



**Inscriptions and Rock Edicts**





# INSCRIPTIONS AND ROCK EDICTS



## Sohgaura Copper Plate

- Location - Sohgauna, 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)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> **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 - 1<sup>st</sup> edict to contain Ashoka's name instead of Piyadasi.

## Kalinga Edicts

- Location - Kalinga, Odisha
- Mentions - Kalinga war turning point for Ashoka
- Language - Magadhi Prakrit, 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



Drishti IAS

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