

One Shot

The Rise of Empires

CLASS 7th

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TOPICS TO BE COVERED



- Empire

Empire



- The word '**empire**' comes from the Latin 'imperium', which means 'Supreme Power'.
- Simply put, an empire is a collection of smaller kingdoms or territories over which a powerful ruler or group of rulers exert power, often after waging war against the smaller kingdoms.
- The smaller territories still had their own rulers, but they were all tributaries to the emperor, who ruled the whole territory from a capital, usually a major centre of economic and administrative power





- In ancient Sanskrit, the words used for Emperor were-
- **Samraj** → Lord of all
- **Adhiraja** → Overload
- **Rajadhiraj** → King of Kings



Features of an empire

Infrastructure

Maintains communication and transportation networks.

Military Strength

Maintains control and protection through a powerful army.



Cultural Promotion

Encourages arts, literature, and education.

Administration

Manages territories and ensures law and order.

Resource Management

Controls access to essential resources.

Legal and Economic Control

Regulates laws, currency, and trade.





Kisko Emperor banna hai



**Mai...merko sab ata hai...
Mai expert hu**

Empire



- **Trained armies were deployed to conquer neighboring kingdoms, maintain control over them and defend the empire's borders.**



Empire



- **Fortified** settlements would be built in strategic places, **such** as the empire's borders.



Empire



To expand into an empire, a kingdom might first wage war against neighbouring territories so as to conquer them.



Empire



Rulers endeavoured to control rivers and trade networks as that would give them control over precious resources, apart from tax revenue from the trade.



Empire



With many smaller kingdoms warring for control, the one with access to stronger military power and surplus resources would eventually become the overlord.





bhai paisa ho to kya kuch nai ho sakta



Empire me Paisa kaha se aata hai?



Production

Trade

Therefore, establishing and controlling trade routes all over the empire's territory and beyond is of great importance.

That way, the goods traded will grow in quantity and variety, and more trade means more income for the producers and
Increased tax collections for the ruler

***Returning to the case of ancient India,
what would have been the traded goods?***

***Textiles, spices, agricultural produce, gems, handicrafts,
and animals. Indian goods were actively traded both within
the country and with distant lands via land and sea routes***

- More often than not, traders were not just isolated individuals carrying out their own business.
- They soon understood the benefits of joining forces and creating guilds (shrenis). *group*
- Guilds were powerful associations of traders, craftsmen, moneylenders or agriculturists.
- As far as evidence shows, a guild had a head (who was usually elected) and executive officers who were supposed to have all kinds of ethical qualities.

Two remarkable features of traders' guilds

Collaborated by sharing
resources and information

People ended up as
collaborators rather than
competitors, as they
realised cooperation was
beneficial

Had autonomy to lay down
their own rules

Guilds could create internal
rules without interference
from the king



Fig. Some important trade routes from about 500 BCE onward and major cities marked on them. Notice the Uttarapatha and the Dakshinapatha routes.

LEGEND

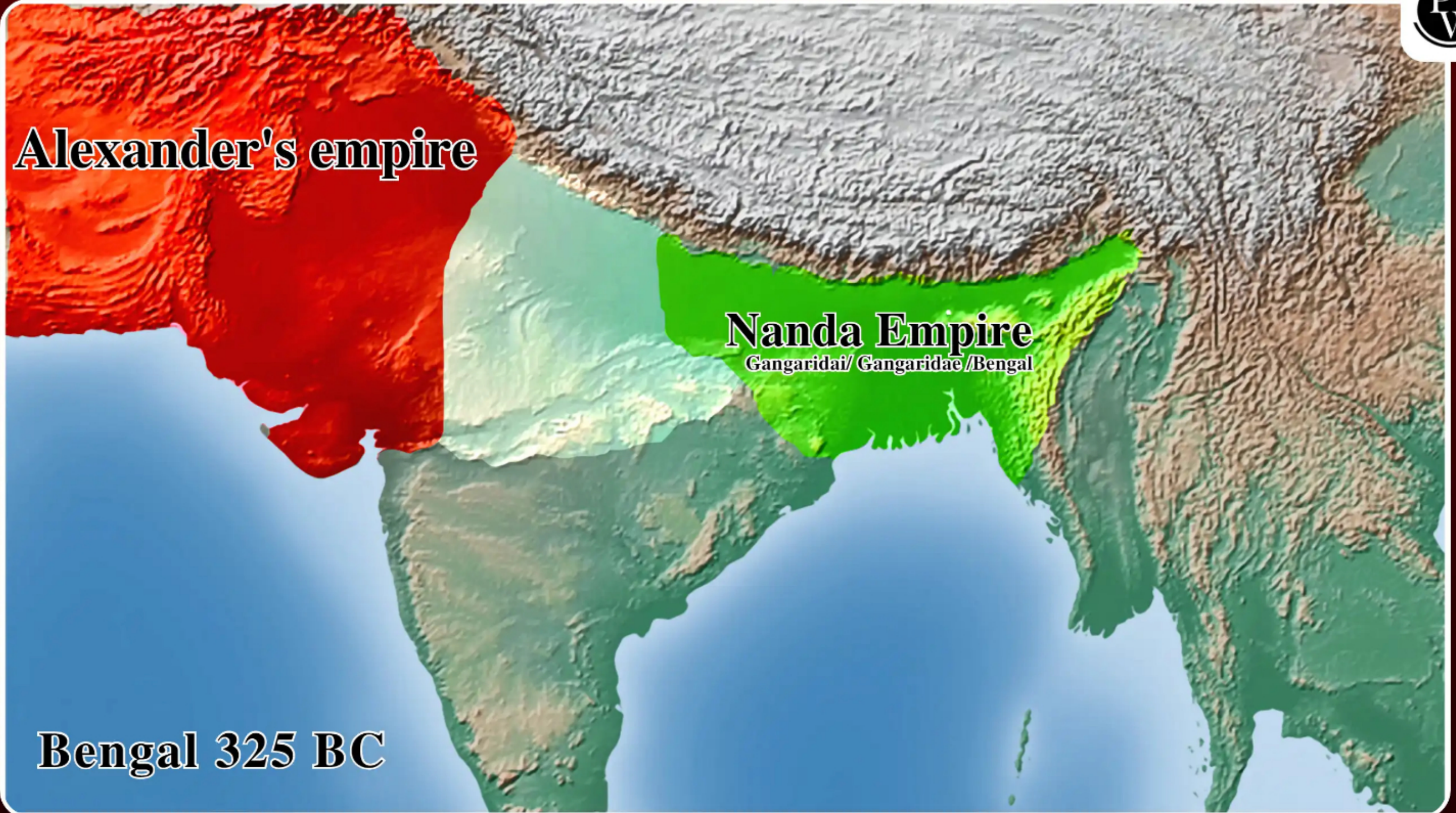
- Important Cities
- Uttarapatha
- Dakshinapatha
- Other Routes

- The institution of guilds provides an excellent example of the **self-organising abilities** of Indian society.
- The ancient village unit, with its various committees and councils, provides another.
- Indeed, an enlightened ruler would let people organise themselves and refrain from interfering if the local institutions worked satisfactorily

Alexander's empire

Nanda Empire
Gangaridai/ Gangaridae /Bengal

Bengal 325 BC



The Magadha Empire

Ajatashatru, played a crucial role in establishing Magadha as a dominant centre of power.

