

# **Study of the Classical Period (700BC-200BC)**

## **Geography and People**

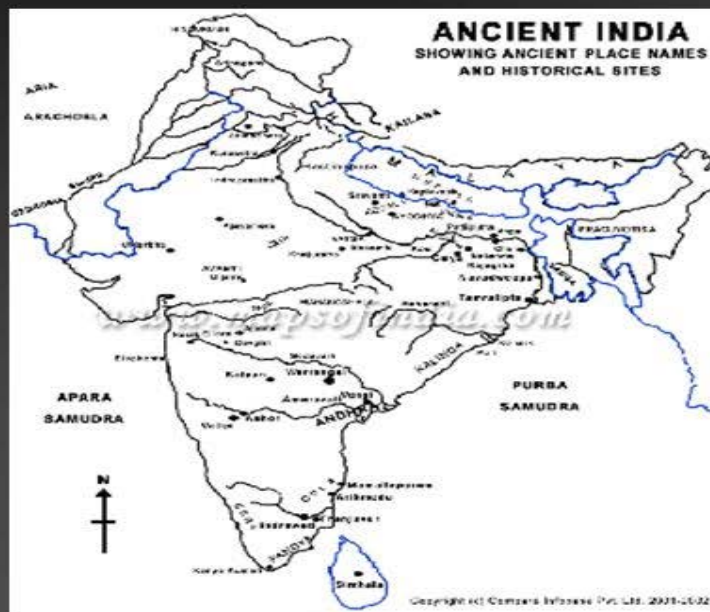
**Dr. Hemendra Acharya**

# SINDHU SARASVATI SITES



# VEDIC CIVILIZATION SITES

## Vedic Civilization: Technology and Economy



- 1. Use of Iron Tools.
- 2. Clearing of Forests in Indo- Gangetic Plain.
- 3. Beginning of Sedentary agrarian Civilization.
- 4. Rise of Urban Centers.

History of South Asia:  
Ancient India

Prof. Subho Basu

# TIMELINE BC

- 599 - 527 Mahavir
- 562 – 486 Buddha
- 544 - 322 Magadha Empire
- 327 - 326 Alexander's Invasion
- 322 – 182 Maurya Empire

