

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 –

- 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
Shishunaga Dynasty
Nanda Dynasty

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.

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.
o 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.
- Assassinated 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

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.

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.
- 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.