

CLASS VI

CHAPTER - 7

# ASHOKA THE EMPEROR WHO GAVE UP WAR

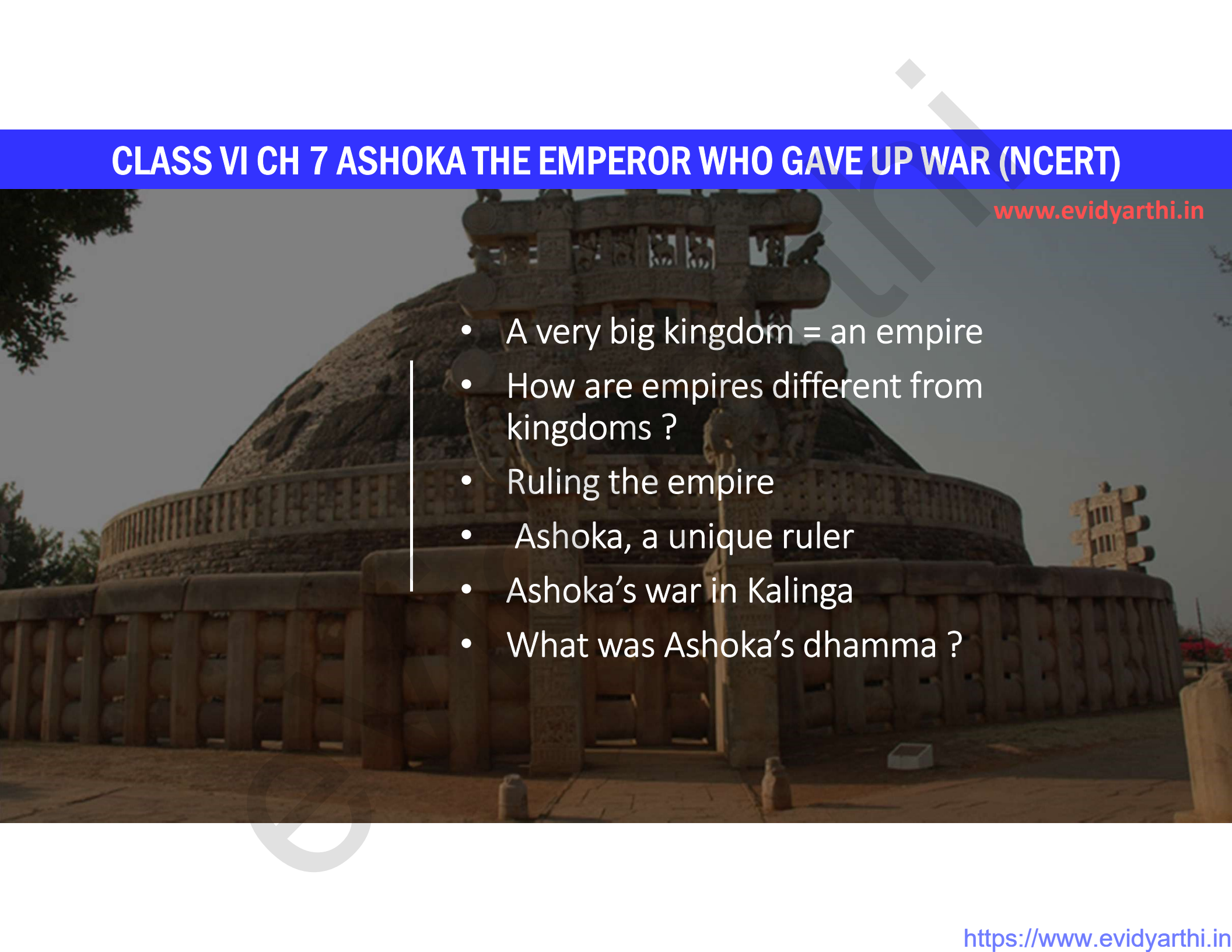
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## CLASS VI CH 7 ASHOKA THE EMPEROR WHO GAVE UP WAR (NCERT)