Magadha, located in the eastern part of India (modern-day Bihar), was a key power due to its geographical advantages near the Ganges River and natural resources.



SPECIALITIES OF MAGADHA



Two of the most famed religious figures of the world-**Siddhartha Gautama**, who became known as the Buddha, and **Vardhamana**, better known as Mahavira lived in the time of King Ajātāshatru.

Magadha was located in the resource-rich Ganga plains, with fertile land, abundant forests for timber, and elephants.



THE IMPORTANCE OF MAGADHA



1. INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE



2. LIGHTER AND SHARPER IRON WEAPONS



THE IMPORTANCE OF MAGADHA

**3. SURPLUS FOOD GRAINS ALLOWED MORE PEOPLE TO FOCUS ON THE ARTS AND CRAFTS
AID CONTRIBUTED TO MAGADHA'S**



**4. THE GANGA AND SON RIVERS PROVIDED
GEOGRAPHICAL ADVANTAGE FOR TRADE
THE FLOURISHING TRADE BOOSTED THE
EMPIRE'S INCOME AND CONTRIBUTED TO
MAGADHA'S RISE**



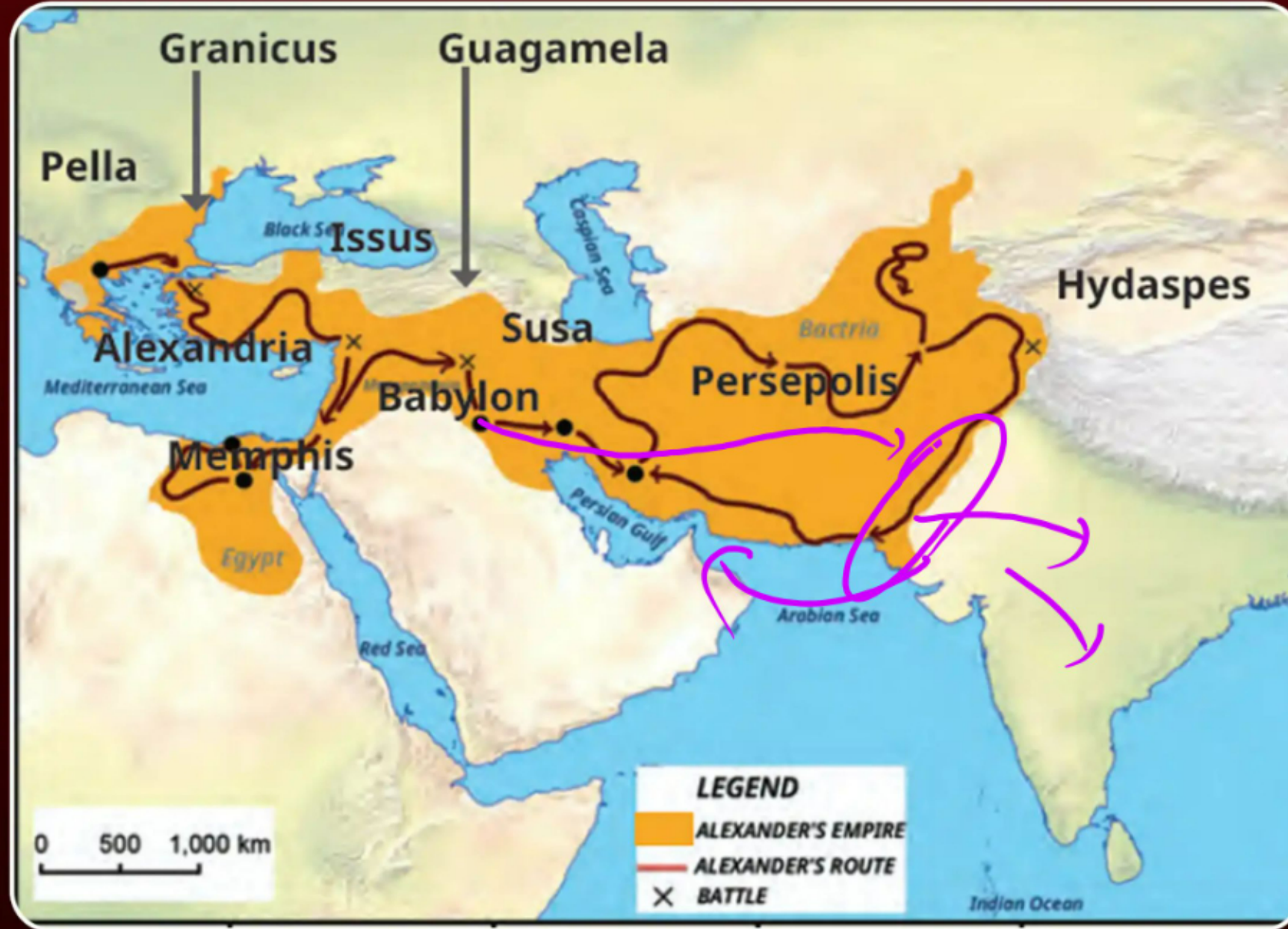
- Around the 5th century BCE, Mahapadma Nanda rose to prominence in Magadha and founded the Nanda dynasty.
- He successfully unified many smaller kingdoms and extended his empire across parts of eastern and northern India.



