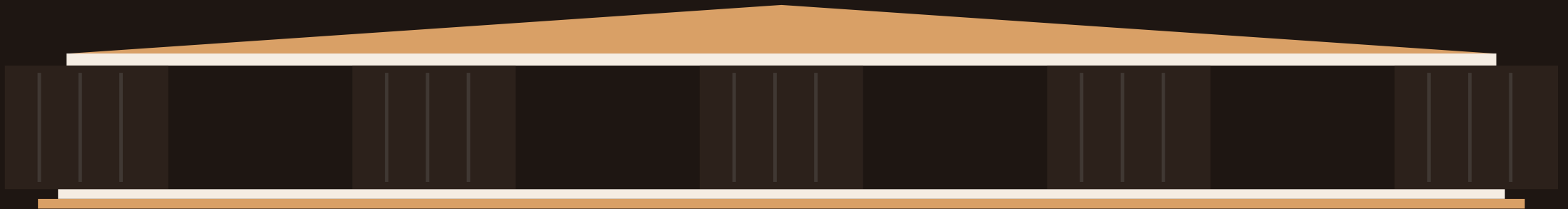


ANCIENT HISTORY

The Maurya Empire

Chandragupta, Ashoka and India's first great empire

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02 | Agenda

01

Introduction

02

Background

03

Events

04

Impact

INTRODUCTION

01



An empire across most of the
subcontinent, 2,300 years ago.

Why it matters

05 | Overview

- Founded by Chandragupta Maurya around 321 BCE
- Capital at Pataliputra (modern Patna)
- Ashoka spread a message of dhamma
- A strong administration and road network

REMEMBER

Much of what we know comes from inscriptions and visitors' accounts.

BACKGROUND

02

07 | Key dates

c. 321 BCE

Founding

Chandragupta takes power

c. 268 BCE

Ashoka

Becomes emperor

c. 261 BCE

Kalinga

A war that changed Ashoka

c. 185 BCE

End

The empire declines

08

The empire



Map / illustration

From Afghanistan to Bengal and the Deccan.

Royal roads linked Pataliputra to distant provinces. Ashoka's edicts were carved on rocks and pillars across the land.

09

Causes and conditions

01

Strong army

Infantry, cavalry and elephants.

02

Wise counsel

Advisers and planning.

03

Rich land

Fertile Ganga plains.

EVENTS

03

11

Who was involved



Photo

Chandragupta
FOUNDER

Built the empire through conquest.



Photo

Ashoka
EMPEROR

Turned to peace after Kalinga.



Photo

Officials
ADMINISTRATORS

Ran provinces and taxes.

12

Ashoka's dhamma

01

Kalinga

War and suffering

02

Change

Turn to non-violence

03

Edicts

Messages in stone

04

Spread

Missions abroad



All people are my children.

— From an edict attributed to Ashoka

14 | At a glance

Item	Detail
Capital	Pataliputra
Script of edicts	Mostly Brahmi
Symbol today	Lion Capital of Sarnath

Dates are approximate where historians differ.

IMPACT

04

16 | Before and after

Before

- ✓ Rival kingdoms
- ✓ Local rules
- ✓ Frequent wars

After

- One large empire
- Common administration
- A message of peace

01

National emblem

Lion Capital of Sarnath.

02

Ashoka Chakra

On our national flag.

03

Governance

Ideas of welfare and order.

18 | Discussion questions

- Why did Kalinga change Ashoka?
- How did edicts spread messages?
- What made the administration strong?
- Why is the Lion Capital our emblem?



Image



History lives on

Thank you for listening.

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