



Ancient Magadha Dynasties

- ▶ **Lesson 3: Nanda dynasty and Beginning of Maurya Dynasty.**

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Nanda Dynasty : 345 B.C. To 321 B.C.



- This Dynasty was established by Mahapadma Nanda by assassinating Mahanandin or Nandivardhan, the last ruler of Shishunag Dynasty.
- The Nanda Dynasty were the first non Kshatriya ruler of Magadha empire and were recorded as first Empire builders in Indian history.
- The empire of Nanda Dynasty was extended from present day Bengal to Punjab region and also far till Vindhya ranges.
- The Nanda Dynasty possesses a huge army approx. Five times that of Macedonian Army. Their army consists of 2 lakhs infantry , 2 lakhs cavalry, 2000 war chariots and 3000 war elephants.
- There was also the indication in *hathigumpha inscription* that Nanda military victories over Kalinga
- Nanda dynasty is also considered as the wealthiest Dynasty .

Mahapadma Nanda 345 B.C. To 329 B.C.

- Mahapadma Nanda was the first ruler of Nanda Dynasty . He killed his father Mahanandin and succeeded the throne.
- In some text he was referred as son of Mahanandin and Shudra women whereas few text mentioned him as the son of Barber from a queen.
- The conflict of data arise as per difference in texts like Puranas , Jain text, Buddhist text etc. Same like First Buddhist council Of Ajatshatru mentioned on 400 B.C. in some text and 483 B.C. in some text.
- Maha Padma Nanda conquered main powers of maha janapada such as Ikasvakus, Haihayas, Kasia, Kurus, Panchal, Surasena, Maithailas etc.
- He is also known as Sarvakhstranka i.e. Destroyer of Kshatriyas.
- He is also referred as **Ugrasena**.

Dhana Nanda (329 B.C. To 321 B.C.)

- ▶ He was the last ruler of this Dynasty, he was one of the nine sons of Mahapadma Nanda.
- ▶ Dhana nanda's daughter "Nandani" was married to Chandra Gupta Maurya.
- ▶ He is also referred as Agrammes or Xandrammes in some texts.
- ▶ He is known for the financial extortions ,which he have done to his people.
- ▶ He is also known as powerful ruler who ruled over **Prasi** or **Prachya (eastern people)** and **Gangadirai (people of lower Ganga)** .
- ▶ His minister Sakatal found Chanakya to revenge Against Dhananand .
- ▶ The death of Dhananand is unclear, few text states that he was killed by Chandra Gupta Maurya whereas few states that he was exiled by Chandra Gupta Maurya.

Ministers of Nanda Dynasty.

- ▶ Nanda Dynasty possesses a wide lineage of kings advisor from Kalpaka to Sakatala and Rakshasa.
- ▶ Bhadrasala was the general of army.
- ▶ Mudra rakshasa was written by Visakhadatta, based on the minister Rakshasa.

Invasion of Alexander : 327 B.C. To 325 B.C.

It was during the reign of Dhana nand ,when Alexander invaded India but Dhana nand and Alexander do not faced each other as after the Battle of Hydaspes between Alexander and Porus , Alexander' s army mutinied to move forward. Thus he had to move back. Therefore Alexander was'nt engage in war with Nanda ruler.

Fate of Dhananand.

- ▶ The Chandragupta's takeover to Nanda Dynasty is mysteries and unclear
- ▶ But the general texts mentioned that he grew up his army and with tactics of Chanakya , he first conquered small satrapy , installed post Alexander, and then Attacked Magadha empire of Nanda.
- ▶ It is also unclear about the date of Dhananand, as some text referred that the defeat Dhananand renounce the throne and marry his daughter to Chandra Gupta and was never seen again whereas some texts mentioned that he was killed by Chandra Gupta Maurya.

Beginning of Mauryan Empire.

- ▶ Chandragupta Maurya ,with assistance of Chanakya , succeeded the throne of Magadha in year 321 B.C. (year mentioned in some text is 322 B.C.)
- ▶ It is because of the atrocities done by Dhana Nanda , over his people And Ministers that assisted Chandra Gupta and Chanakya To threw Dhana Nanda from the throne.
- ▶ The reason behind Chanakya' s rivalry with Dhana Nanda, was the insult of Chanakya that has done by Dhana Nanda . Therefore Chanakya avenge to destroy the Nanda Dynasty.

Thank you