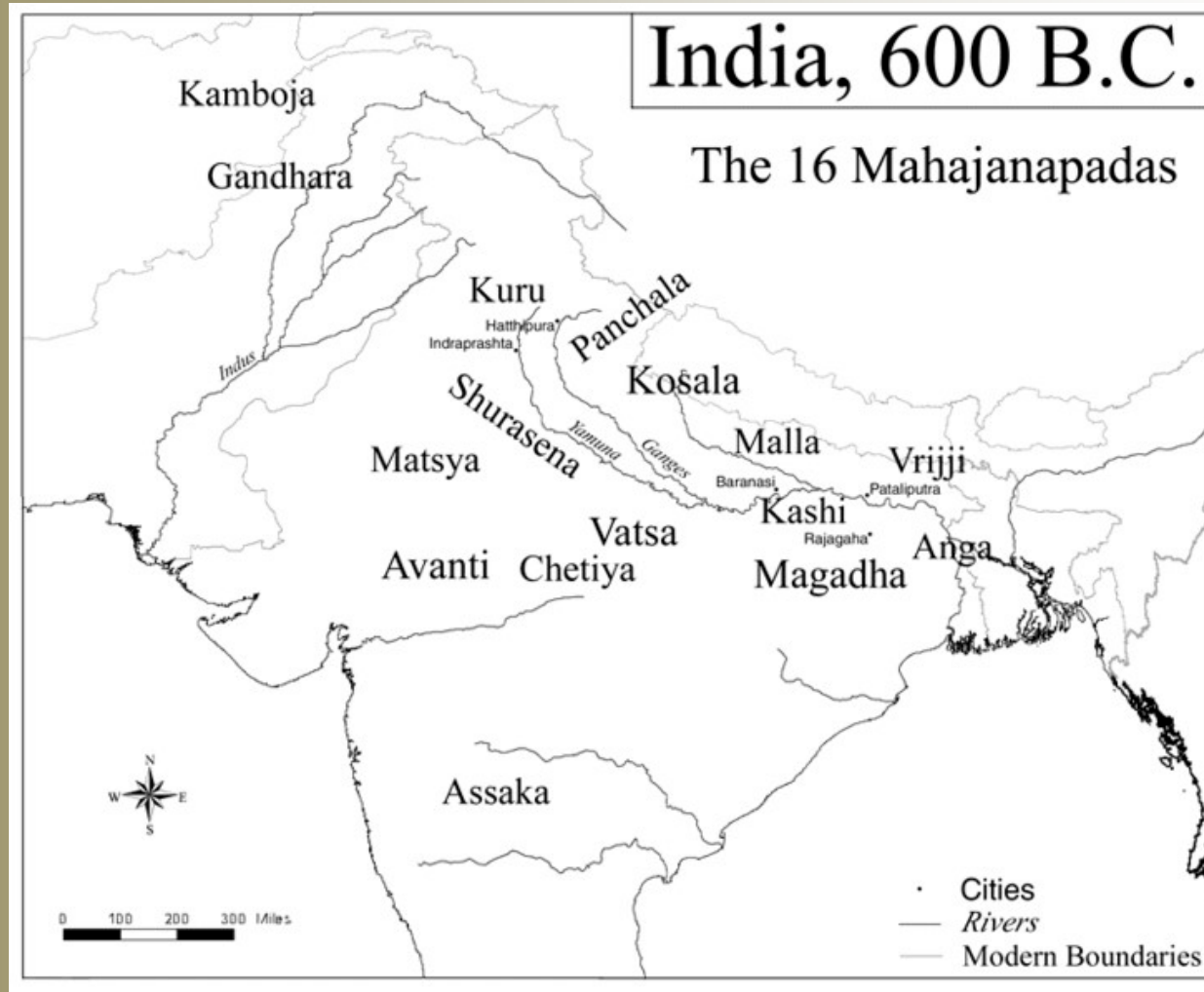


# INDIA IN 700 BC



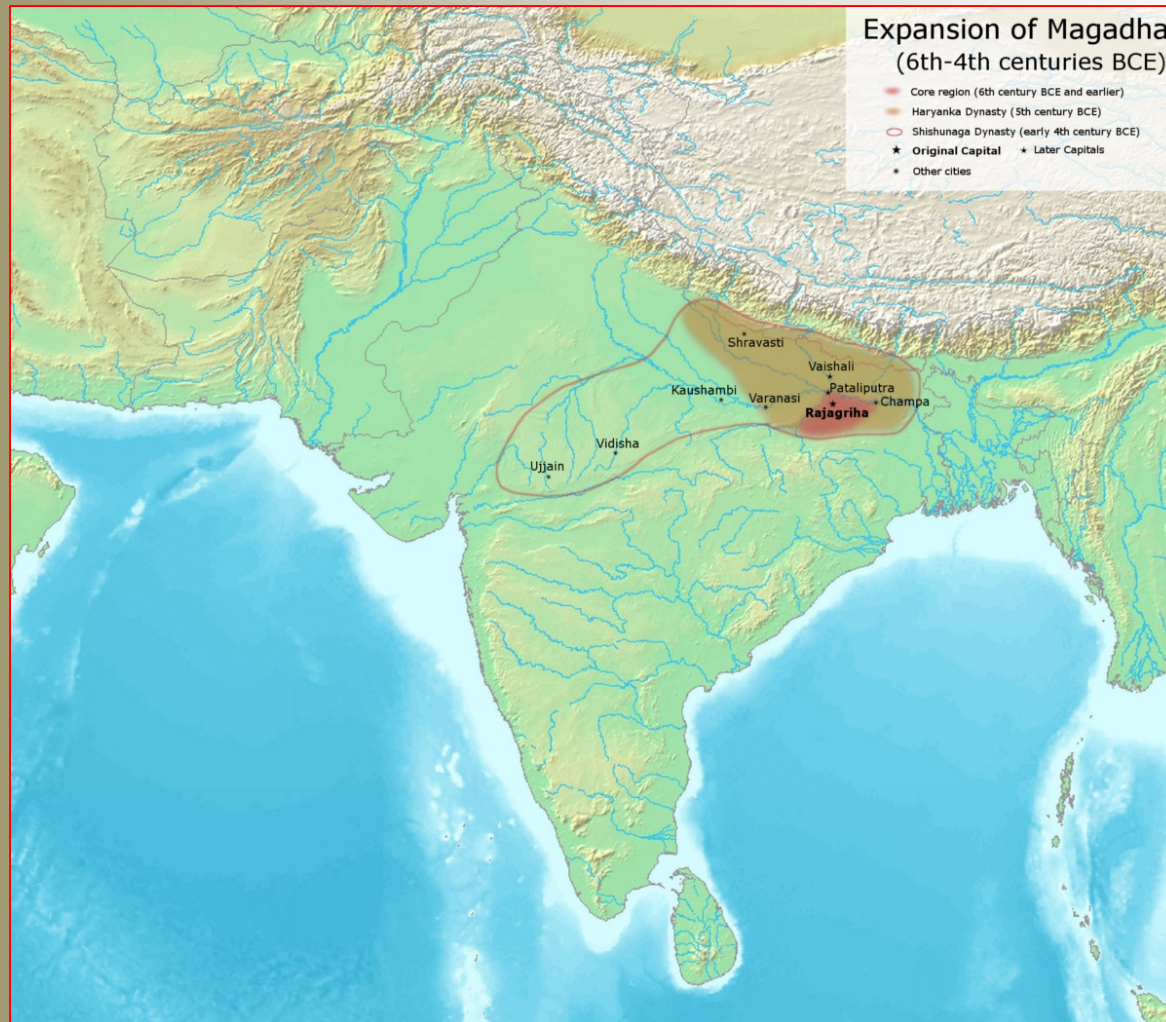
