as most of the territory between the peninsula to the south of the Krishna River.
    - o Harihara II also managed to conquer many Indian ports such as that of Goa, Chaul, and Dabhol.
    - o After Harihara II died the throne was in conflict between Virupaksha Raya, Bukka Raya II, and Deva Raya of which Deva Raya eventually would come out as victor.
    - o During his reign, Deva Raya managed to successfully control the vast amount of territory in the empire.
    - o The kings after Deva Raya on the other hand did not manage to do anything significant at all for the kingdom. This was until Deva Raya II, who would bring about the golden age of the Sangama Dynasty.

    **Tamil Sangams**
    - o The Tamil Sangams were assemblies of Tamil scholars and poets.
    - o The word sangam has its mention in the sense of an 'academy' in several Tamil literary works like Tevaram, Thiruvilayadal puranam, periyapuranam and Irayanar Ahaporul.

**ANCIENT HISTORY**

- o The earliest extant works of Tamil literature date back to the period between 300 BCE and 200 CE and deal with love, war, governance, trade and bereavement.
- o The literature of this period has been referred to as The Sangam literature and the period in which these works were composed is referred to as the Sangam period, alluding to the legends.
- o Although the term Sangam literature is applied to the corpus of the earliest known Tamil literature, the name Sangam and the legend were probably from a much later period.