- The last emperor, Dhana Nanda, though very rich, became highly unpopular as he oppressed and exploited his people. This paved the way for the Nanda empire to be conquered and absorbed into what would become one of the largest empires India ever knew—**The Maurya empire**

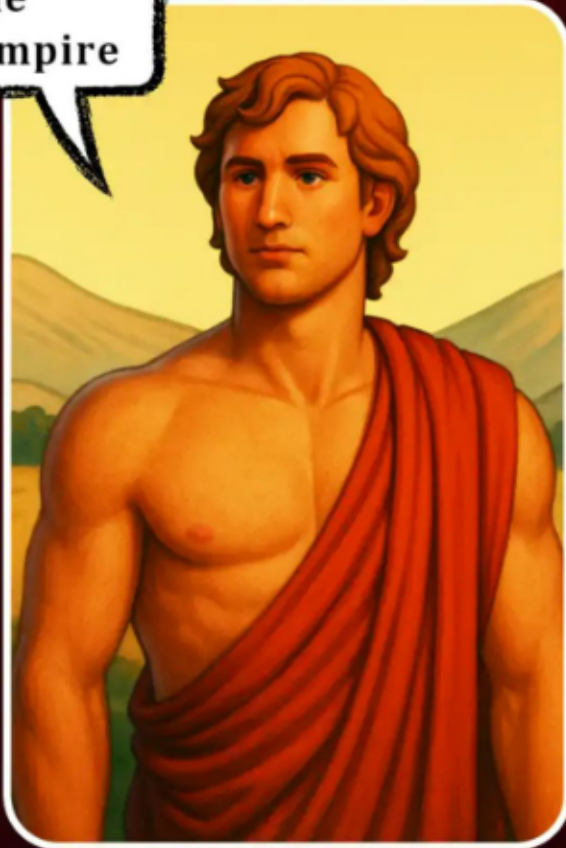
- While events unfolded in Magadha, located in the eastern part of the subcontinent, what was happening in the northwestern region? This area was home to smaller kingdoms along an ancient route connecting to the Mediterranean. Among them, according to Greek accounts, were the Pauravas, led by their king, Porus.

Arrival of Greeks



Alexander
defeats the
Persian Empire

334-331 BCE:



Young Greek king from Macedonia Invaded Persia to avenge earlier Greek defeats Spread Greek culture across a huge empire (3 continents)

Alexander
invades India.

327-325 BCE:



- Defeated King Porus in Punjab
- Faced strong resistance; massacred some cities
- Seriously injured, soldiers refused to go further

Alexander dies
at 32 in
Babylon

324-233 BCE



Faced rebellions in Persia
After his death, his empire
broke into smaller
kingdoms
ruled by his generals

**Ma'am jab ye Alexander ji
aage badte jaate the, to inke
itne bade empire ko kon
dekhta tha**



Satrap

**Bahut Badia Sawal,
Inhe Satraps dekhte
the**



The Mighty Mauryas



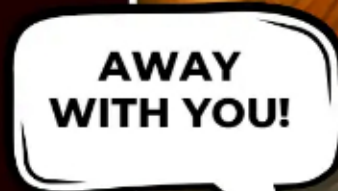
After that brief sojourn to the northwest, let us return to Magadha, where we witnessed the decline of the Nanda empire. Around 321 BCE, just a few years after Alexander left India with his army, a new dynasty and new empire emerged:

- The Maurya Empire founded by Chandragupta Maurya.
- It quickly absorbed the Nanda empire's territories and went on expanding beyond.



KAUTILYA-Sometimes referred to as Canakya or Vishugupta-was a teacher at the world-renowned Takṣhaśila (modern-day Taxila) university. His legendary tale begins in the court of Dhana Nanda, who as we saw, had become highly unpopular.

Angered, Dhana Nanda insulted Kauṭillya and threw him out of his court.



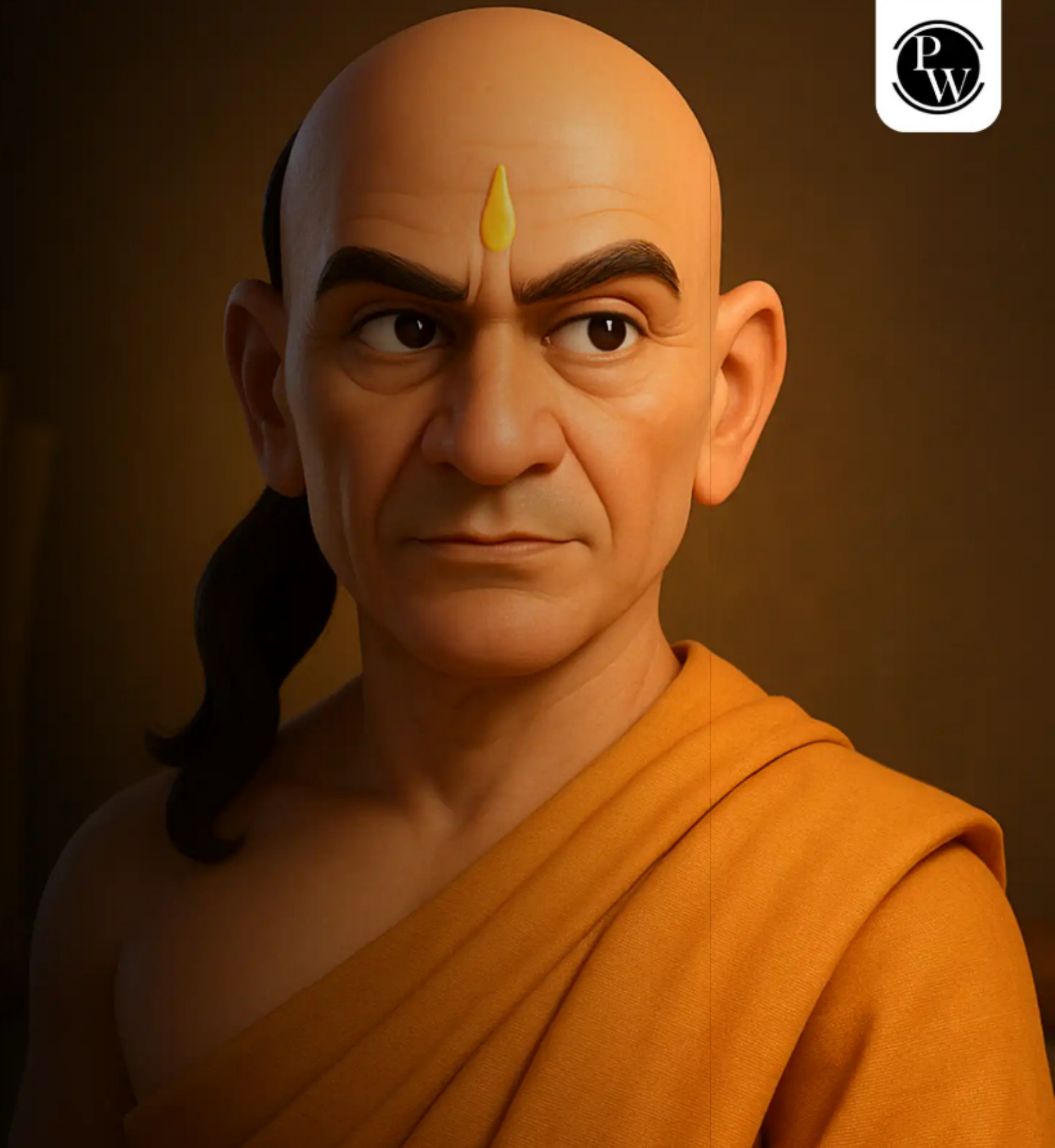


The Story of Kautilya



According to Buddhist texts, Kautilya:

- Sometimes referred to as Chanakya or Vishnugupta—was a teacher at the world-renowned Takshashila (modern-day Taxila) university.



