

Special class on

# Rise of Local Dynasty in Odisha

Oct 13, 2020 • Sibasankar Hazra



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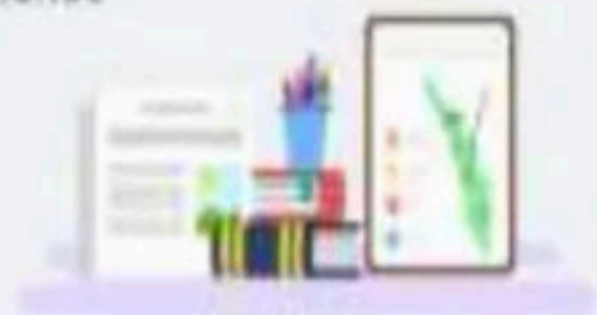


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## ABOUT ME



Sibasankar Hazra

Hi my name is Sibasankar Hazra .I have been mentoring for OPSC aspirants since 2017.I have working in different institution since then. I do guide aspirants on GS ,optional GEOGRAPHY, ESSAY, and current affair. In last opsc result more than 5 students got selected good rank.I did my graduation with history honours from BIB AUTONOMOUS bbsr and post graduation with sociolinguistics from Utkal university of culture.

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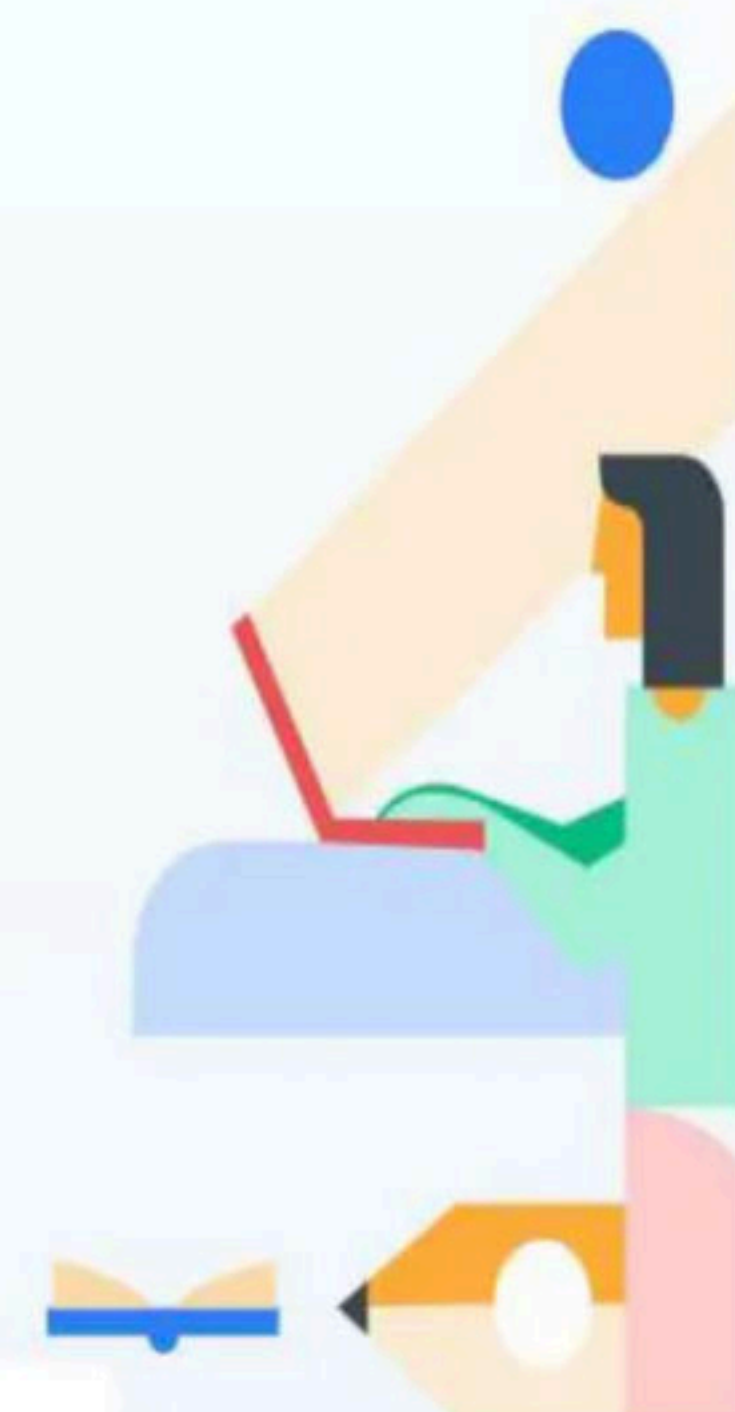
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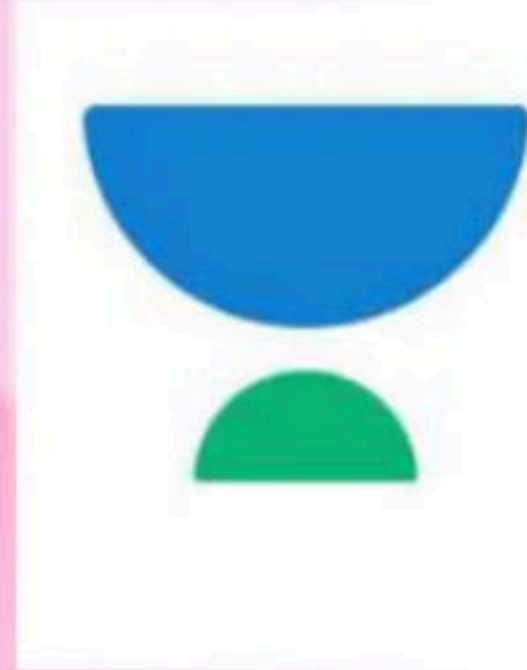
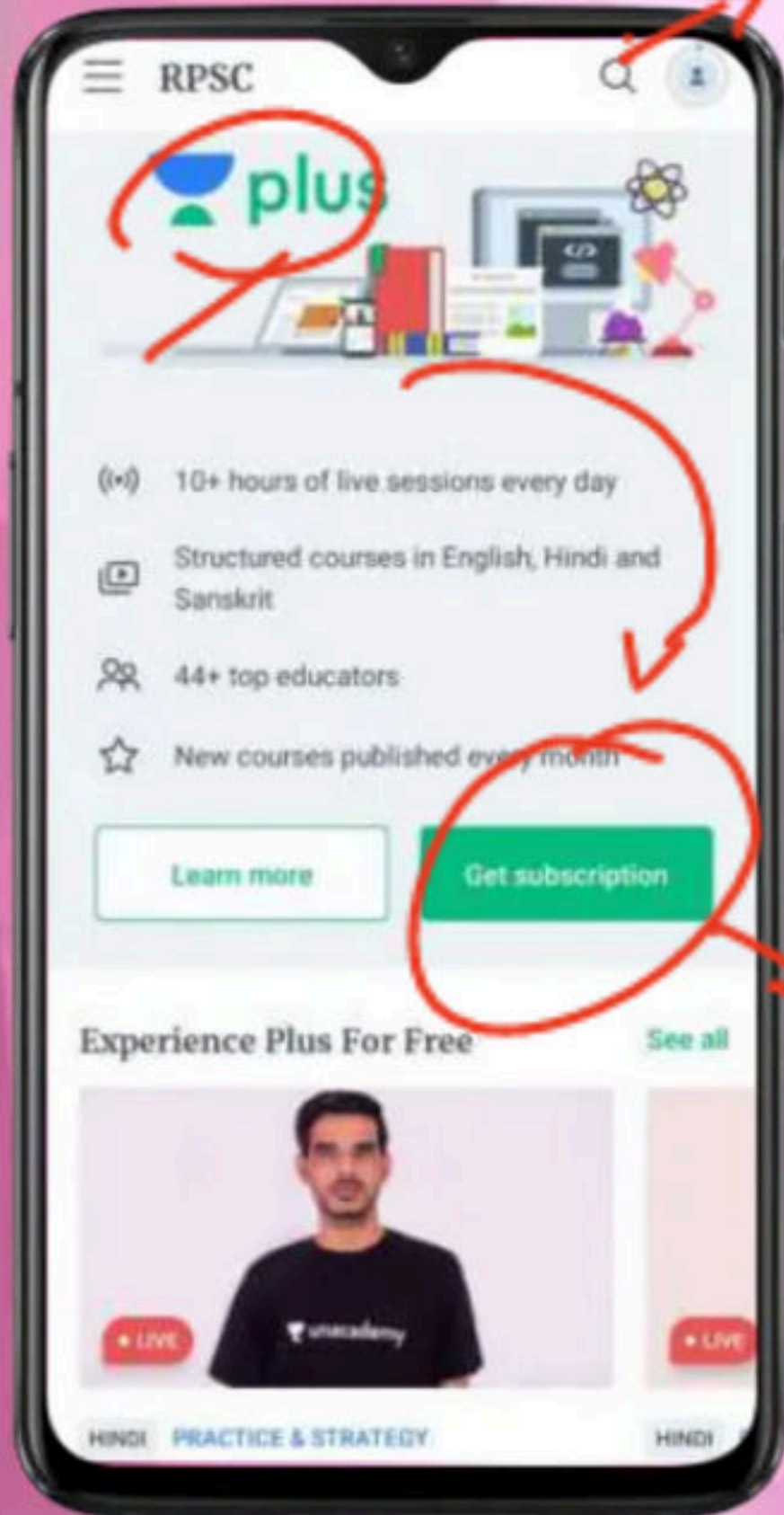
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# **RISE OF LOCAL DYNASTIES**