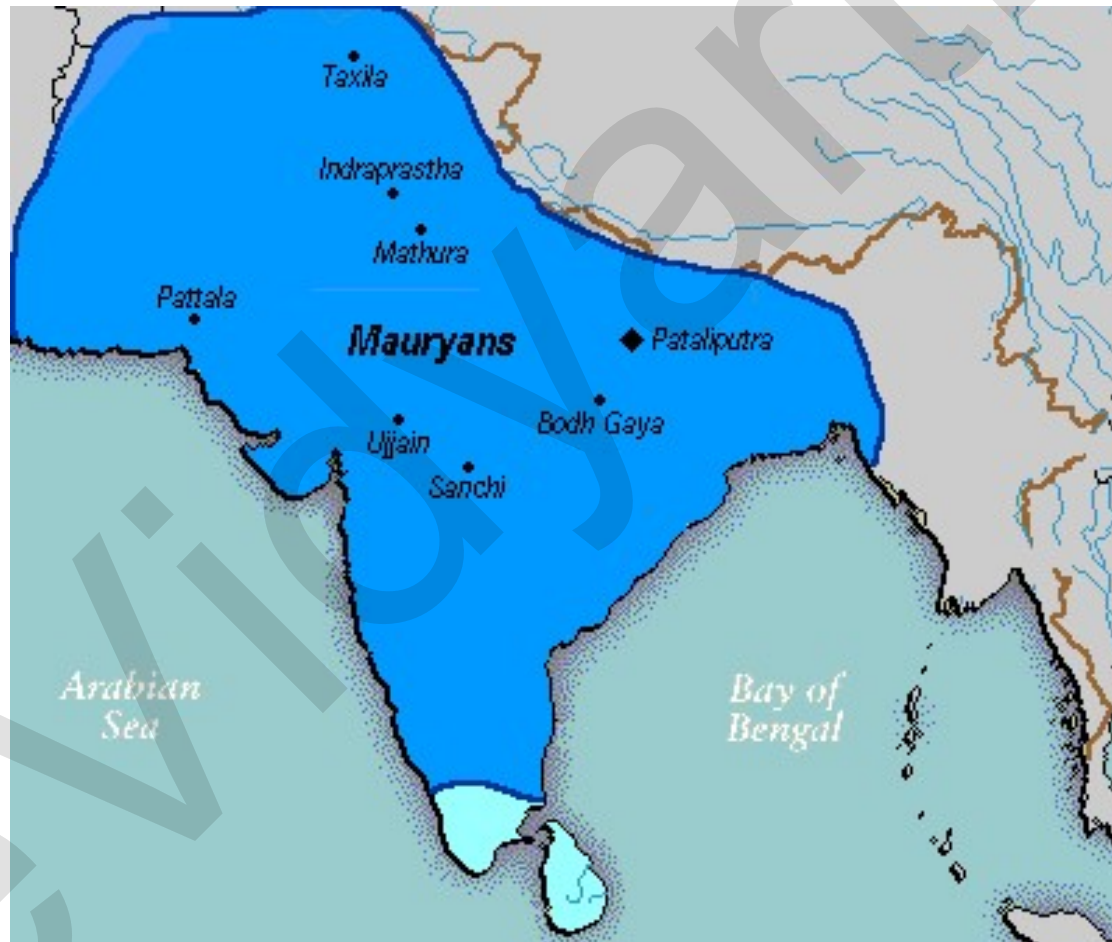
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- A very big kingdom = an empire
  - How are empires different from kingdoms ?
  - Ruling the empire
  - Ashoka, a unique ruler
  - Ashoka's war in Kalinga
  - What was Ashoka's dhamma ?

