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Mauryas (Dynasty) - Rock Edicts and Inscriptions

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Minor Rock Edicts

1. Kandhar Rock Inscription (Bilingual) : The written in Greek and Aramaic;
2. Barabar Cave inscription: Situated in a group of hills around the city of Rajagraha; mentions that king 'Piyadassi' gave these Banyan caves to Ajivikas; they are three in number;
3. Queen's Edict: Found in Allahabad – Kosambi: It refers to the queen Karuvaki, the mother of **Tivara**; she was the second queen; mentions donations to Mathas; **Tivara** was the only son mentioned in Edicts.
4. Bairat: Near Jaipur; identified with **Virata**, the capital of Matsya, a stupa has been discovered from here; Bhabra edict has also been found here;
5. Bhabra Edict: It was brought to Calcutta a Cunning-ham; it shows Asoka's reverence to Buddhism; it is addressed to the Sangha.
6. Lampaka: It is fragmented and is written in **Aramaic script**;
7. Maski: An inscription has been discovered from here, which mentions Ashoka as Piyadassi or Devanam, in 1915; this is the only inscription, which mentions Asoka as Piyadassi.
8. Sohgaura: Located in Gorakhpur district of U. P. ; copper plate inscription found here; famine and various measure taken by government have been mentioned;
9. Mahasthan: The pre-Asokan Mauryan inscription found; also a copper plate inscription found here; the mahamatta of Pundranagara in describes as being incharge.

Pillar Inscriptions

(Seven Pillar Edicts)

- **1st Pillar Edict:** social code has been mentioned;
- **2nd Pillar Edict:** Chakshudan (eye donation) has been mentioned; Chakshudan and Dhamma are equal to minimum sin; the definition of Dhamma has been mentioned; and the three main qualities have also been mentioned;
- **3rd Pillar Edict:** Here the soul and sin has been mentioned; it also mentions the bad qualities like envy, pride, anger and cruelty; the 14 major Edicts were started only after

these **iii** Pillar Edicts.

- **4th Pillar Edict:** the jurisdiction of the **Rajukas** has been mentioned; **Pulsanik** has been mentioned as Public Relation officer (PRO) ; in this pillar edict, Asokan inscriptions that “I devote my attention to all communities” is engraved.
- **5th Pillar Edict:** It too mentions about the prohibition to kill animals and burning the forests; Asoka acquits prisoners on his coronation anniversary;
- **6th Pillar Edict:** It mentions about the welfare of the people; it mentions that “the Dharmamahamattas will be with me” ; he began to issue Major Rock Edicts in his 13th regnal year;
- **7th Pillar Edict:** It also gives reference of the Dharma Mahamattas; it mentions that wells were dug. In the **8th regnal year**, only one Pillar was erected which was situated between Delhi and Topra.
- It also mentions the ways to propagate Dhamma i.e.. through legislation or persuasion.