Classical period

# INDIA IN 600 BC





# INDIA IN 500 BC: MAGADHA EMPIRE

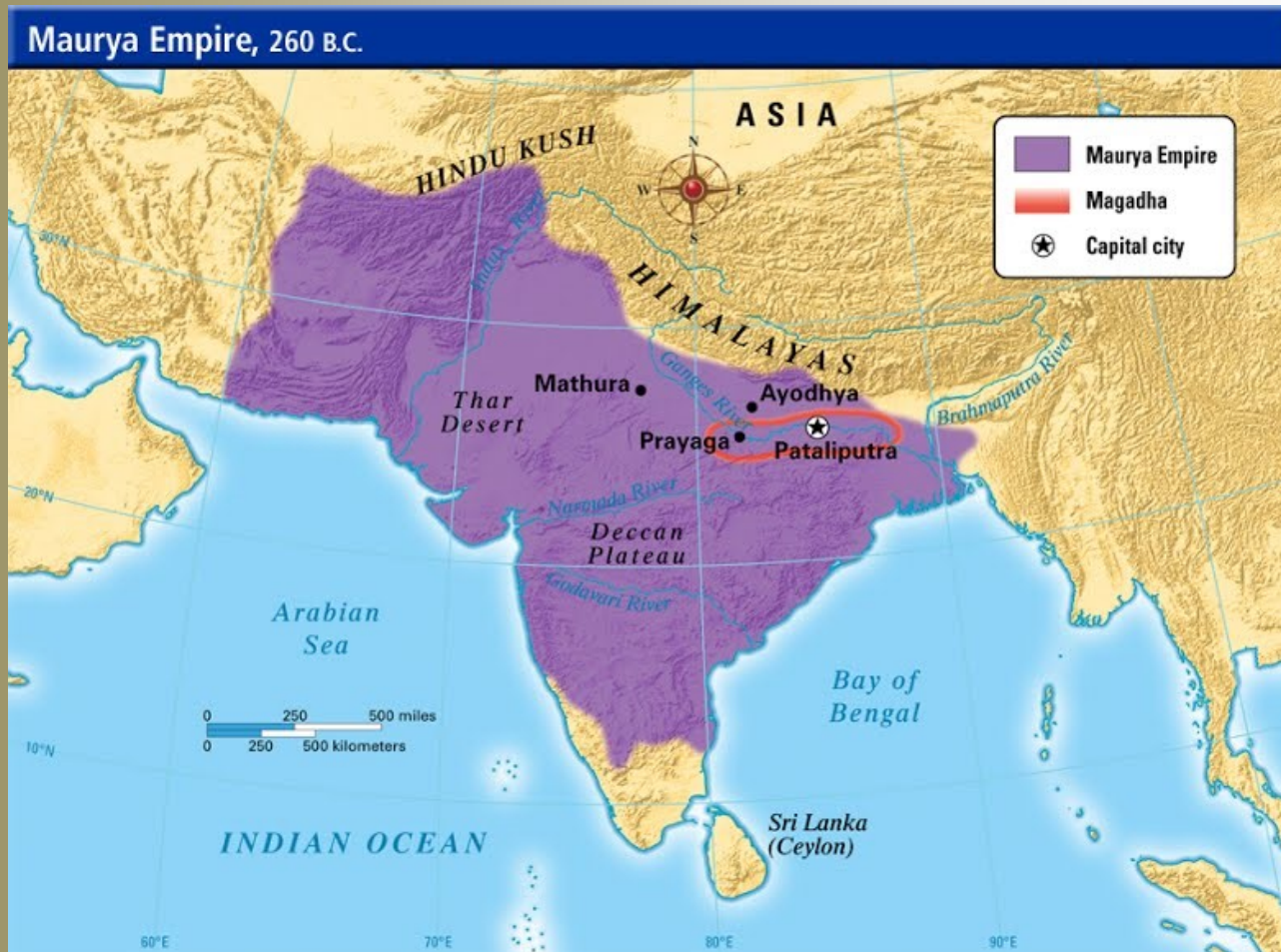


