



Inscriptions and Rock Edicts

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INSCRIPTIONS AND ROCK EDICTS



Sohgaura Copper Plate

- ↳ Location - Sohgaura, Gorakhpur (UP)
- ↳ Mentions - Famine relief efforts
- ↳ Language - Prakrit*
- ↳ Features - **Mauryan dynasty**
 - Earliest-known copper plate
 - (Rare) **Pre-Ashokan Brahmi inscription**

Ashokan Edicts

- ↳ Location - Eastern India
- ↳ Mentions - Ashoka's view of Dharma (Buddhist philosophy)
- ↳ Language - Magadhi Prakrit*
- ↳ Features - 33 inscriptions (pillar edicts, Major rock edicts, Minor rock inscriptions)
 - **1st tangible evidence of Buddhism**
 - Ashoka as **Devanampiyadasi** "Beloved servant of the God"

Rummindei Pillar Edicts

- ↳ Location - Lumbini, Nepal
- ↳ Mentions - Ashoka's visit to Lumbini and tax exemptions he made there
- ↳ Script - Brahmi
- ↳ Features - Minor pillar inscriptions

Prayag-Prashasti (Allahabad Pillar)

- ↳ Location - Allahabad Fort (earlier Kaushambi)
- ↳ Mentions - Ashoka Stambh but with 4 different inscriptions
- ↳ Script - Brahmi
- ↳ 4 Inscriptions include -
 - Usual Ashokan Inscriptions
 - Queen's Kaurwaki edict
 - Samudragupta's conquests by Harisena
 - Jahangir's inscriptions in Persian

Mehrauli Inscription (Mehrauli Iron Pillar)

- ↳ Location - Qutub Minar complex, Delhi
- ↳ Mentions - Credits **Chandragupta II** for the conquest of Vakatakas and Vanga countries
- ↳ Script - Brahmi
- ↳ Features - **Gupta dynasty**
 - Pillar estd by Chandragupta II as **Vishnupada** (in honor of Lord Vishnu)
 - Notable for rust-resistant metal composition

Kalsi Inscription

- ↳ Location - Kalsi town (Uttarakhand)
- ↳ Mentions - Ashoka's humane approach in administration, non-violence, spirituality
- ↳ Language - Prakrit*
- ↳ Features - Only place in north India to have 14 Ashokan rock edicts

Maski Inscription

- ↳ Location - Maski (an archaeological site in Karnataka)
- ↳ Mentions - Dharma shaṣana (promotes Buddhist tenets)
- ↳ Language - Prakrit*
- ↳ Features - 1st edict to contain Ashoka's name instead of Piyadasi.

Kalinga Edicts

- ↳ Location - Kalinga, Odisha
- ↳ Mentions - Kalinga war turning point for Ashoka
- ↳ Language - Magadhi Prakrita, Script - Brahmi
- ↳ Features - Set of 11 out of 14 rock edicts
 - 2 special rock edicts signifying pacification
 - Ashoka gave up **Digvijaya**, adopted non-violence & Buddhism.

Aihole Inscription

- ↳ Location - Meguti temple, Karnataka
- ↳ Mentions - **Pulakeshin II** defeated Harshavardhana
- ↳ Language - Sanskrit; Script - Kannada
- ↳ Features - Chalukya victory → Pallavas
 - Capital: **Aihole** → **Badami**
 - Written by Ravikirti (Pulakeshin II's court poet)
 - Samudragupta's conquests by Harisena

AIHOLE WAS THE FIRST CAPITAL OF CHALUKYAS

Hathigumpha Inscription (Elephant Cave Inscription)

- ↳ Location - Udaygiri-Khandgiri Caves, Odisha
- ↳ Mentions - History of King Kharvela - a champion of Jainism
- ↳ Language - Prakrit*
- ↳ Features - **Mahameghavahana dynasty**

NOTE: *implies that wherever language is Prakrit, the script is Brahmi

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/inscriptions-and-rock-edicts>

