

Ashokan Edicts: There are 14 Major Rock Edicts, 7 Major Pillar Edicts, 3 Minor Rock Edicts, 3 Minor Pillar Edicts and 3 Cave Edicts located at various places in the Indian Subcontinent. They were deciphered by James Prinsep of the English East India Company in 1837. Majority of them are in the nature of Ashoka's proclamations to the public at large. Though Prakrit is the language used in them, the script varied from region to region (Kharoshti in the north-west, Greek and Aramaic in the west and Brahmi in the rest of India).

Other Inscriptions

1. Junagarh rock inscription of Rudradaman-I informs us that the famous Sudarsana lake was constructed by Pushyagupta, the brother-in-law and governor of Chandragupta Maurya at the orders of the latter.
2. Sohagura and Mahasthan inscriptions which probably belonged to Chandragupta Maurya's reign deal with famine relief measures.
3. Nagarjuna hill cave inscription of Dasaratha talks about the dedication of caves to Ajivikas.

D. POST – MAURYAN PERIOD (2ND CENTURY B.C. TO 3RD CENTURY A.D.)

Inscriptions

1. Junagarh rock inscription of Saka ruler of Ujjain Rudradaman-I dated 150 AD describes the achievements of Rudradaman-I. This is the earliest inscription in chaste Sanskrit. This is the earliest epigraphic evidence of vishti or forced labour. This inscription informs us that Sudarsana lake was constructed by Pushyagupta at the orders of Chandragupta Maurya. Canals were taken out of this lake by Tusaspa, the provincial governor during Ashoka's time. This lake was repaired during the time of Rudradaman-I. Later, it seems that the lake was further repaired by Parnadatta during the times of the Gupta ruler Skandagupta.
2. A number of inscriptions have been found at Nasik associated with Satavahana rulers of Deccan. These inscriptions give us the territorial extent of the Satavahana Kingdom, the religious beliefs and practices of the Satavahanas and the economic activities during the period. They also provide us idea about the Saka-Satavahana conflict.
3. Besnagar pillar inscription from Vidisha talks about the pillar constructed by Heliodorus, an ambassador of Indo-Greek king of Taxila called Antialcides to the court of Sunga ruler of Vidisa, Kasiputra Bhagabhadra also called as Bhagavata. The inscription is recorded in honour of god of gods Vasudeva.
4. Hathigumpā inscription in Prakrit in Udayagiri hills of Orissa records the achievements of Kharavela of Kalinga, a Chedi ruler.
5. Sarnath inscription highlights the achievements of Kanishka, the Kushana ruler.
6. Tamil Brahmi inscriptions have been found from South India. They are about 72 in number and are found from pottery pieces and from caves. Such inscriptions from caves are known as Damili inscriptions.

Coins

1. With the coming of Indo-Greeks, gold coins were issued for the first time in Indian history. Casted and moulded coins were also issued for the first time. The casted and moulded coins had inscription and images of gods and kings.
2. Sakas issued no gold coins. They mostly issued copper coins and rarely silver coins.
3. Parthians (Pahlavas) issued no gold coins. They mostly issued copper coins and rarely silver coins.