

ANCIENT INDIA
PRE MAURYAN-PERIOD

Pre Mauryan period

- **Magadha** – was one of the prominent Mahajanapadas.
- **Two Empires** emerged in the Magadha area – **Mauryan and Gupta**.
- **Pataliputra** – was their capital.
- Before Mauryans – Magadha was ruled by certain dynasties –

Haranyaka Dynasty
Shishunaga Dynasty
Nanda Dynasty

- Pre Mauryan-Dynasties

- 6th century BC to 4th century.
- There are geographic - political reasons for Magadhan dominance and expansion.
- Annexed many Mahajanapadas and kingdoms.
- Maurya – first Empire in India.
- expansion by Shishunga and Nanda dynasty.
- Reached zenith at the time of Mauryan.

Haranyaka dynasty:

- **Jarasanda Brihadrada** - founder - Haranyaka dynasty.
- Sri Buddha emerged – at the early stages.
- Magadhan history begins with Haranyaka dynasty consolidated Magadhan empire.
- C. 554 BC – precise information from Haranyaka dynasty about rulers, geography, locations etc.
- **Bimbisara** – first king – Pali and Buddhist text – 554 to 492 BC.
- Contemporary of Buddha.
- **Seniya or sreniya** – first one to have a standing army system was developed at his time.

Policy of Annexation

Anga - Father of Bimbisara was defeated by Anga ruler – **Brahmadatta** – as for revenge - Bimbisara annexed Anga – by military means.
Anga was then governed by his son – Ajathasatru.
Policy of Annexation procedure starts with Anga.

Avanti - Bimbisara fought with **Chandra Pradyaoda Mahasena** – Ujjain in Mahishmati - Avanti king – southern ward.

E ▶ ENTRI

When Chandrapadyoda mahasena was affected with Jaundice Bimbisara send his personal physician to treat Avanti king. Avanti was annexed.

Kosala was annexed.

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Policy of matrimonial alliance -

This policy was followed to expand the kingdom of Magadha. Policy of marriage led to the expansion from westward and north ward part of Magadhan Kingdom.

First wife - Mahakoshaladevi – daughter of Kosala king – Kashi was given as dowry.

Second wife - Lichchavi princess – Chellana – Vaishali kingdom – mother of Ajathasatru.

Third wife - Daughter of Madhura clan at Punjab

- Lichchavis was not annexed by Bimbisara but was later annexed by Ajathasatru.
- Gandhara ruler near Taxila in present day Pakistan – had the presence of ancient urban settlement- Pukkusathi or Pushkarasatin – embassy in Bimbisara court.
- Paramount power in ancient period through diplomatic relations and matrimonial alliances.
- 80000 villages in Magadha dynasty.
- 544 – 492 – the Buddhist chronicles mention the period of Bimbisara.
- No clear idea about the religion of Bimbisara is evident.
- **Ajathasatru**
- Son of Chellana and Bimbisara.
- Anga was ruled as province.
- 492 to 460 BC.
- Assassinated his father and succeeded to the throne.
- **Aggressive policy of expansion.**
- Grief of Mahakosala Devi and Prasanjith brother – as Ajathasatru killed Bimbisara.
- War between - Kashi and Kosala.
- **Ajathasatru annexed Kosala.**
- Prasanjith had to give daughter Vajra to Ajathasatru.
- Entered **with war with Lichchavis of Vaishali** – mentioned that they helped Kosala in war with Kashi.
- Very dominant war warrior – Ajathasatru.

War methodology

Radhamusla – revolving mace was attached with the chariot or Blade attached to the chariot. Ancient records give the evidence.

Mahashilakantak – war machine to throw big stone. Spring action.

- Finally **destroyed Vaishali**.
- **Fortified Rajagriha** – capital of Magadha - Armed – because of the invasion from Avanti.
- Contemporary of Buddha – tolerant rulers – Bimbisara and Ajathasatru- good terms.
- **Udayin**
- 460 to 444 BC
- Succeeded Ajathasatru.
- **Built fort in Ganga and Son River confluence** near Pataliputra which later became important city –present day Patna.
- He **shifted the capital to Pataliputra from Rajagriha**.
- Minor kings or weaker kings.

