

A Layout of Major Ashokan Inscriptions

Edict	Ashoka Inscription Details
Major Rock Edict I	Prohibition of animal sacrifice, especially during festive seasons.
Major Rock Edict II	Medical treatment of humans and animals, planting of fruits, medicinal herbs and the digging of wells. Mentions the Pandyas, Satyapuras and Keralaputras of South India.
Major Rock Edict III	Generosity to Brahmins. About Yuktas, Pradeshikas and Rajukas who would go every five years to different parts of his empire to spread Dhamma.
Major Rock Edict IV	Dhammaghosha (sound of Dhamma/righteousness) over Bherighosha (sound of war). The King Ashoka attached greatest value to his duty.
Major Rock Edict V	About Dhammamahamatras. Talks about treating slaves right. A special cadre of officials, Dhamma Gosha were appointed and entrusted with the duty of spreading Dhamma within the kingdom.
Major Rock Edict VI	King's desire to know about his people's conditions. About welfare measures.
Major Rock Edict VII	Tolerance towards religions among all sects and welfare measures for the public in his as well as his neighbouring kingdoms.
Major Rock Edict VIII	Ashoka's first visit to Bodh Gaya and the Bodhi tree (his first Dhamma Yatra). Gave importance to Dhamma tours.
Major Rock Edict IX	Condemns popular ceremonies. Stresses on moral conduct.
Major Rock Edict X	Disapproves of the individual's desire for fame and glory and stresses on Dhamma.

Major Rock Edict XI	Dhamma is the best policy to follow, which includes respect for elders and concern for slaves and servants.
Major Rock Edict XII	It mentions Mahamattas in charge of women's welfare, Ithijika Mahamatta and tolerance towards the dhamma of others.
Major Rock Edict XIII	Mentions victory over Kalinga. Mentions Ashoka's Dhamma victory over Greek Kings Antiochus of Syria (Amtiyoko), Ptolemy of Egypt (Turamaye), Magas of Cyrene (Maka), Antigonus of Macedon (Amtikini), Alexander of Epirus (Alikasudaro). Also mentions Pandyas, Cholas, etc. The thirteenth rock edict which was issued at the end of the Kalinga war gives a vivid picture of the change of Ashoka from an aggressive and violent warrior to a great lover and preacher of peace. The direct and immediate effect of the Kalinga war was the conversion of Ashoka to Buddhism.
Major Rock Edict XIV	Purpose of rock edicts.

Minor Rock Edicts

- Minor rock edicts are found on 15 rocks across the country and in Afghanistan also.
- Ashoka uses his name only in four of these places namely:
 1. Maski,
 2. Brahmagiri (Karnataka),
 3. Gujjara (MP) and
 4. Nettur (AP).

Edict	Ashoka Inscription Details
Pillar Edict I	Ashoka's principle of protecting his people.
Pillar Edict II	Defines Dhamma as minimum of sins, many virtues, compassion, liberty, truthfulness and purity.
Pillar Edict III	Avoiding practices of cruelty, sin, harshness, pride and anger among his subjects.

Pillar Edict IV	Responsibilities of the Rajukas.
Pillar Edict V	List of animals and birds that should not be killed on certain days. Another list mentions animals that should never be killed. Describes release of 25 prisoners. This pillar edict is also known as Delhi-Topra Pillar Edict .
Pillar Edict VI	Dhamma policy of the State (welfare of the people).
Pillar Edict VII	Ashoka's work for fulfilling Dhamma. Tolerance for all sects. Also, about Dhamma Mahamattas.

Also, in addition to one long inscription, 145 short inscriptions were discovered from the excavations site at Kanganahalli, dating between 1st century BCE to 1st century CE. The very important discovery was the sculpture of Maurya emperor Ashoka with the label "Rayo Asoka". Kanaganahalli in Karnataka is the site with an inscription in Brahmi script reading "Ranyo Ashoka" (King Ashoka) and a sculpture of King Ashoka.