How did the Classical Mauryan Empire of India Transform Indian Society?

Describe what you know about Indus Valley culture

Define: Classical

Approximate greatest extent of the Mauryan Empire.
I. MAURYAN EMPIRE

A. CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA, regional ruler in the Ganges plain, created a great empire in northern India. Ruled as an **ABSOLUTE MONARCH.**
1. Established a standing army replaced regional rulers with loyal officials. Chandragupta's successors pushed Mauryan boundaries far to the south, and gave India a period of great prosperity and cultural splendor.
1. Harsh and war-loving ruler during the early years of his reign.

2. Radically changed after he converted to Buddhism. Ended military campaigns and instead developed roads, hospitals, and rest houses.

3. Denounced the Caste System and developed a state bureaucracy to enforce sanctions against war and animal slaughter.
All men are my children. What I desire for my own children, and I desire their welfare and happiness both in this world and the next, that I desire for all men.

You do not understand to what extent I desire this, and if some of you do understand, you do not understand the full extent of my desire.

What did Ashoka mean by this quote?

Based on this quote how do you think did he treated his subjects?

Emperor Ashoka
4. Expansion of international trade benefited merchants and artisans who supported their ruler and patronized Buddhist monasteries.

5. Monasteries spread widely; their legacy remains in great stone shrines (stupas) that held the relics of Buddha.

6. Buddhism spread to Sri Lanka, the Himalayan kingdoms, steppes of central Asia, Burma, Java, southeast Asia, Nepal, central Asia, Tibet, China, and the rest of East Asia.
AIM: HOW DID THE GUPTA DYNASTY OF INDIA ESTABLISH A GOLDEN AGE?

Define: Golden Age
Would you consider today a Golden Age?
Why or why not? Explain
a. **GUPTA DYNASTY**: Wealthy landholder family of the eastern Ganges plain, built an empire across most of northern India. The Gupta received **tribute** from locally autonomous elites.
1. Guptas supported Hinduism and restored the brahmans' roles as royal sanctifiers and teachers of the ruling elite.

2. Great Hindu temples, became repositories of symbolic Hindu art, and were constructed in urban centers. They helped increase urban growth by their economic impact and the visits of pilgrims. Reflected the Hindi world view that saw the divine mirrored everywhere around them.
3. Gupta reign initiated a Great Age of Indian literary achievement. Kalidasa, the foremost Sanskrit author, created poetry describing life in that era. Major discoveries were made in mathematics, the sciences, and medicine. Devised the concept of zero, decimals, and the "Arabic" number system.
4. Development of Roads, which established trade increased with Rome.

Hello! My name is Agupt and I am from the Gupta Empire. I am here to tell you about an important accomplishment of Gupta, the building of roads.

When roads were built, canals or ditches were built by it, so that when there was a flood, it prevent flooding water on the road.

There were signs to tell people where they were. Trade was so much easier since we built roads. Roads were a great accomplishment to the Gupta Empire!

50 miles to China
c. **CASTE HIERARCHY** became the backbone of the social system. Caste divisions grew more complex and restrictions on **untouchables** and **low-caste individuals** grew harsher and more pervasive.

1. Women suffered further reduction in status and career outlets. **Women** were legally minors, supervised by males, and unable to inherit property. They were barred from reading the **Vedas**. Residence was **patrilocal** and a wife's status depended upon **producing sons**.
1. The **Gupta Empire** was threatened in the 5th century C.E. by Hun invasions. Efforts to repel the Huns diverted attention from local rulers challenging the dynasty. The empire disintegrated into a patchwork of warring local states.
1) How did the role of women change from the Vedic Age to the Gupta Empire?

2) Compare and contrast the role of politics during the Mauryan and Gupta empires.