- The history of Kalinga region underwent great change about the middle of the fourth century AD. after the **South India campaign of Samudragupta**.
- The political situation of the period contributed to the rise of a new ruling dynasties.
- On the other hand, it gave way for the rise of petty kingdoms on the map of Odisha in the middle of 4th century A.D. Some of them had survived for a hundred and **fifty** years whereas some others just appeared and then **disappeared** in a short time.
- The first kingdom appeared on the soil of Kalinga to be the **Matharas**. In ancient time the Mathara family enjoyed high political and social status and had matrimonial relations with several powerful ruling families of **Kosala** and **South India**.



## MATHARA DYNASTY

- The Mathara dynasty ruled in the Kalinga region of eastern India during 4th and 5th centuries CE.
- Their territory included parts of the area between the present-day Ganjam district of Odisha and the Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh.
- About the middle of the fourth century, Vishakha Varman of the Mathara family succeeded in organising a small principality in Kalinga region with its headquarters at Sripura identified with the modern village Batiasripua near Paralakhemundi in Ganjam district.

• Vishakhavarman assumed the title Sri Maharaja and started his political career as a modest ruler of a petty territory.

• Maharaja Visakhavannan was succeeded by **Umavarman** who was very likely his son. He began to extend his territory and power at the cost of the neighbouring territories. By that time he declared himself as the "Lord of Kalinga".

• Umavarman was the first great ruler of the Mathara dynasty and with him Kalinga entered into a long and vigorous political career and her influence was felt in the history of Eastern India and Deccan.

• Maharaja Umavarman ruled for about thirty five years and was succeeded by his brother **Sankarvarman** in 395 A.D. and his rule appears to be very short one.

Sri Maharaja  
→  
→



35 yr

- Maharaja Sankaravarman died about 400 A.D. and was succeeded by his son **Maharaja Saktivarman**.
- Maharaja Saktivarman was an ambitious and war like ruler and succeeded in unifying the Northern and Southern Kalinga.
- Maharaja Saktivarman died in circa 420 A.D. and was succeeded by his son **Anantasaktivarman**. Anantasaktivarman could not maintain the integrity of the empire inherited from his father and he lost south Kaling.
- He died 450 A.D. and was succeeded by **Chandravarman** who was very likely his son. Chandravarman probably had a premature death about 460 A.D. when he was succeeded by **Prabhanjanavarman**, another son of Saktivarman.

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• It appears that after the death of Saktivarman there was a rift between his two sons Anantasaktivarman and Prabhajanavarman. This internal quarrel contributed to the weakness of the Mathara dynasty.

• King Prabhajanvarman attempted to recover South Kalinga and he assumed the title "Sakala Kalingadhipati".

• He died around 480 A.D. Nandapranjanavarman succeeded Prabhajanavarman. He was the last ruler of this dynasty.