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❑ A very big kingdom = an empire

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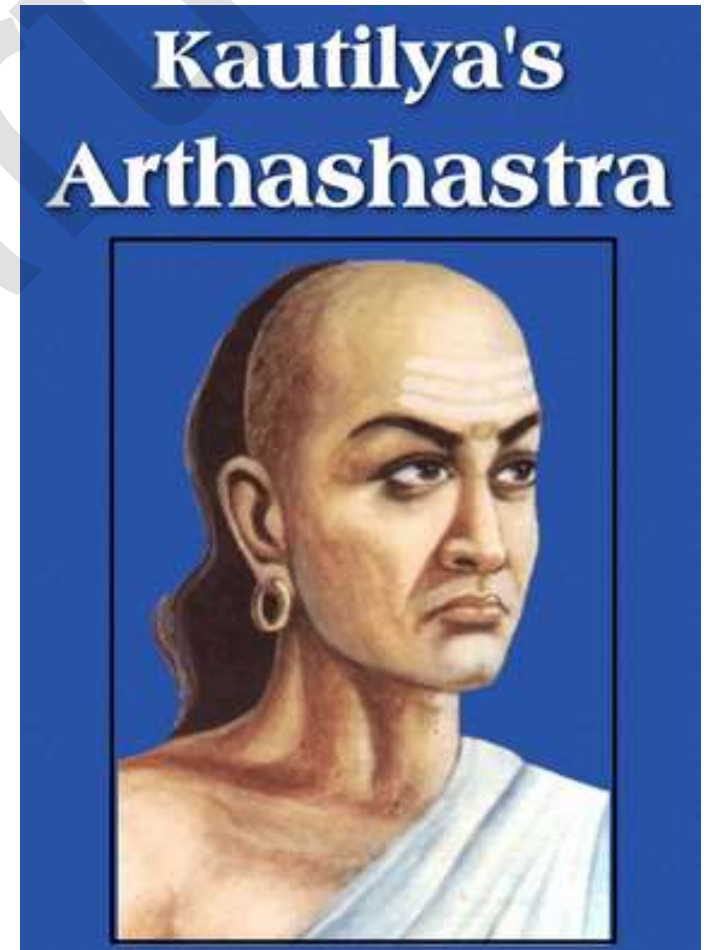
### ❑ A very big kingdom = an empire

- The Mauryan empire that Ashoka ruled was founded by his grandfather, Chandragupta Maurya, more than 2300 years ago.
- Chandragupta was supported by a wise man named Chanakya or Kautilya.