# ALEXANDER'S INVASION 326 BC





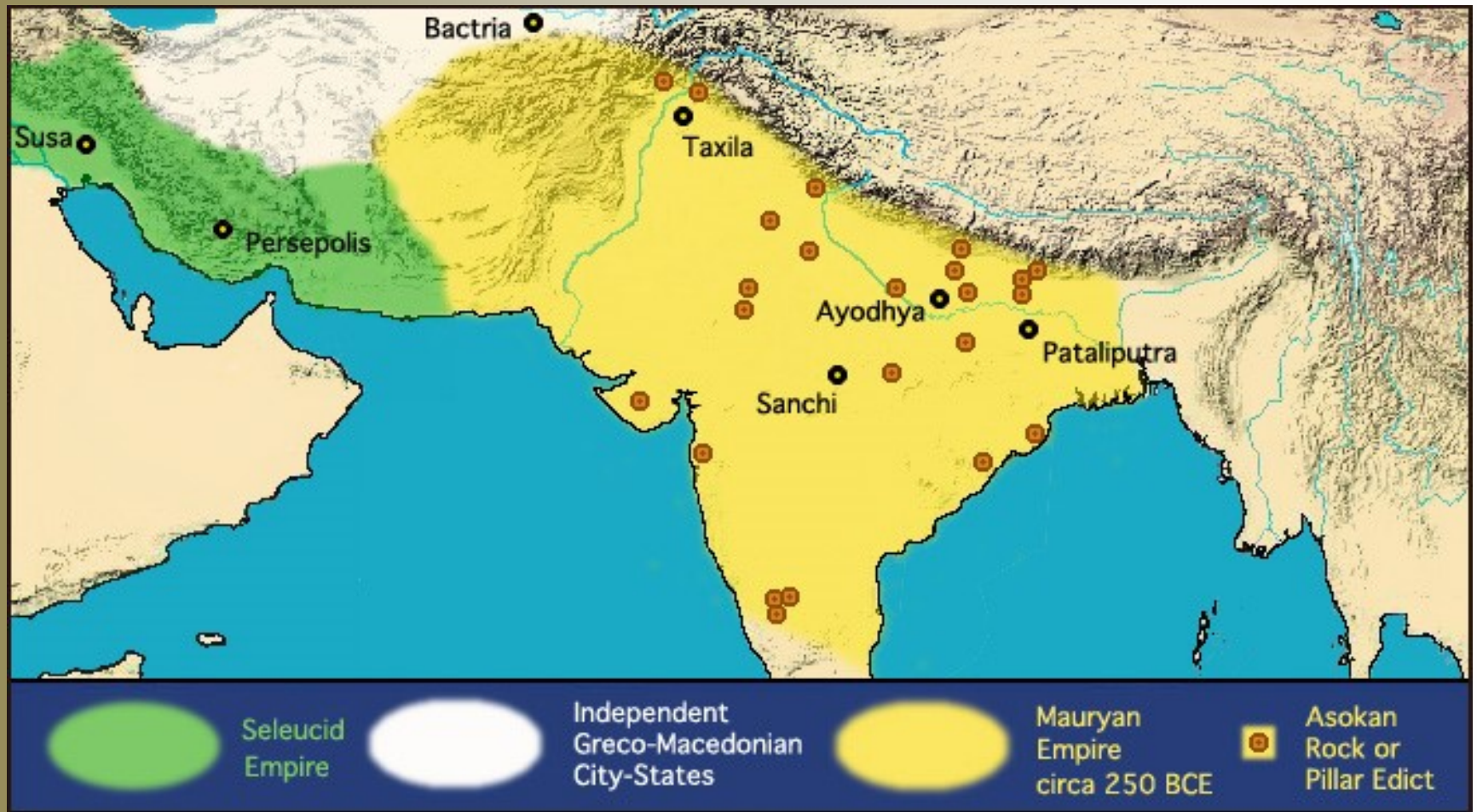
# MAURYA EMPIRE (322-182 BC)



