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ANCIENT INDIA

THE MAGADHA EMPIRE

REFFERAL CODE:- KYARAVERMA

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THE MAGADHA





THE MAGADHA EMPIRE

- The period from 6th to 4th Century BC saw the Struggle for Supremacy among four Mahajanpadas —
  - ★ Magadha
  - ★ Kosala
  - ★ Vatsa
  - ★ Avanti

- The founder of Magadha was Jarasandha & Brihadrath.
- But the growth started Under the Haryankas.
- Magadha embraced the former districts of Patna, Gaya & Parts of Shahabad and grew to be the leading State of the time.

CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF MAGADHA

- Following are the Causes for rise of Magadha :-
  - * Advantageous geographical location with both Rajgriha & Patliputra situated at Strategic locations.
  - * Abundance of natural resources, such as Iron enabled Magadha rulers to equip with effective weapons.
  - * Use of elephants on large scale in war.
  - * The alluvial soil of the Gangetic Valley & Sufficient rainfall were very Conducive for agriculture.

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Haryanka dynasty



HARYANKA DYNASTY (542 - 412 BC)

Originally founded in 566 BC by the grandfather of Bimbisara, but actually founded by Bimbisara.

→ **BIMBISARA** (544 - 492 BC)

- Bimbisara was Contemporary of Buddha.
- He Conquered Anga (East Bihar) to gain Control over trade route with the Southern States.
- His Capital was Rajgriha (Girivraja).
- He Strengthened his position by matrimonial alliance with the Ruling families of Kosala, Vaishali & Madra (3 wives).
- His Capital was Surrounded by 5 hills, the openings in which were closed by Stone walls on all sides. This made Rajgir impregnable.

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→ AJATSHATRU (492-460 BC)

- Son of Bimbisara, killed his father and seized the throne.
- Annexed Vaishali and Kosala (annexed Vaishali with help of a war engine, which was used to throw stones).
- Kosala was ruled by Prasenajit at that time.
- Buddha died during his reign; arranged the first Buddhist Council.

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→ UDAYIN (460 - 444 BC)