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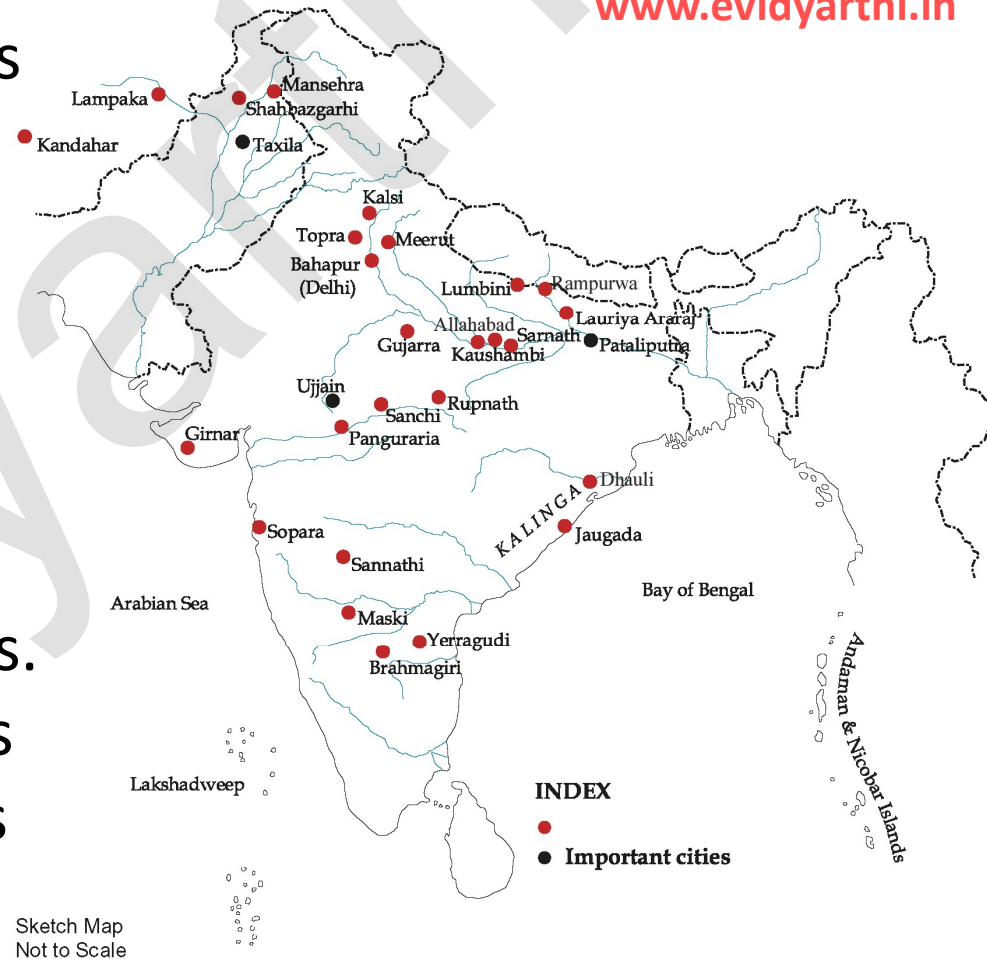
- There were several cities in the empire which included the capital Pataliputra, Taxila, and
- Ujjain. Taxila was a gateway to the northwest, including Central Asia, while Ujjain lay on the route from north to south India.
- Merchants, officials and crafts persons probably lived in these cities.



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- In other areas there were villages of farmers and herders.
- In some areas such as central India, there were forests where people gathered forest produce and hunted animals for food.
- People in different parts of the empire spoke different languages. They probably ate different kinds of food, and wore different kinds of clothes as well.



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- How are empires different from kingdoms ?



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### ■ How are empires different from kingdoms ?

- Emperors need more resources than kings because empires are larger than kingdoms and need to be protected by big armies.
- Also, they need a larger number of officials who collect taxes.

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### Ruling the empire

- The officials were appointed to collect taxes from farmers, herders, crafts persons and traders, who lived in villages and towns in the area.
- ✓ Officials also punished those who disobeyed the ruler's orders.

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- ✓ Many of these officials were given salaries.
- Royal princes were often sent as governors of provinces which was ruled from a provincial capital such as Taxila or Ujjain.
- The Mauryas tried to control roads and rivers, which were important for transport, and to collect whatever resources were available as tax and tribute.

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- For example, the Arthashastra tells us that the north-west was important for blankets, and south India for its gold and precious stones. It is possible that these resources were collected as tribute.
- People of forested regions were more or less independent, but may have been expected to provide elephants, timber, honey and wax to Maryann officials.

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❖ Ashoka



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### ❖ Ashoka, a unique ruler

- The most famous Mauryan ruler was Ashoka.
- He was the first ruler who tried to take his message to the people through inscriptions which were in Prakrit and were written in the Brahmi script.

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## ❑ Ashoka's war in Kalinga