# HIGHLIGHTS OF MAURYA / ASHOKA'S RULE

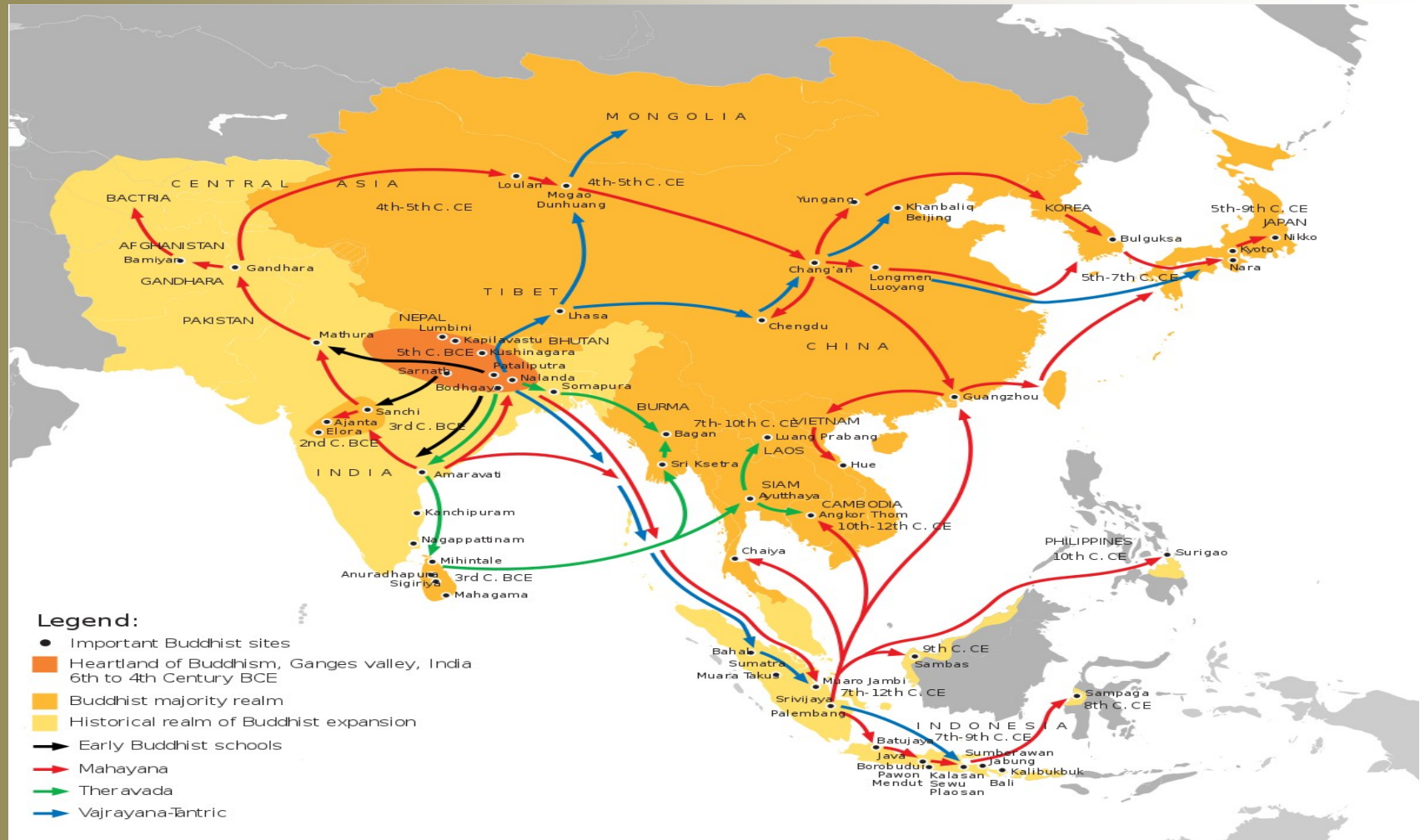
- Peace And Prosperity
- One Cultural Unit
- Religious Tolerance
- State Control Of Economy
- Decentralized Administration
- Written Record Of Policies

