
Pre Mauryan Dynasties Free PDF By Governmentadda.com

The history of India is so vivid that it will be unfair to omit such small yet very important details about the developments that occurred before the establishment of the greatest empires in India, the Mauryan empire. Therefore, we are presenting here a consolidated view of the major dynasties that flourished before paving the way for the Mauryans. Let us then look at the reasons for the rise of Magadha among all other Mahajanapadas.

Rise of Magadha: Of all the kingdoms of India, Magadha had emerged prosperous and powerful. Its rise in ancient India was aided by these factors:

1. Location of Magadha was across the upper and lower parts of Gangetic valley, this was highly advantageous.
2. This area had fertile soil, which supported agriculture.
3. Rajgir, the capital city of Magadha had reserves of Iron ore readily available.
4. There were copper and iron deposits near Gaya.
5. Magadha was situated on the highways of trade which contributed to its wealth.

There were three important dynasties in pre-mauryan world:

I. Haryanka dynasty- There are two notable rulers of this dynasty, let us look into the details.

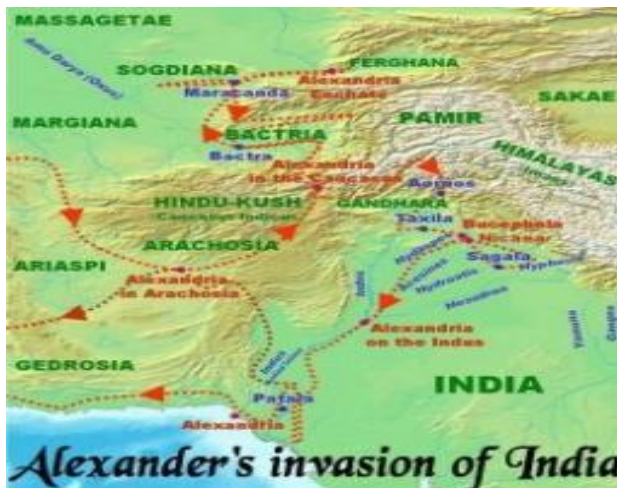
- **Bimbisara**– He was a contemporary of Mahavir and Buddha. He took control of Anga, to dominate the southern trade routes. He consolidated his position by involving himself in matrimonial alliances.
- **Ajatshatru** – He fortified the village of Patliputra for operations against Vaishali. He also convened the First Buddhist Council at Rajgriha. The Barhut sculptures show him meeting buddha.
- **Udayin** – He founded the city of Patliputra, at banks of Ganga and Son.

II. Saisunga dynasty – Its founder was Saisunga, who transferred the capital from patliputra to Vaishali.

- **Kalashoka** or Kakavarman convened the **Second Buddhist Council** at Vaishali.

III. Nanda dynasty – It is considered first non-kshatriya lineage of rulers. They were prosperous and had a big empire.

- **Mahapadma Nanda** – He was the founder, who assumed the title of 'Ekarat' for uprooting all kshatriya dynasties. He is mentioned in Hathigumpha inscription of Kharvela of Kalinga.
- **Dhana Nanda** – He was the last Nanda ruler. Under him Nandas gained a lot of wealth, which finds mention in the sangam works by Mamulanar's 'Ahananuru'.



Invasion by Alexander:

Alexander crossed the Hindukush Mountains in 327 BC and spent 10 months in fighting with the tribes. He then moved across the Indus where the ruler of Taxila, Ambhi greeted him. Alexander asked Porus to submit to him but Porus refused his offer and decided to fight against Alexander.

Thereafter, Alexander marched to the banks of the river Jhelum (Hydaspes) from Taxila. Porus lost the battle after fighting with courage and heroism. Alexander gave him his throne back after being impressed by his abilities. Thereafter Alexander retreated back because his soldiers refused to fight.

The Effect of Alexander's Invasion: This invasion encouraged the unification of Northern India under the Mauryas, as we will study further. This contact with Greeks led to development of ties between India and Greece. This direct contact opened the trade routes along the way Alexander arrived. Hence, overall the trade relations between India and west Asia developed.

Which dynasty ruled over Magadha before the rise of the Mauryan Empire?

- a) Nanda dynasty
- b) Gupta dynasty
- c) Shunga dynasty
- d) Kushan dynasty

Solution: a) Nanda dynasty

The Nanda dynasty was founded by:

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
- b) Ashoka the Great
- c) Mahapadma Nanda
- d) Bindusara

Solution: c) Mahapadma Nanda

The Nanda dynasty was overthrown by:

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
- b) Ashoka the Great
- c) Mahapadma Nanda
- d) Bindusara

Solution: a) Chandragupta Maurya

The founder of the Mauryan Empire, Chandragupta Maurya, was influenced by the teachings of:

- a) Gautama Buddha
- b) Mahavira
- c) Chanakya
- d) Kautilya

Solution: c) Chanakya

Which dynasty ruled over Kalinga (present-day Odisha) before the Mauryan Empire?