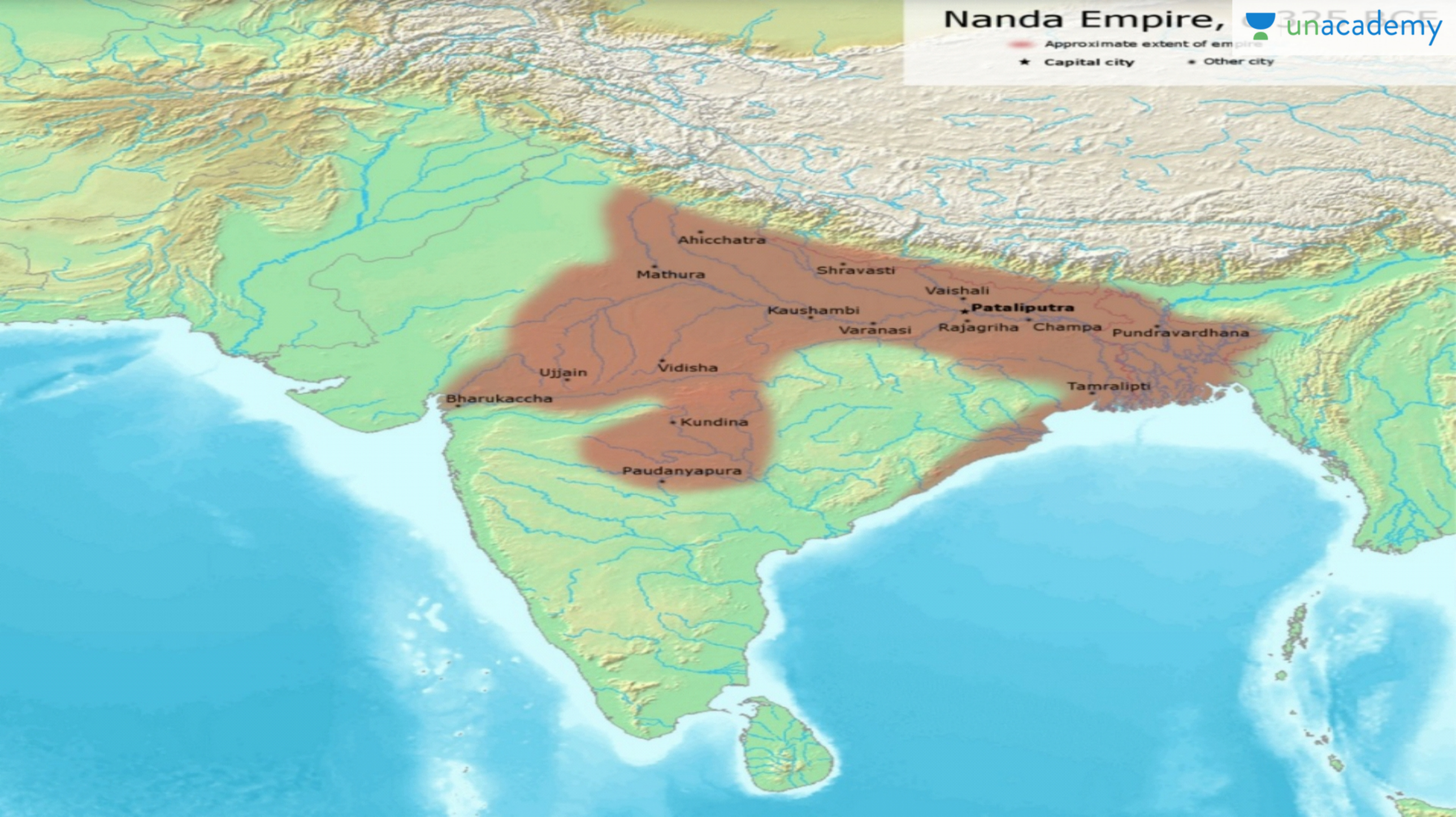
- The immediate Succession of Ajatasutru was Udayin.
- He laid the foundation of the new Capital at Patliputra, Situated at the Confluence of the two rivers, The Ganga & The Son.
- Udayin's Successors were weak rulers and hence, Magadha was captured by Shishunaga.
- The Last ruler of Haryanka Dynasty was Nagdasak.


Expansion of
(6th-4th centuries BCE)
Core region (6th century BCE and earlier)
Haryanka Dynasty (5th century BCE)
Shishunaga Dynasty (early 4th century BCE)
Original Capital
Later Capitals
Other cities
Shravasti
Vaishali
Kaushambi
Varanasi
Pataliputra
Champa
Rajagriha
Vidisha
Ujjain

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→ SHISHUNAGA DYNASTY (414-344 BC)

- The founder of Shishunaga Dynasty with Shishunage, he was an Amatya (Minister) of the Nagdaska.
- He was placed on the throne by people who revolted against the Nagdasaka.
- He was succeeded by Kalashoka (Second Buddhist Council was held during his period).
- Dynasty lasted for two generation only.
- Greatest achievement was the destruction of power of Avanti.
- Last ruler of the Dynasty was Nandivardhan, his empire was inherited by his illegitimate Son Mahapadma Nanda.


Nanda Empire,
Approximate extent of empire
Capital city
Other city
Ahicchatra
Mathura
Shravasti
Vaishali
Kaushambi
Pataliputra
Varanasi
Rajagriha
Champa
Pundravardhana
Ujjain
Vidisha
Tamralipti
Bharukaccha
Kundina
Paudanyapura
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→ NANDA DYNASTY (344-323 BC)

- It is considered as the first of the non-kshatriya dynasties founded by Mahapadma Nanda.
- He added Kalinga to his empire.
- He claimed to be the Ekarat, the sole sovereign who destroyed all the other ruling princes.
- According to the Buddhist tradition, Mahapadma Nanda ruled about 10 years.
- He was succeeded by his eight sons, who ruled successively.
- The last Nanda ruler was Dhana Nanda. During his reign he kept the Magadhan empire intact & possessed a powerful army & enormous wealth.

- During his reign, the Greek invader, the Alexander invaded India.
- Nandas maintained 2,00,000 infantry, 60,000 Cavalry & 6000 war elephants.
- This is supposed to have a check on Alexander's army from advancing toward Magadha.

