



# Mauryan Empire

## Quick Revision Notes for RRB Group D 2025

### Introduction

Feature	Details
Period	322 BCE - 185 BCE
Founder	Chandragupta Maurya (322 BCE)
Greatest Ruler	Ashoka
Last Ruler	Brihadratha (killed by Pushyamitra Shunga, 185 BCE)
Capital	Pataliputra (modern Patna)
Empire Spread	Almost whole of India except extreme South
Foreign Sources	Greek ambassador Megasthenes (wrote <i>Indica</i> )
Indian Sources	Arthashastra (Kautilya), Buddhist texts (Mahavamsa, Dipavamsa), Jain texts (Parishishtaparvan)

### Important Rulers and Contributions

Ruler	Period	Contribution
Chandragupta Maurya	322-298 BCE	Defeated Nanda dynasty, founded Mauryan Empire, defeated Seleucus (Greek ruler), established strong administration
Bindusara	298-273 BCE	Expanded empire, called <i>Amitraghata</i> (slayer of enemies), relations with Syrian king Antiochus I
Ashoka	273-232 BCE	Kalinga War (261 BCE), adopted Buddhism, spread Dhamma, issued rock and pillar edicts, sent missions abroad (Sri Lanka, Burma), considered greatest Mauryan ruler
Later Mauryas	232-185 BCE	Weak rulers, empire declined, last ruler Brihadratha killed by Pushyamitra Shunga



## Administration and Economy

Aspect	Details
Central Administration	King was supreme, assisted by council of ministers
Important Officials	Amatya (minister), Senapati (commander), Samaharta (finance), Sannidhata (treasury)
Revenue System	Land revenue was main source (1/6th of produce)
Army	Huge standing army- infantry, cavalry, elephants, chariots
Spy System	Well-organized, mentioned in <i>Arthashastra</i>
Economy	Agriculture, trade, crafts, mining
Currency	Punch-marked silver coins
Trade	Internal & external (with Sri Lanka, Burma, West Asia)

## Art, Architecture and Religion

Category	Features
Art & Architecture	Stone pillars (Ashoka's pillar at Sarnath), caves (Barabar Hills), stupas (Sanchi, Bharhut)
Script in Edicts	Brahmi (main), Kharosthi (north-west), Greek, Aramaic
Religion under Ashoka	Buddhism (after Kalinga war), Dhamma policy, tolerance towards all faiths
Ashoka's Symbol	Lion Capital at Sarnath (National Emblem of India)
Ashoka's Chakra	Dharma Chakra (on National Flag)

## Quick Facts and Exam Oriented Q&A

Question	Answer
Who founded the Mauryan Empire?	Chandragupta Maurya



Who wrote <i>Arthashastra</i> ?	Kautilya (Chanakya)
Who was the Greek ambassador at Chandragupta's court?	Megasthenes
What is the book written by Megasthenes?	<i>Indica</i>
Who was called <i>Amitraghata</i> ?	Bindusara
Who fought the Kalinga War?	Ashoka
What was Ashoka's capital?	Pataliputra
Which scripts were used in Ashokan edicts?	Brahmi, Kharosthi, Greek, Aramaic
National Emblem of India is taken from?	Lion Capital of Ashoka, Sarnath
Last Mauryan ruler?	Brihadratha

## Expected Questions for Exams

Question	Answer
Who was the founder of Mauryan Empire?	Chandragupta Maurya
Who guided Chandragupta Maurya in founding the empire?	Chanakya (Kautilya)
Who succeeded Chandragupta Maurya?	Bindusara
Who was the greatest ruler of Mauryan Empire?	Ashoka
Which war changed Ashoka's life?	Kalinga War (261 BCE)
Which foreign king did Chandragupta defeat?	Seleucus Nicator
Who was the last Mauryan ruler?	Brihadratha
Where is the Lion Capital located?	Sarnath
Which Mauryan ruler sent missionaries to Sri Lanka?	Ashoka
Which text gives details of Mauryan administration?	Arthashastra