Shishunaga dynasty

- 412 BC
- First king – **Shishunaga**.
- He completely **destroyed the power of Avanti**.
- **Temporarily shifted capital from Pataliputra to Vaishali**.
- Second ruler – **Kalashoka / Kakavarin**
- Son of Shishunaga
- **Transfer capital to Pataliputra**.
- **Second council of Buddhism** was held.
- Last king: **Mahanandin**.
- **Assasinated by mahapadmananda**
- Established Nanda dynasty

Nanda dynasty

- **Mahapadmananda** - Established Nanda dynasty.
- **First non-kshatriya dynasty**.
- **Brahmanical dynasty**.
- Issues with Buddhism and Jainism and with Kshatriyas.
- Eliminate all kshatriya from Magadha – (kill).
- **Eka Chchhatraboth** – **Ugrasena** – **Ekarat** – **Sarvakshatrantaka**.

- Extensive conqueror – brought whole earth under an umbrella.
- Destroyer of kshatriya- sarva kshatrantaka.
- **Conquered Kosala**
- **Conquered Kalinga** in Present day Orissa annexed with Magadha.
- Army with animals.
- Nanda – **huge army and efficient taxation**.
- Organised form of taxation.

- **Dhanananda:**
- **Agrameses – Greek literature**.
- Ruler at the time of Alexander the great.
- Dhanananda had huge army – world's largest army.
- Alexander reached till Jhelum through crossing Hindu Kush or Sindhu River.
- Alexander was impressed by Indian troops methodology of war – Khyber provincial ruler.
- Dhanananda troops Lost the war against Alexander.
- Alexander did not reenter in India.
- **Indians had elephant in troops**.
- **Dhanananda stopped Alexander**.
- **But Dhanananda failed to stop Chandragupta Maurya**.
- Strategic movements of Chandragupta Maurya – governor of Taxila.
- **Maurya won the Dhanananda with the help of Vishnu Gupta or Kautilya or Chanakya**.

Features of Magadha

- Agricultural surplus.
- Timber was sufficient
- Forested land in Magadha
- Nanda Ruler built canals – had efficient administrative system and communicative system.
- **Massive military – elephant, chariots, innovative machines**.
- Magadha was inhabited by **Kiratas and Makhada** – local ethnic group.
- Chance for competitive rulers.

TWO INVASIONS

Persian or Iranian invasion and Alexander invasion

- 6th century BC.
- **Iranian invasion**
- **Northwest India didn't have strong boundary** or there was no strong state - like Magadha.
- **Gandhara, Madra and Kamboja** – Northwest dynasties.

- Afghanistan, Pakistan area
- Dispute area – they always fought each other. Weak because of disunity
- Fragmentation of polity.
- Rich area in timber, resources, geography, etc.

- Achaemenian rulers.
- **Cyrus of Persia** – 588 – 530 BC
- City of Capias
- **Darius I** – grandson of Cyrus – penetrated into north west India in 515 BC.
- **Annexed Punjab west of Sindh and Indus.**
- He had 28 provinces.
- 20th province - north west frontier of India.
- Most fertile and populous place.
- **Trend on Indian soldiers in Persian army.**
- **Xerxes – recruitment of Indian soldiers into Greek army.**
- **Darius III – recruitment of Indian soldiers into his army.**

Impacts of Iranian Invasion
<p>Kharosthi script – right to left Script used to write Sanskrit is Devanagari Ashoka' s rock inscriptions are influenced by Iranian method. Iranian words were injected. Mix of literature. Bell shaped capital – minar in mosque. Great wealth of India- Greeks learn through Iranians.</p>