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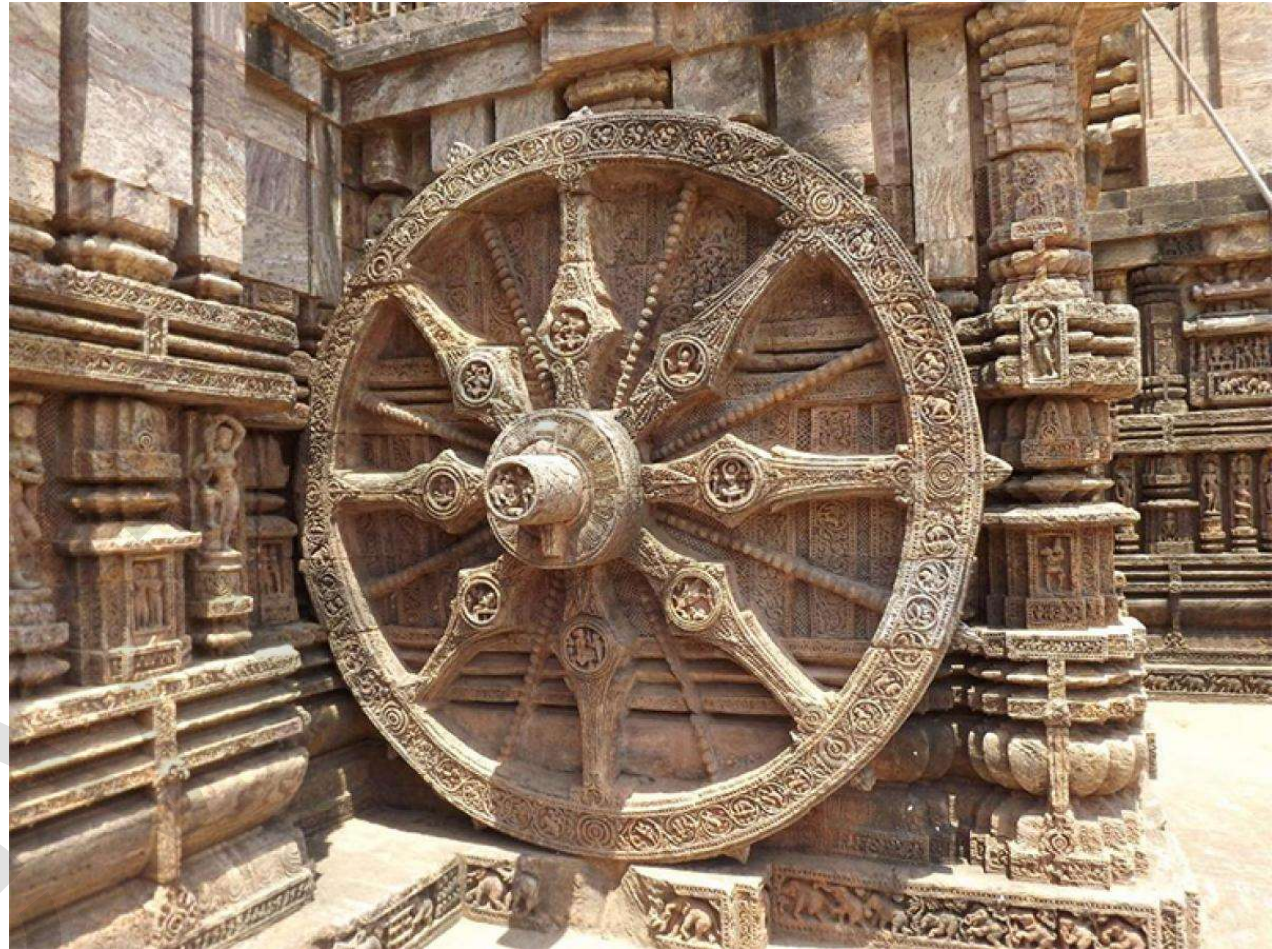
### ❑ Ashoka's war in Kalinga

- Ashoka was so horrified when he saw the violence and bloodshed in Kalinga's war that he decided not to fight any more wars.
- He is the only king in the history of the world who gave up conquest after winning a war.

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❑ What was Ashoka's dhamma?

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### ❑ What was Ashoka's dhamma?

- Ashoka's dhamma did not involve worship of a god, or performance of a sacrifice.
- He felt that just as a father tries to teach his children, he had a duty to instruct his subjects.

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- He was also inspired by the teachings of the Buddha.
- He appointed officials, known as the dhamma mahamatta who went from place to place teaching people about dhamma.
- Ashoka also sent messengers to spread ideas about dhamma to other lands, such as Syria, Egypt, Greece and Sri Lanka.