# ASHOKA'S ROCK EDICTS





# BUDDHIST MISSIONARY ROUTES





# RESOURCES

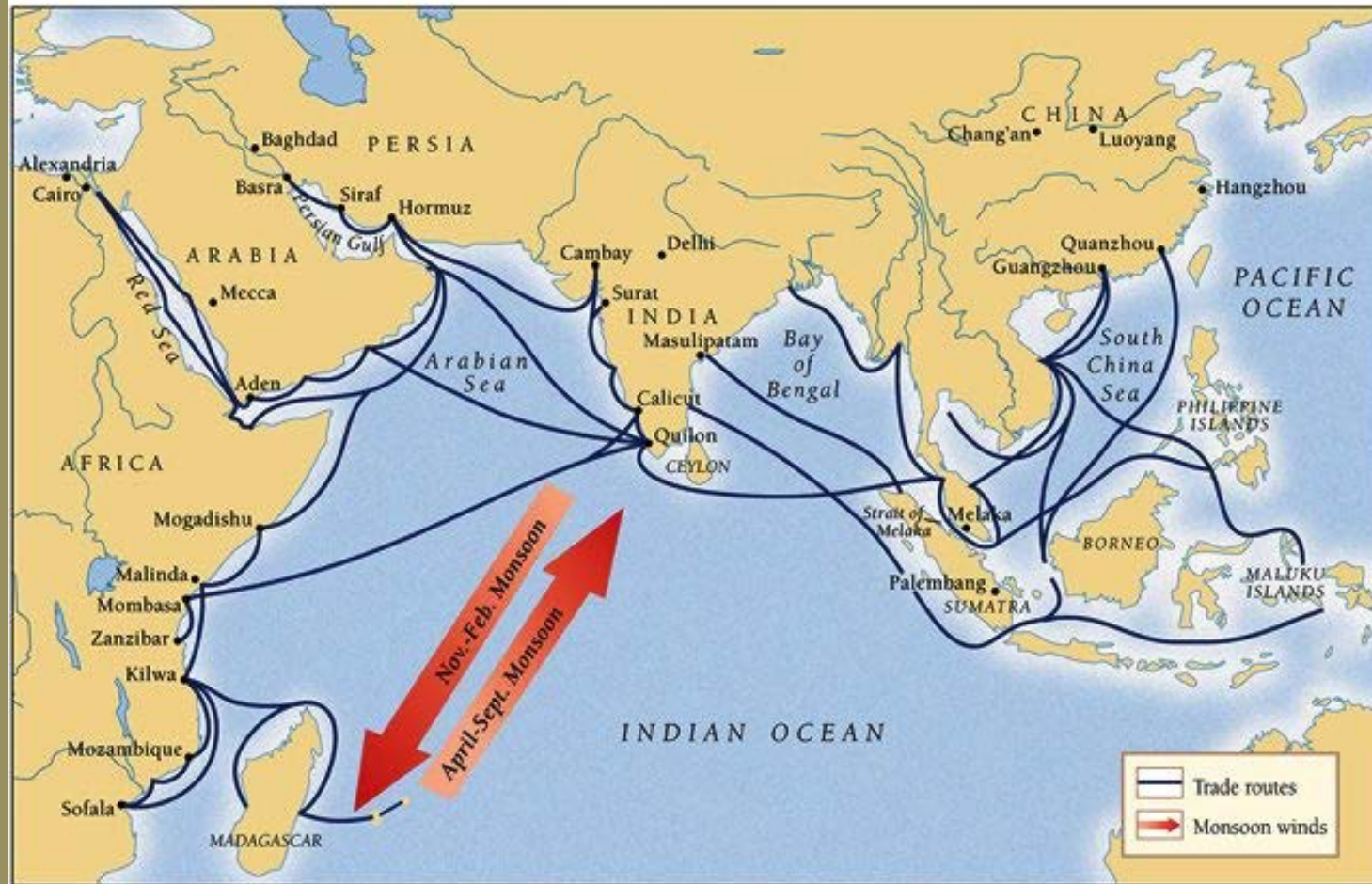
- Forests – Types & Regulations
- Minerals – Mining
- Metal Centers
- Network Of Roads & Canals