- a) Satavahana dynasty
 - b) Chola dynasty
 - c) Pallava dynasty
 - d) Maurya dynasty
- Solution: b) Chola dynasty

The founder of the Chola dynasty was:

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
 - b) Ashoka the Great
 - c) Karikala Chola
 - d) Bindusara
- Solution: c) Karikala Chola

The Chola dynasty was known for its maritime trade and dominance over:

- a) South India
 - b) North India
 - c) Central India
 - d) Eastern India
- Solution: a) South India

The Chola dynasty reached its peak under the reign of:

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
 - b) Ashoka the Great
 - c) Rajendra Chola I
 - d) Bindusara
- Solution: c) Rajendra Chola I

The Satavahana dynasty was primarily located in:

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Punjab

d) Bihar

Solution: b) Maharashtra

The Satavahana dynasty was known for its patronage of which religion?

a) Hinduism

b) Buddhism

c) Jainism

d) Zoroastrianism

Solution: b) Buddhism

The Satavahana dynasty was known for its contributions to which field?

a) Architecture

b) Sculpture

c) Literature

d) All of the above

Solution: d) All of the above

The founder of the Satavahana dynasty was:

a) Chandragupta Maurya

b) Ashoka the Great

c) Simuka

d) Bindusara

Solution: c) Simuka

The Kushan dynasty ruled over which region?

a) Gandhara (present-day Pakistan and Afghanistan)

b) Magadha

c) Kalinga

d) Deccan plateau

Solution: a) Gandhara (present-day Pakistan and Afghanistan)

The Kushan dynasty was known for its promotion of which religion?

- a) Hinduism
- b) Buddhism
- c) Jainism
- d) Zoroastrianism

Solution: b) Buddhism

The founder of the Kushan dynasty was:

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
- b) Ashoka the Great
- c) Kujula Kadphises
- d) Bindusara

Solution: c) Kujula Kadphises

The Gupta dynasty is often referred to as the "Golden Age" of ancient India. True or False?

- a) True
- b) False

Solution: a) True

The Gupta dynasty was known for its contributions to which field?

- a) Mathematics
- b) Medicine
- c) Astronomy
- d) All of the above

Solution: d) All of the above

The Gupta dynasty was located in which region of India?

- a) Northern India
- b) Southern India
- c) Eastern India
- d) Western India

Solution: a) Northern India

The founder of the Gupta dynasty was:

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
- b) Ashoka the Great
- c) Sri Gupta
- d) Bindusara

Solution: c) Sri Gupta

The Gupta dynasty saw the emergence of which famous mathematician?

- a) Aryabhata
- b) Brahmagupta
- c) Bhaskara
- d) Varahamihira

Solution: a) Aryabhata

The Pallava dynasty was primarily located in:

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Karnataka
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Odisha

Solution: a) Tamil Nadu

The Pallava dynasty was known for its patronage of which art form?

- a) Architecture
- b) Sculpture
- c) Dance
- d) All of the above

Solution: d) All of the above

The founder of the Pallava dynasty was:

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
- b) Ashoka the Great
- c) Simhavishnu
- d) Bindusara

Solution: c) Simhavishnu

The Pallava dynasty is known for its magnificent rock-cut temples at:

- a) Mahabalipuram
- b) Ajanta
- c) Ellora
- d) Khajuraho

Solution: a) Mahabalipuram

The Rashtrakuta dynasty was primarily located in:

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Punjab

Solution: b) Maharashtra

The Rashtrakuta dynasty was known for its patronage of which religion?

- a) Hinduism
- b) Buddhism
- c) Jainism
- d) Islam

Solution: a) Hinduism

The Rashtrakuta dynasty reached its peak under the reign of:

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
- b) Ashoka the Great
- c) Dantidurga

d) Bindusara

Solution: c) Dantidurga

The Pratihara dynasty ruled over which region?

a) Rajasthan

b) Punjab

c) Gujarat

d) Bihar

Solution: a) Rajasthan

The Pratihara dynasty was known for its resistance against the:

a) Mauryan Empire

b) Gupta Empire

c) Mughal Empire

d) British Empire

Solution: c) Mughal Empire

The founder of the Pratihara dynasty was:

a) Chandragupta Maurya

b) Ashoka the Great

c) Nagabhata I

d) Bindusara

Solution: c) Nagabhata I