Alexanders Invasion

- To be a World conquest was his desire.
- **Political condition of the north was very suitable** – invitation on northern frontiers.
- **Marched to India through Khyber Pass- 326 BC**
- When he reached Jhelum River – Porus king – first and the strongest resistant in the history of India.
- Later Porus was defeated by the troop of Alexander.
- But he gave back his kingdom.
- Then moved to Beas, the mighty Magadha – where he met the Nanda army.
- **Hot climate and Ten years of continuous conquering or expedition made the Alexander's soldiers weak.**
- Greek soldiers – formidable power was striking.
- **Alexander was forced to retreat.**

- Divided his **territorial portions** into **three provinces** under **Greek governor**.
- Northwest province – Seleucos Nicator – governor.
- 323 BC – Babylonia – Alexander died – 33 years.
- Cannot cross Beas.

Impact of Alexanders Invasion

- Close contact with India and outside world especially Europe.
- Destroyed political power of North West dynasties – political vacuum –which later helped in the emergence of Chandra Gupta.
- Greek merchant- Khyber Pass route and Indus route: meeting Arabian sea.
- Four routes in India were developed.
- Trade and commerce increased.

- Establishment of Greek settlement north west – Alexandria in Kabul region, Alexandria in Sindh, Boukephala in Jhelum.
- Mauryans later annexed these places.
- Geography of mysterious ocean.
- Deeply interested in Arabian Sea.
- Nearchus governor to explore geography of India sea.
- First time saw the mouth of Indus.
- Search for harbours.
- Valuable geographical accounts his texts.
- Detailed chronological data of ancient India.
- Social and economic conditions- sati and selling girls as slaves for money - slave girls in the market.
- Pali, Buddhist and Greek text.

SOCIETY

- Caste based society.
- Brahmins – kshatriya – Vaishya – sudras.

- Shudra – poor condition, untouchability.
- Not invested in upanayana.
- No opportunity to education.
- Punishment was harsh even for small sins and mistakes.
- Born as slaves
- Buddhism and Jainism – speak about the discrimination
- But did not do more about the social conditions.

- Brahmins
- Brahmanical laws.
- Religion oriented.
- Non-Vedic ideas for the tribal groups
- Impure should not be visited.

- Restriction imposed on women.
- Education was restricted and upanayana for the women.

- Lending of money – Vaishya group – was not supported.
- Social evils in pre Mauryan society.

ECONOMY

- Large scale use of iron – increase in agriculture.
 - Sudras worked as agriculturalists.
 - **Dasakarmakaras – slave labours** – worked in the land of Rajakulas and Gramapatis.
 - New crops – wheat, **vrihi, Sali – varieties of rice,**
 - **Land was measured- karisa, nivartan and kulyavapa.**
 - **Sita – state land.**
 - Development in crops – industrial development - 18 craft corporation and guild – Buddhist text mention about – **Sreni** – was the term used for **guild or cooperation.**
 - **Head of the guild – Sreni and Nigamma - Pammuka, Pravara , Jyesta**
 - Sreni – industrial corporation.
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- Surplus in agriculture and increase in trade led to the spurt in trade and trade circuits all over north India.
 - River transportation.
 - **Taxila to Rajagriha**
 - **Mathura to Ujjain**
 - **Ujjain to Mahishmathi** and from there to **the sea port in Baruch.**
 - Trade with various towns in between.
 - Potters wee an important section of the society
 - Northern Black Polished Ware
 - First appeared in Varanasi and Pataliputra

Causes for the popularity of Jainism and Buddhism

- Gautama Buddha and Vardaman Mahavira
- Magnetic personality
- Buddhism – Pali
- Jainism – Prakrit
- Languages used by common people
- Helped in the spread of philosophies.
- Did not indulge metaphysical discussion.
- Suggest – simple and practical life way of living.
- Patronized by various kingdoms.
- Nanda – Jainism
- Mauryans – Buddhism
- Did not attach to varna system.
- Appealed lower caste.
- Mahavira followed liberal policy towards women.
- Admission of women – Buddhist sangha's.
- Swelled the rank of Buddhism.