# MARITIME EXPANSION

- Trade With Arabs & Greece
- Ports On West Coast
- Ports In Tamil Land
- River Ports - Trade & Transport

# MARITIME EXPANSION

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# PEOPLE

- Religion
- Art & Literature
- Cities
- Economic Condition
- Social Condition
- Laws
- Advances In Sciences



# EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Education was treated as a condition for growth, and a process of life.
- The first educational ceremony was *vidyarambha*, performed by 5-year old pupils by learning the alphabets and offering obeisance to the appropriate deities. According to Kautilya, the pupil at *Vidyarambha* was also introduced to writing and numbers or arithmetic.
- Next was *Upanayana ceremony*, marking the turning points in the pupil's life.
- The art of writing was fully developed. The oldest alphabet, known as Brahmi, is employed in the majority of Ashoka's records, and the various scripts used today all over India are derived from it. The Aramaic script was introduced into Punjab by its Achaemenian conquerors but was only confined to NW India.
- The vast literature that we have from the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, and the extensive use of writing for administrative purposes in Ashoka's time, show that books were extensively used during this period.

# EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Subjects of study included the entire Vedic literature, Dharma-shastras or Smritis, Itihas, Purana, economics and allied subjects, and politics. The Kautilya Arthshastra refers to these as important subjects.
- There were numerous hermitages where pupils from distant parts of the country gathered for instructions around far-famed teachers.
- As a center of education Takshashila attracted students from near and far, even from Greece. Takshashila offered the highest level of education in the humanities and the sciences, arts and crafts. It had special schools of Law, Medicine and Military Science, and also offered courses in hunting, archery and life.
- Jatakas tell of Kashi as another center of learning.

# BELIEF SYSTEM

- Transmigration & Reincarnation of the Soul
- Karma
- Nature Worship
- Respect For Animals & Vegetarianism
- Divinity Of the Soul
- Avatar or Incarnation.

# RELIGIOUS GROUPS

- Growth Of Buddhism & Jainism
- Development Of Vaishnavism & Shaivism
- Introduction Of Image Worship



# VILLAGE ORGANIZATION

- Self Contained Unit
- Panchayat Administration

# SOCIAL INTERACTION

- *Varnasrama* System
- Conduct In Life
- Respect For Elderly and for Women
- Help For Sick & Needy
- Identification With Community
- Freedom Of Thought & Expression

# **SOCIAL INTERACTION** (Continued)

- Women's Education & Scholars
- Marriage Rules
- Marriage Types
- Inheritance
- Social Identity Key To Survival
- Ardhangini – Ardhanariswara
- Women worshipped as Shakti

# GREAT PERSONALITIES

- Panini, Kautilya, Charaka, Sushruta, Bharata
- Gautama, Kanada, Kapila, Patanjali (yoga), Jaimini, Yajnavalkya
- Bimbisara, Chandragupta & Ashoka
- The Buddha, Mahavir



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- Religious Challenges & Upheaval – Growth Of Buddhism & Jainism
- Political Consolidation & Empire Building – Magadha Empire
- Foreign Invasion – Alexander
- Establishment Of Maurya Emppire
- Ashok The Great & Spread Of Buddhism
- Integrated Culture

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- Peace & Stability During Maurya Empire
- Writing Introduced
- Upanishads & Smritis Developed
- Advances In Grammar, Medicine & Irrigation
- Increase In Internal and External Trade, Commerce
- Development of Panini's Grammar
- Chanakya's Arthashastra Treatise

# REFERENCES

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- India As Seen By Panini – PhD Thesis By D.N.Aggrawal, Delhi University, 1952
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- Ancient Geography Of India, By Alexander Cunningham