Nanda Empire



LEGEND

- NANDA EMPIRE
- CAPITAL
- IMPORTANT CITIES
- RIVERS

Maurya Empire



Kautilya's concept of a kingdom

- Kautilya had a clear vision of how a kingdom (rajya) should be established, managed and consolidated.
- In his famous work Arthashastra (literally, 'the science of governance and economics'), he listed directives in many areas like **defense, economics, administration, justice, urban planning, agriculture and people's welfare.**
- One of his most important political concepts is the saptanga or the seven parts that constitute a kingdom.



Kautilya's Saptanga



K A J D K D M

K



The king (swami)



[the group of] councillors, ministers and other high officials (amatya)

A



the fortified towns and cities (durga)

D



the forces of defence and law and order (danda), and

D



the territory of the state along with the population inhabiting it (janapada)

J



the treasury or the wealth of the kingdom (kosha)

K



the allies (mitra)

M

The King Who Chose Peace



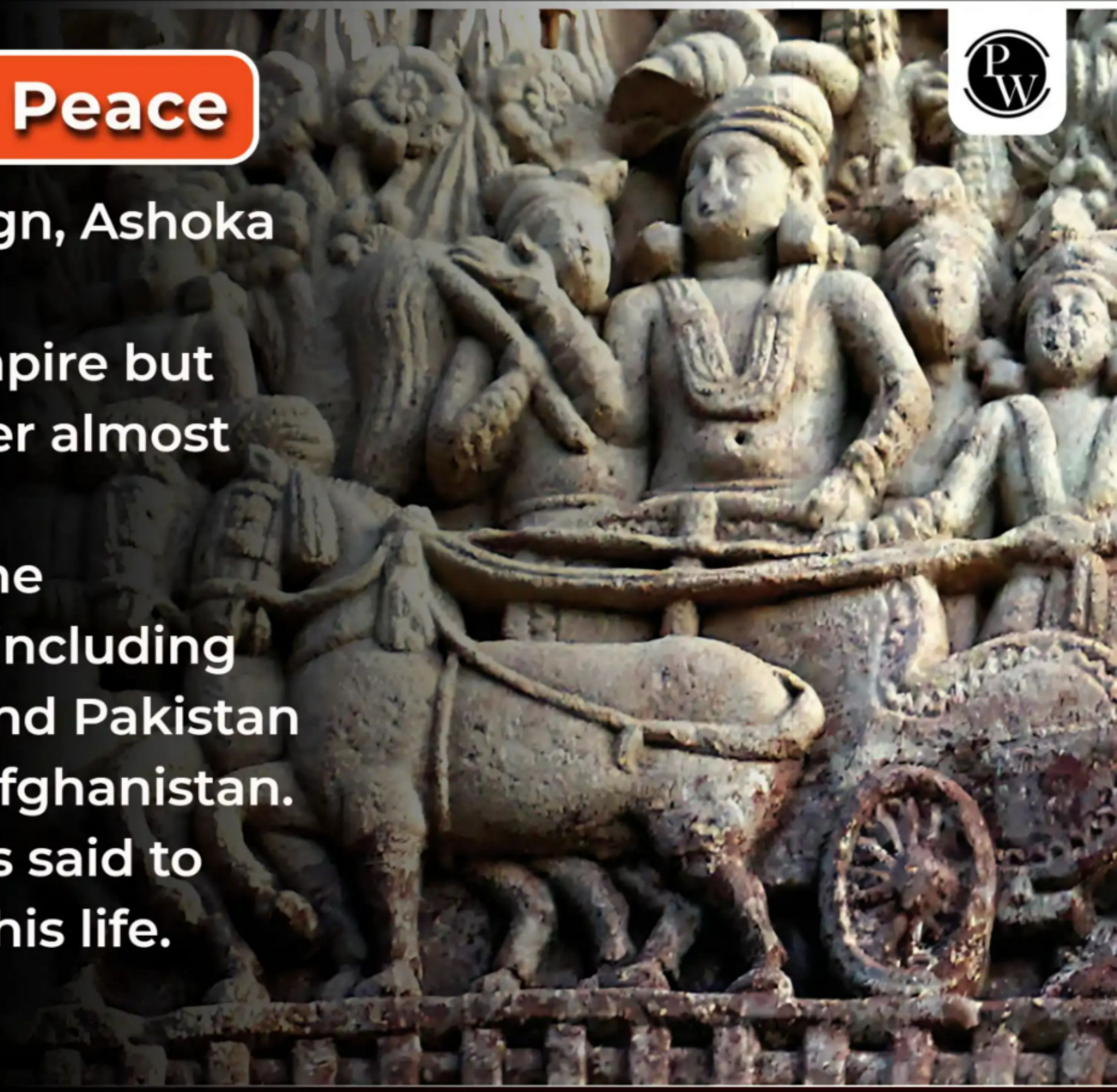
- Another king of the Maurya dynasty was Ashoka (268–232 BCE),
- Chandragupta's grandson, who came to be credited with major administrative and religious achievements.