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THE EMPIRE OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT
323 B.C.
AND THE KINGDOMS OF ALEXANDER'S SUCCESSORS
c. 305 B.C.
Copyright by C. S. HAMMOND & CO., N.Y.
Kingdom of Antigonus Cyclops
Kingdom of Seleucus
Kingdom of Ptolemy
Kingdom of Lysimachus
Kingdom of Cassander
Prior to the Battle of Ipsus 301 B.C.
Scale of Miles
0 100 200 300 400 500
Alexander's Route
Nearchus' Voyage
Major Battles Fought by Alexander
Limits of Alexander's Empire 323 B.C.
Alexander defeated the western satraps of Darius III at the Granicus R. near Zelea.
At Gaugamela in 331 B.C. Alexander defeated the reorganized Persian army. Darius fled to Media and was later slain by his own men.
After defeating Darius III at Issus Alexander occupied Phoenicia, Judaea and Egypt.
Alexander founded the city of Alexandria in 332 B.C. He visited the oracle of Ammon and was told of his divine origin.
Alexander died at Babylon, June 13, 323 B.C., after a short illness.
Persepolis was looted and burned by Alexander in 331 B.C.
Alexander subdued the eastern Persian satrapies after a long and difficult campaign. At Maracanda Alexander killed his friend Cleitus.
Alexander's army refused to go beyond the Hyphasis R.
Seleucus ceded Alexander's eastern provinces to Sandrocottus of India for 500 war elephants (302 B.C.).
While Nearchus explored the Arabian Sea, Alexander made the difficult overland march to return to Babylon.
Black Sea
Caspian Sea
Aral Sea
Mediterranean Sea
Red Sea
Persian Gulf
Arabian Sea
Massagetae
Dahae
Chorasmii
Pantikapaeum
Getae
THRACE
MACEDONIA
Pella
Thessalonica
EPIRUS
Byzantium
Heraclea
BITHYNIA
PAPHLAGONIA
Sinope
COLCHIS
CAUCASUS
Trapezus
PONTUS
Zelea
Ilium
MYSIA
Sardis
LYDIA
PHRYGIA
Ancyra
CAPPADOCIA
Mazaca
HELLAS
Athens
Sparta
Ephesus
CARIA
LYCIA
PISIDIA
Ipsus
TAURUS MTS.
CILICIA
Cilician Gates
ARMENIA
CRETE
RHODES
Issus
Antioch (300 B.C.)
Tarsus
CYPRUS
Nisibis
Ninus
Gaugamela
Arbela
MESOPOTAMIA
Thapsacus
SYRIA
Damascus
PHOENICIA
Tyre
JUDAEA
Gaza
Jerusalem
Petra
Nabataeans
Alexandria
Ammonium
Paluisium
Memphis
EGYPT
Ptolemais
Thebes
Syene
LIBYAN DESERT
CYRENAICA
Cyrene
LIBYA
Babylon
BABYLONIA
Susa
SUSIANA
331—324
PERSIS
Persepolis
Carmana
CARMANIA
GEDROSIA
Harmozia
Pura
HYRCANIA
Hecatompylus
Rhagae
Caspian Gates
Ecbatana
PARTHIA
ARIA
Alexandria Arion (Herat)
Prophthasia
DRANGIANA
Bazae
Maracanda (Samarkand)
SOGDIANA
Alexandria Eschate
Bactra
BACTRIA
Alexandria Arachosiorum
ARACHOSIA
Taxila
Bucephala
Nicaea
Alexandria
Patala
INDIA

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ALEXANDER'S INVASION

- Alexander (356 – 323 BC.) was the son of Philip of Macedonia (Greece) who invaded India in 326 BC.
- At that time, North - West India was split up into a number of small independent states like Taxila, Punjab (Kingdom of Porus), Gandhara etc.
- Porus fought the famous battle of Hydaspes (on bank of Jhelum) with Alexander.
- When Alexander reached Beas, his soldiers refused to go further, so he was forced to retreat.

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- He erected 12 huge Stone altars on the Northern bank of Beas to mark the farthest point of his advance.

- He remained in India for 19 months and died in 323 BC at Babylon.