

# POST MAURYA PERIOD

# WESTERN KSHATRAPA

- Scytho-Parthians ruled through their *kshatrapas*.
- An early Kshatrapa line of western India was represented by **Mambarus**, who is mentioned in the Periplus.
- In the early centuries CE, there were two important lines of Kshatrapa rulers—the **Kshaharatas and Kardamakas**.

- The **Kshaharata dynasty** included rulers such as **Bhumaka and Nahapana**.
- Bhumaka seems to have originally owed allegiance to Kanishka. His coins, with legends in Brahmi and Kharoshthi, have been found in coastal Gujarat; some also occur in Malwa and the Ajmer area.
- Reign of Nahapana (c. 119–25 CE): Apart from his coins, there are several inscriptions dated in an era, probably the Shaka era of 78 CE.

- In his earlier inscriptions, Nahapana has the title ***kshatrapa***, and in his later ones ***mahakshatrapa*** and ***rajan***.
- On his gold and silver coins, he is simply styled *rajan*.
- Nahapana's coins have been found in the Ajmer area of Rajasthan and the Nashik area in Maharashtra.
- An inscription of one of his *amatyas* named Aryaman has been found at Junnar in Pune district.
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- At its height, the kingdom seems to have included Malwa, Gujarat, Saurashtra, northern Maharashtra, and parts of Rajasthan and the lower Indus valley.
- The capital Minnagara
- Nahapana's son-in-law Ushavadata was viceroy of the southern part of the kingdom.
- Some of his donative inscriptions have been found in the Nashik and Karle caves.

- The Shaka Kshatrapas were involved in prolonged conflict with the Satavahanas.
- Nahapana was killed by the Satavahana ruler Gautamiputra Satakarni.
- This is evident from the discovery of Gautamiputra's inscriptions in the Nashik and Pune districts, **his re-striking Nahapana's coins**, and certain statements made in an inscription of Gautamiputra's mother, Gautami Balashri.

- Another line of Shaka Kshatrapas known as the **Kardamakas** came to the fore in western India.
- The founder of this dynasty was **Chashtana**. He is styled ***kshatrapa*** on his earlier coins and ***mahakshatrapa*** on his later ones, the additional title of ***rajan*** occurring throughout.
- Chashtana may have originally ruled in the Sind area as a subordinate of the Kushanas.
- After Nahapana's death, he seems to have been a viceroy of the southwestern provinces of the Kushana empire.

- The Kardamakas had a practice of **senior and junior rulers**, who had the titles ***mahakshatrapa*** and ***kshatrapa*** respectively
- Chashtana was succeeded as ***mahakshatrapa*** by Rudradaman I
- The Kardamaka ruler Rudradaman I is known from his coins, but more so from his Junagarh inscription, dated in the Shaka year 72, i.e., 150–51 CE.
- Inscription of Rudradaman: Junagadh inscription (bears Asokan edict, Kardamaka ruler Rudradaman and Gupta ruler Skandagupta inscription)

- While Ashoka's inscriptions contain his discourses on *dhamma*, the other two tell a unique story of the construction, maintenance, and repair of a water reservoir over about 1,000 years.
- The script is Brahmi, the language Sanskrit, and the style elegant and literary. In fact, **this is the first long inscription in Sanskrit in the subcontinent.:**  
**Junagarh Inscription**

- The purpose of the inscription is to record the restoration of a reservoir called Sudarshana lake by the *mahak-shatrapa* Rudradaman.
- The construction of this reservoir was started by **Vaishya Pushyagupta, the provincial governor of Chandragupta Maurya.**
- It was **completed by the Yavana Tushaspha, governor of the area during Ashoka's reign.**

- Western Kshatrapa; renovation work; The work was supervised by the provincial governor of the province of Anarta and Surashtra—the *amatya* Suvishakha.
- The inscription also contains an eloquent eulogy (*prashasti*) of Rudradaman.
- He is described as having become the lord of Akara, Avanti, the Anupa country, Anarta, Surashtra, Svabhra, Maru, Kachchha, Sindhu, Sauvira, Kukura, Aparanta, Nishada,

- He is said to have **destroyed the Yaudheyas**, having defeated **Satakarni**, lord of Dakshinapatha, twice in fair fight, sparing his life only because he was a close relative.
- As for Sudarshana lake, Skandagupta's inscription tells us that it burst its banks again in 455–56 CE during the reign of this Gupta king, and that he too had it repaired.

- Rudradaman's daughter seems to have been married to Gautamiputra's son, Vasishthiputra Pulumavi.
- During the late 2nd century CE, the **Satavahana king Yajna Satakarni** won some of the southern territories of the Kardamakas.
- The last Kshatrapa ruler who definitely belonged to the line of Chashtana was **Vishvasena**, who ruled at the end of the 3rd century CE. Thereafter, a **new line of Kshatrapa rulers was established by Rudrasimha II.**