The King Who Chose Peace



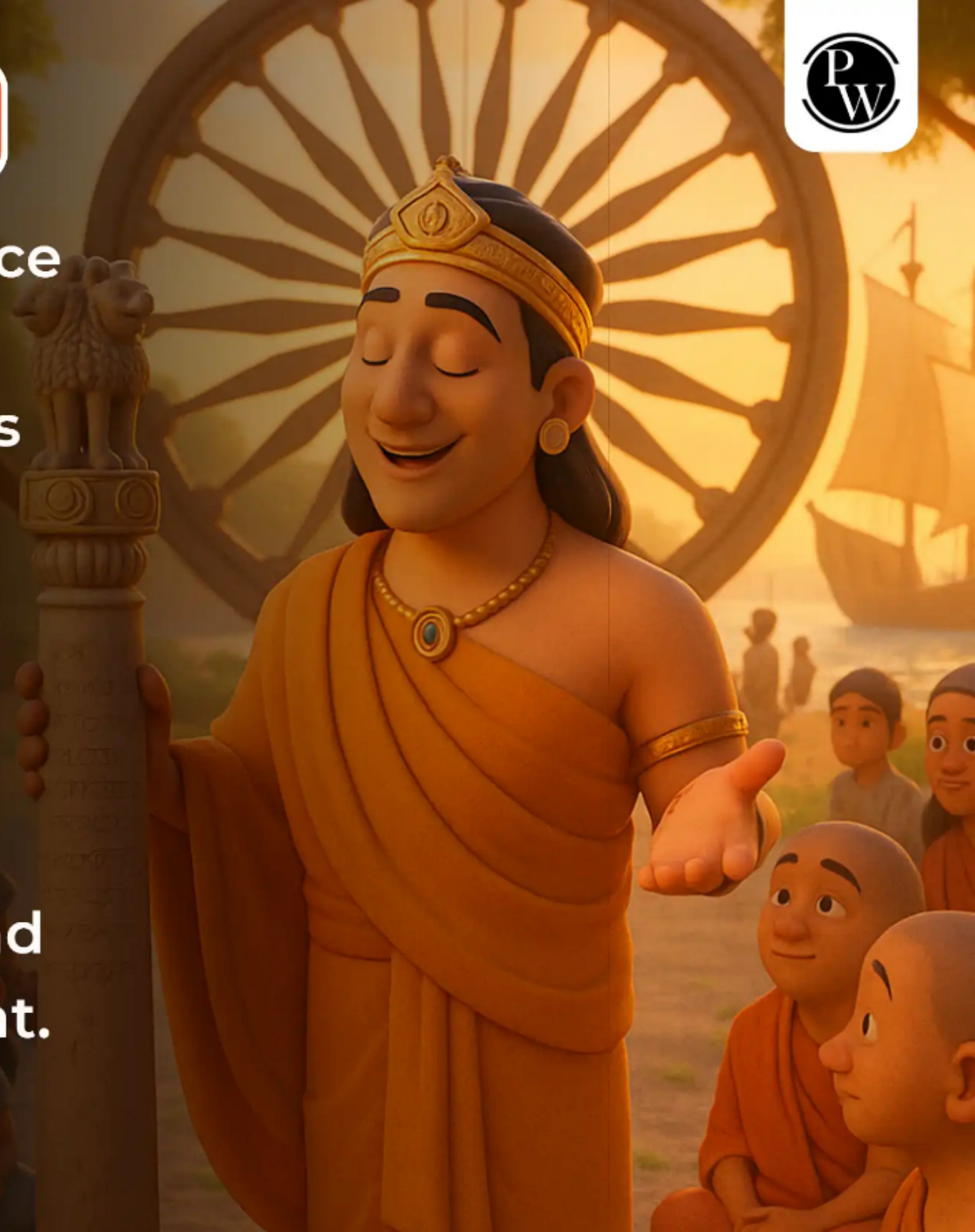
- ✓ At the beginning of his reign, Ashoka was quite ambitious.
- He had inherited a vast empire but further expanded it to cover almost the entirety of the Indian subcontinent, except for the southernmost region, but including present-day Bangladesh and Pakistan and parts of present-day Afghanistan. One encounter, however, is said to have changed the path of his life.



The King Who Chose Peace



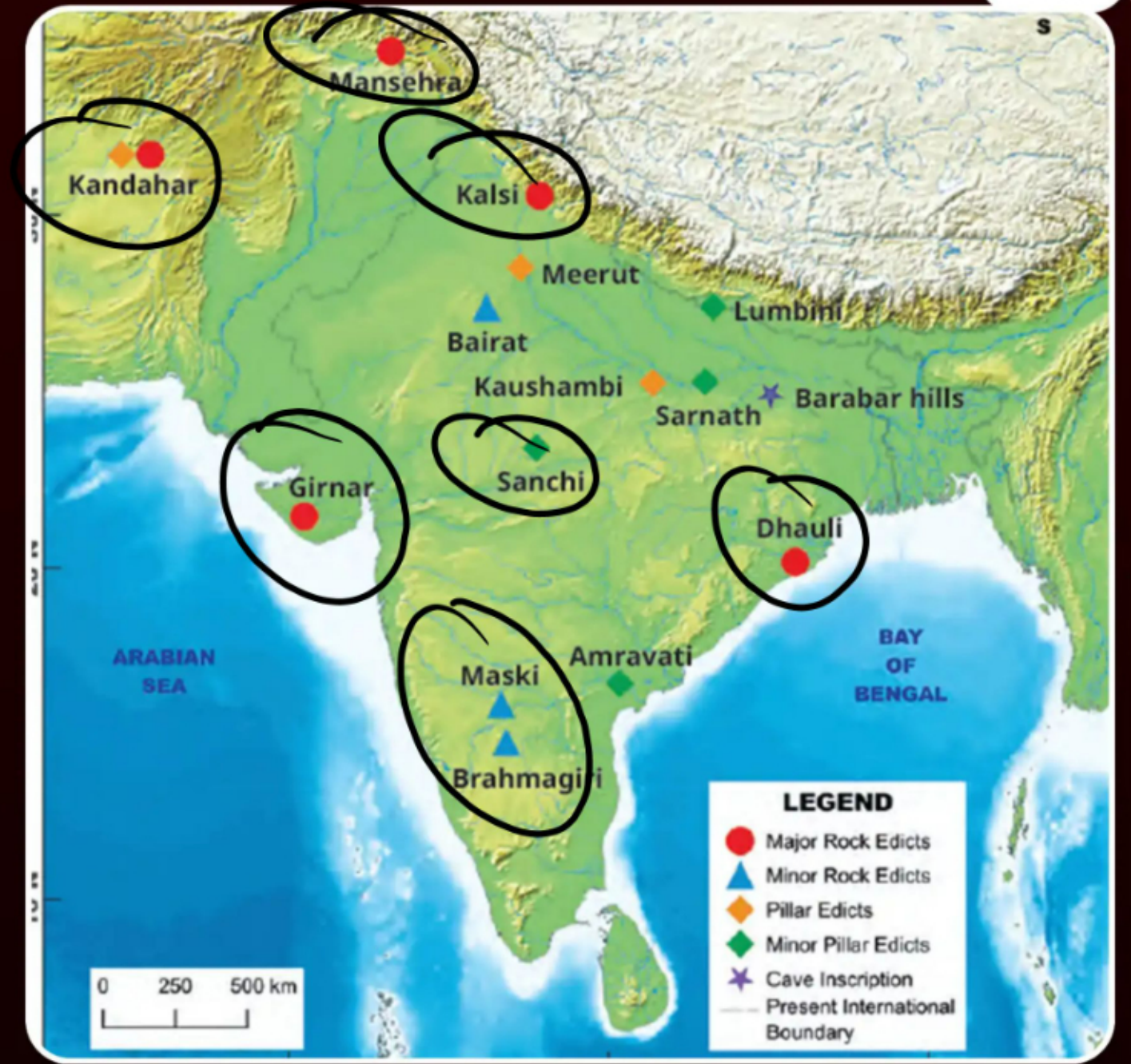
- According to one of his **edicts** he once marched on Kalinga (modern-day Odisha), where he waged a ferocious war.
- Seeing the enormous amount of death and destruction on the battlefield, Ashoka chose to give up violence and, to the greatest extent possible, adopt the path of peace and non-violence that the Buddha taught.





