

Central Government

- Mauryan administration was highly centralized.
- The king was the supreme power and source of all authority.
- He was assisted by a Council of Ministers. It was called 'Mantriparishad'. The ministers were called 'Mantris.'
- The council was headed by 'mantriparishad-adhyakshya' akin to the Prime Minister of today.
- Tirthas: the Highest category of officials in the administration. There were 18 Tirthas.
- Adhyakshya: Ranked next only to Tirthas. There were 20 Adhyakshyas. They had economic and military functions.
- Mahamattas: Higher ranking officials.
- Amatyas: High ranking officials almost like present-day secretaries. They had administrative and judicial roles.
- The Adhyakshyas were formed into a secretariat, which was divided into many departments.
- Arthashastra mentions many Adhyakshyas for commerce, storehouses, gold, ships, agriculture, cows, horses, city, chariots, mint, infantry, etc.
- Yuktas: Subordinate officers responsible for the king's revenue.
- Rajjukas: Officers in charge of land measurement and boundary-fixing.
- Sansthadhyaksha: Superintendent of mint
- Samasthadhyaksha: Superintendent of markets
- Sulkaadhyaksha: Superintendent of tolls
- Sitaadhyaksha: Superintendent of agriculture
- Navadhyaksha: Superintendent of ships
- Lohadhyaksha: Superintendent of iron
- Pauthavadhyaksha: Superintendent of weights and measures
- Akaradhyaksha: Superintendent of mines
- Vyavharika Mahamatta: Judiciary officers
- Pulisanj: Public relations officers
- Registration of births and deaths, foreigners, industries, trade, manufacture and sale of goods, sales tax collection were under the administration's control.

Local Administration

- The smallest unit of administration was the village.
- Head of a village: Gramika Villages had a lot of autonomy.
- Pradeshika was the provincial governors or district magistrates.
- Sthanika: Tax collectors working under Pradeshikas.
- Durgapala: Governors of forts.
- Antapala: Governors of frontiers.
- Akshapatala: Accountant General
- Lipikaras: Scribes

Military

- The commander-in-chief of the entire military was called Senapati and his position was next to the king's. He was appointed by the king.
- The military was divided into five sectors namely, infantry, cavalry, chariots, elephant forces, navy and transport & provisions.
- The army's salary was paid in cash.

Revenue

- The revenue department chief was called Samharta.
- Another important official was Sannidhata (treasurer).
- Revenue was collected on land, irrigation, shops, customs, forests, ferry, mines and pastures. License fees were collected from artisans and fines were charged in the law courts.
- Most of the land revenue was one-sixth of the produce.

Police

- All the main centres had police headquarters.
- Jail was called Bandhangara and lock-up was known as Charaka.

Espionage

- The espionage system of the Mauryas was well-developed.
- There were spies who informed the king about the bureaucracy and markets.
- There were two types of spies: Sansthana (stationary) and Sanchari (wanderer).
- Gudhapurushas were the detectives or secret agents.
- They were controlled by the Mahamatyapasarpa. These agents were picked from different segments of society.
- There were also agents called Vishakanyas (poisonous girls).

Transport

- The transport department fixed the width of the chariots, cattle tracks and pedestrians.