

One Liner Shots (Rise of Magadha)



- ★ The 4 Mahajanapadas - Magadha, Kosala, Avanti and Vatsa were contesting for supremacy from the 6th century BCE to the 4th century BCE.
- ★ Finally, Magadha appeared victorious and was competent to acquire sovereignty.
- ★ It became the most powerful kingdom in ancient India.
- ★ Magadha is located in modern Bihar in India.
- ★ Jarasandha, a descendant of Brihadratha, was said to have founded the empire in Magadha. Both are mentioned in the Mahabharata.

Haryanka Dynasty

Founder: The probable founder was Bimbisara's grandfather (566 BC).

Bimbisara (544-492 BC)

- The real founder of the Haryanka dynasty.
- He was a contemporary of Buddha and Mahavira.
- His capital was at **Rajgriha** (Grirvraja)
- **Jivaka** was his royal physician.
- 3 major matrimonial alliances of Bimbisara were

1. Kosala princess, Mahakoshala
2. Lichchhavi Princess, Chellana (Ajatasatru's mother)
3. Daughter of Madra (clan) Chief

Ajatasatru (492-460 BC)

- Son of Bimbisara, who is believed to have assassinated his father for the throne.
- Most aggressive and powerful ruler.
- Unlike Bimbisara, he followed military conquest for expansion.
- Annexed Kosala.
- Used Mahashilakantaka and Rathamusala.
- Patronized the **1st Buddhist Council**.

Udaybhadra or Udayin (460-444 BC)

- Son of Ajatasatru.
- Founder of Pataliputra.
- He shifted the capital from Rajgriha to Pataliputra (modern Patna).
- He was the last of the major Haryanka rulers.
- He was murdered at Palaka's (king of Avanti) instigation.
- He was succeeded by 3 rulers - Aniruddha, Munda and Nagadasaka

Sisunaga Dynasty

Sisunag

- He was an *Amatya* at Varanasi earlier.
- Shifted capital to Vaishali temporarily.
- He defeated Avanti and made it a part of Magadha.

Kalashoka

- He was the son and successor of Sisunaga.
- Also known as **Kakavarna**, according to Puranas.
- Patronized the **2nd Buddhist Council** at Vaishali.

Nanda Dynasty

This was the first **low-caste or non-Kshatriya dynasty**. It lasted from 345 BCE to 321 BCE. The first ruler was Mahapadma Nanda.

Mahapadmananda

- He was known as '**Ugrasena**'.
- As per Brahminical text, he belonged to low caste.
- First empire builder of (North) India.
- His titles were: **Ekrat** and **Sarva-kshatrantaka**.
- Acquired Kosala and merged Kalinga with Magadha.

Dhanananda

- Dhanananda was the last significant Nanda ruler.
- He was known as **Agrammes or Xandrames** in Greek texts.
- He had a huge army consisting of infantry, cavalry, elephants and chariots.
- He had the credit to invent a measure named **Nandopakramani**.
- He was an arrogant and the most oppressive ruler of the Nanda dynasty.
- The imposition of heavy taxes on people made him unpopular among the masses.
- Chandragupta Maurya finally overthrew **him with the help of Chanakya**.