- Ashoka spread Buddhism to places like Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Central Asia.
- He is called a great communicator because he issued edicts on rocks and pillars to guide people to follow dharma.
- These edicts were written in Prakrit language using the Brahmi script, which is the root of many Indian scripts.

मेरा



The King Who Chose Peace



In his edicts, Ashoka called himself ‘Devanampiya Piyadasi’; the first word means ‘Beloved of the Gods’; the second, ‘one who regards others with kindness’.



The King Who Chose Peace



Let us see a few examples of this.

- Although some southern kingdoms were not part of the Mauryan kingdom, Ashoka supported their overall wellbeing.
- He claimed to provide medical care for people and animals even beyond his empire, prohibited hunting and cruelty to animals, and ordered medical treatment for them when necessary.



Life in the Mauryan period

Megasthenes described Mauryan society as largely-

- ✓ Agricultural, with two crops a year ensuring food security and stocked granaries.
- ✓ Farmers were protected even during wars.
- ✓ Blacksmiths, potters, and jewellers, and artisans lived here
 - Cities were well-planned, signage on streets.
 - Couriers for communication, is used

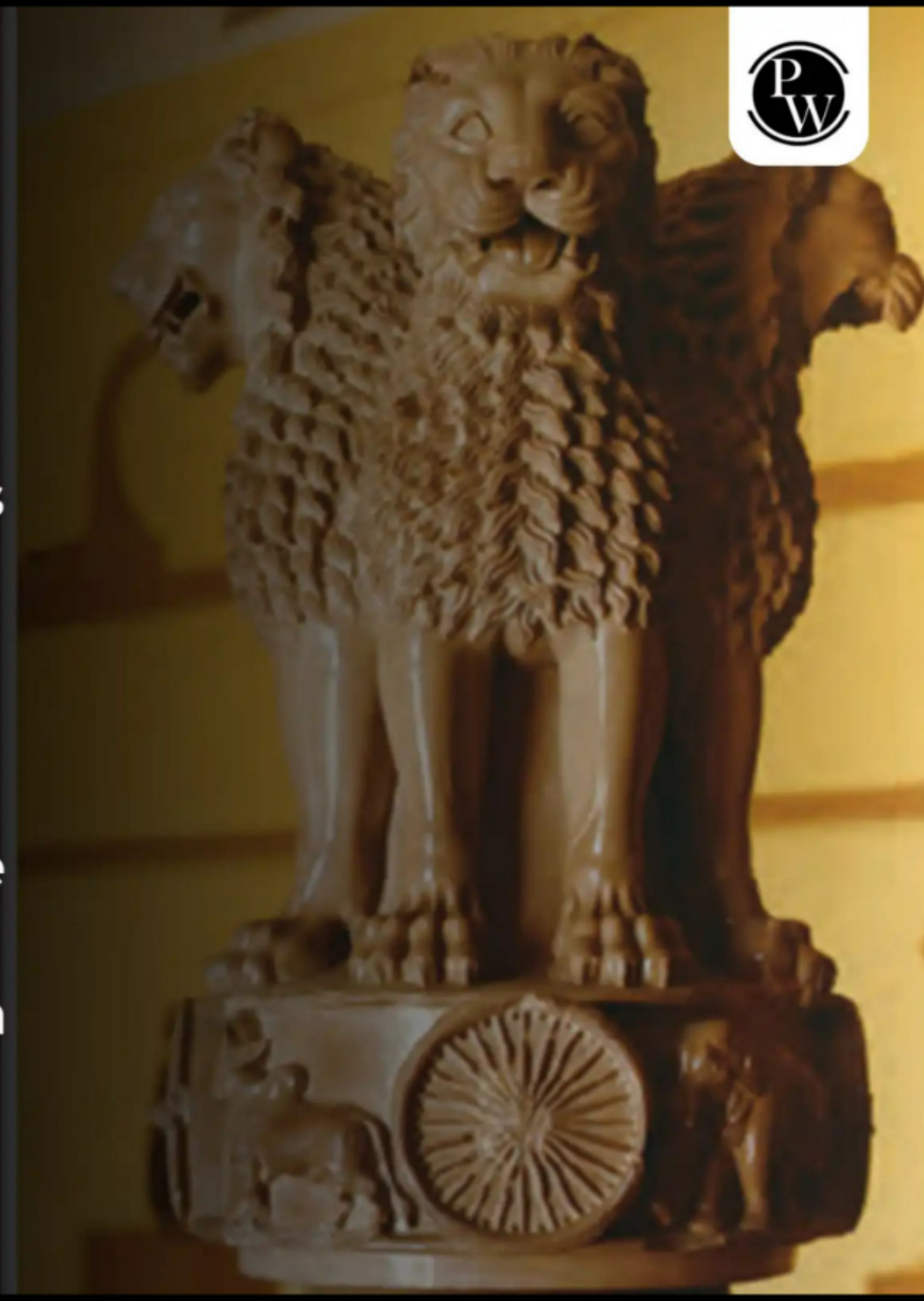
Life in the Mauryan period

- **Wooden houses up to two storeys, and fire safety measures.**
- **People wore cotton garments, with some using decorated leather shoes with thick soles to appear taller.**

- •Now let us look at the amazing architecture of the Mauryan Period

Life in the Mauryan period

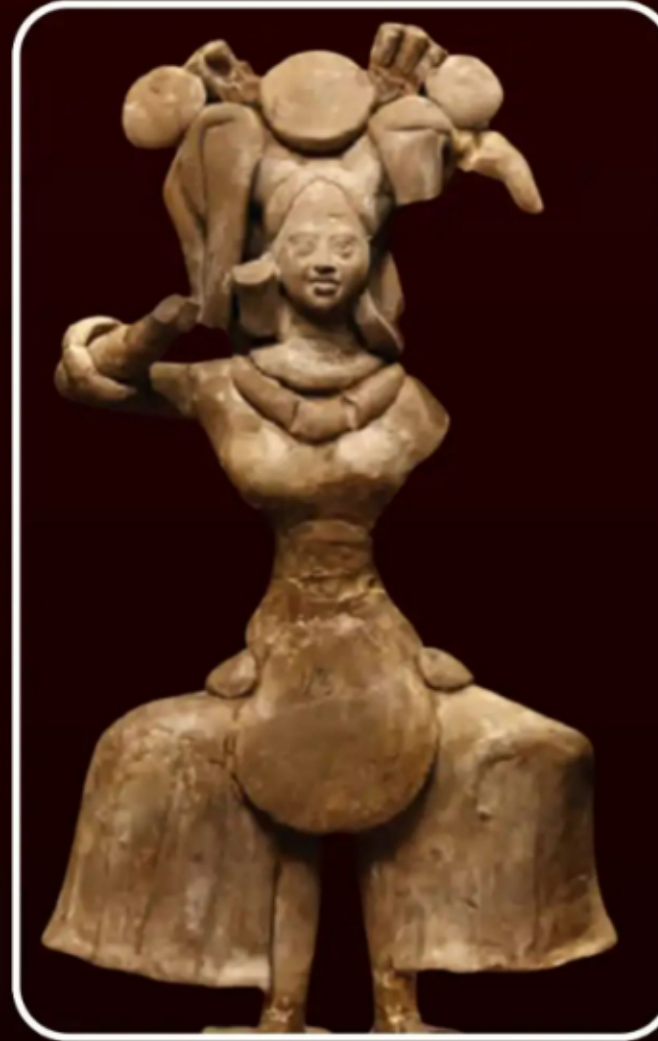
- This capital (a word which, here, means 'top portion' or 'head') was the top of a pillar that Ashoka got erected at Sarnath, near Varanasi, where the Buddha gave his first teaching.
- The four lions symbolize the royal power; on the ring below, four powerful animals (an elephant, a bull, a horse and one more lion) are depicted, along with the Dharmachakra or wheel of dharma, which symbolizes the Buddha's teachings.



Some Contributions of the Mauryas



Life and people

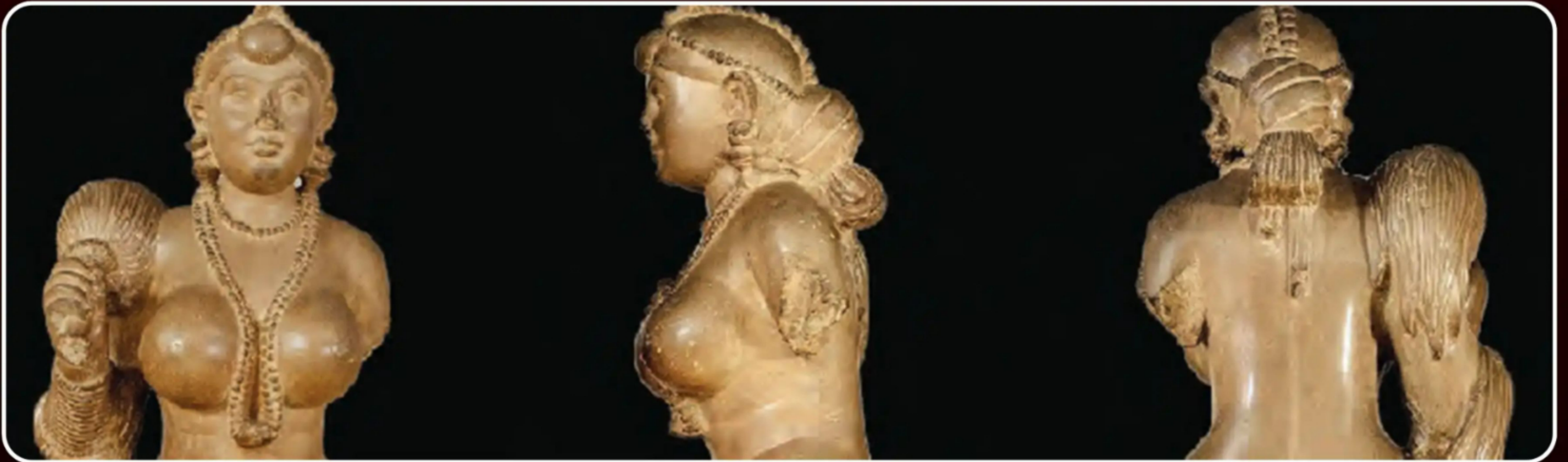


Terracotta figurine of a dancing girl (notice her elaborate headdress, hairstyle and jewellery).



Terracotta figurine of a female deity.

Life and people



Female deity (yakshi) holding a fly whisk.

Some Contributions of the Mauryas



Life and people



Terracotta of Saptamātrikās or seven mother goddesses (a continuing tradition).

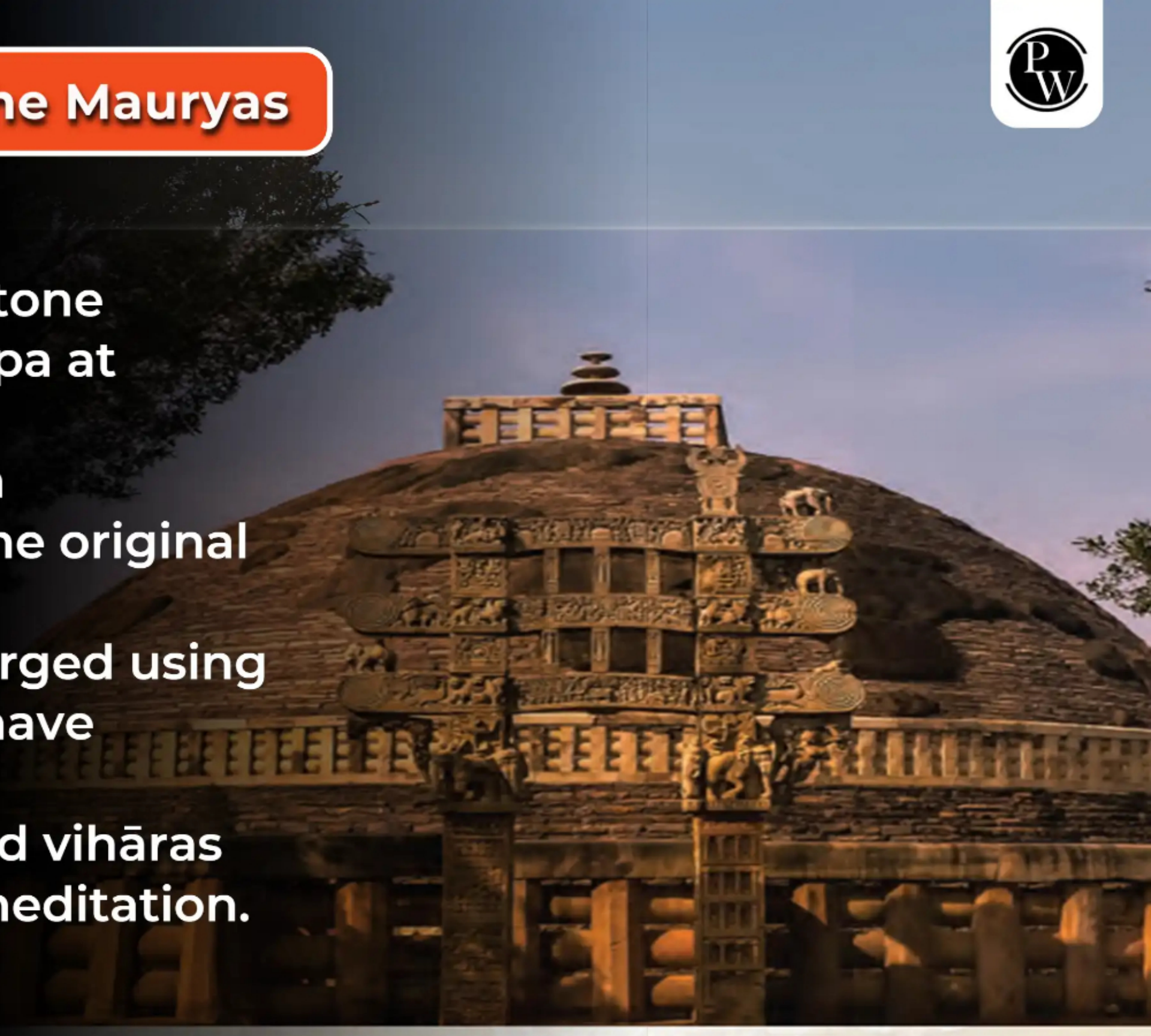


Head of a terracotta horse (notice the elaborate design of the bridle).

Some Contributions of the Mauryas

Art and architecture

As one of India's oldest stone structures, the Great Stupa at Sanchi is among the finest examples of Indian architecture. Note that the original structure was made of bricks and was later enlarged using stone. Ashoka is said to have constructed many such stūpas, chaityas, and vihāras for worship, study, and meditation.



Some Contributions of the Mauryas



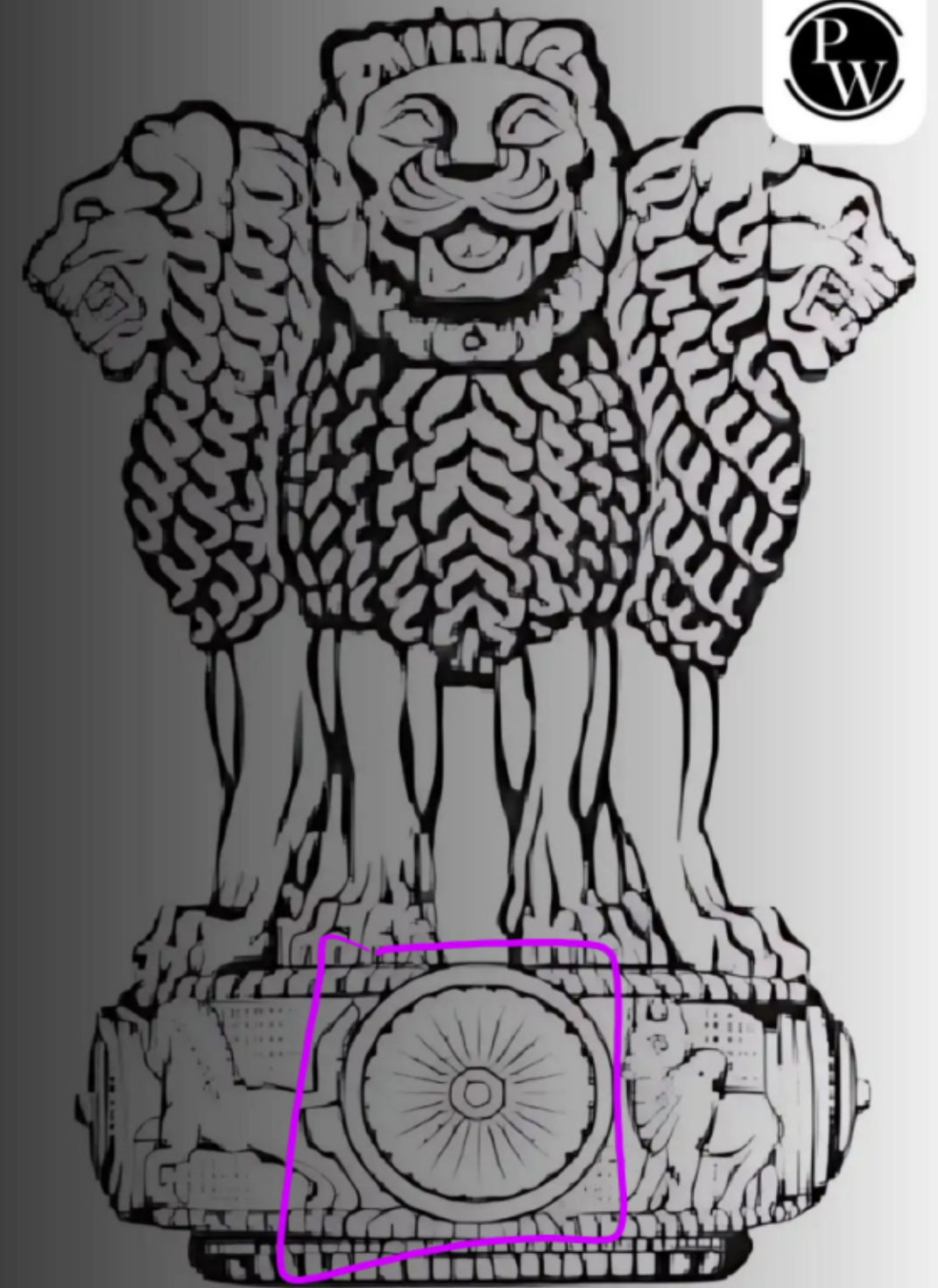
Art and architecture

Rock sculpture of a life-size elephant at Dhauli (in present-day Odisha, near Bhubaneswar), which symbolises the Buddha-intelligent, powerful, patient, and calm. An edict of Ashoka was engraved on a rock nearby.



Some Contributions of the Mauryas

- This capital was chosen as India's national emblem, to which was added the Sanskrit motto satyameva jayate or "truth alone triumphs".
- Besides, the dharmachakra is depicted at the centre of our national flag, as you may also have noticed.
- The motto comes from the Muṇḍaka Upaniṣhad; in full, it reads satyameva jayate nanṛitam, that is, "truth alone triumphs, not falsehood".



सत्यमेव जयते

**QUIZ
TIME!**

Who helped Chandragupta Maurya to establish the Maurya Empire?

- A Dhanananda**
- B Alexander the Great**
- C Kautilya**
- D Ashoka**

What did Kautilya's Arthashastra primarily focus on?

- A Religion**
- B Warfare and governance**
- C Literature**
- D Agriculture**

What was the significant change in Ashoka's rule after the Kalinga War?

- A He focused on expanding the empire further.**
- B He became a pacifist and embraced Buddhism.**
- C He implemented stricter laws for the empire.**
- D He strengthened military power.**

Ashoka called himself:

- A Devanampiya Piyadasi**
- B Chakravarti**
- C Emperor**
- D Maharaja**

The Saptanga theory was given by:

- A Alexander**
- B Kautilya**
- C Ashoka**
- D Mahapadma Nanda**

Homework From PW Little Champs 7th Module





Thank
you