• Thus, the Matharas ruled for one hundred and fifty years. Their rule provided a sound administrative set-up to the Kalinga region.

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Handwritten notes in orange ink on the right margin: "Sakala Kalingadhipati" and "480 A.D." with arrows pointing to the corresponding text in the main content.

- The Mathara period saw the development of such **Brahmanical cults** in Orissa as Bhagavata and Saiva. The Matharas patronised **Sanskrit literature**.
- During this period, the people of **Kalinga** were carrying on **maritime trade** with **south-east Asian countries**.
- During the close of his reign **the Sailodbhavas** emerged as a mighty power extending their sway from the Mahanadi in the north to Mahendragiri in the south.
- They ruled over **Kongoda Mandala**, roughly comprising the **undivided Ganjam and Puri districts**. The centre of their political activities was **Kongodavasaka** which was, perhaps, on the bank of river **Salia** in the Ganjam district.

# THE SAILODBHAVAS

- The name Sailodbhava literary means 'born out of rocks'.
- Historical analysis of the origin of the Sailodbhavas, scholars opine that Sailodbhavas were either a branch of the Ganga family or Salla dynasty of Madhya Pradesh.

## Genealogical Table of the Sailodbhavas



- From Gupta era 250 (570 A.D.), it is known that **Dharmaraja I** other wise known as Ranabhita was the first known historical ruler of the Sailodbhaba dynasty.
- It is apparent that towards the close of sixth century A.D., the Vigrahas had become powerful and the Sailodbhavas acknowledged their suzerainty.
- Dharmaraja I was, the devotee of Sun God.
- **Madhavaraja** succeeded Dharmaraja I to the throne of Kongoda.
- With **Chharamparaja Ayasobhita I**, a new phase began in the history of the Sailodbhavas. He was a devotee to Lord Siva (Hara) and patronised Saivism

Madhava  
dharma

- The lost glory of the Sailodbhava dynasty was restored and firmly established by **Madhavaraja II Sainyabhita II**, the son and successor of Charamparaja.
- He ruled over **Kongoda Mandala** under different circumstances at least for **fifty years** as feudatory and independent ruler exhibiting his diplomatic genius.
- Madhvaraja II asserted his independence and grabbed entire **Kalinga** assuming the title **Sakala-Kalingadhipati**.
- In **642 AD.**, **Harsavardhan** conquered **Kongoda** and **Madhavavarman** had no alternative but to accept the suzerainty of Harsa. Again, with the demise of **Harsavardhan** in **647 A.D.**, **Madhavavarman** became the independent sovereign of **Kongoda mandala**.

- He not only saved the nascent Sailodbhava kingdom from the wrath of the great rulers like but also became successful in maintaining the sovereignty and strength of the empire.
- Madhavaraja was succeeded by **Madhyamaraja I Ayasobhita II**.
- He was so strong that he could run easily with able bodied persons standing on his soldiers.
- He was a patron of **Brahmanism**.
- Further, he performed the Vedic sacrificed like **Asvamedha and Vajapeya**. After a glorious reign of thirty years, he breathed his last in C - 695 A.D.



- With the passing away of Ayasovita II, a war of succession took place between his two sons- Dharmaraja II and Madhavaraja.
- Madhavaraja, the younger son of Ayasobhita II usurped the throne of Kongoda violating the law of primogeniture and tried to drive away Dharmaraja from the Kingdom. However, Dharmaraja in retrospect secured the support of some powerful officers and feudatories and defeated his younger brother, Madhavaraja.
- After that, Dharmaraja II firmly established his authority over Kongoda.
- It is known that he was a great builder of towns.

- Dharmaraja II was succeeded by his son **Madhyamaraja II**.
- Madhyamaraja II was a young ruler and brave warrior. Perhaps, after his death, Sailodbhavas were driven away from Kongoda by the **Bhaumakaras** of Tosali around 736 A.D.
- **Allaparaja**, who succeeded Madhyamaraja, was sheltered by the Gangas of Kalinga. He ruled over Tekkali region as a feudatory of the Gangas.
- He was succeeded by grandson **Madhyamaraja III**. After Madhyamaraja II, no information is gathered regarding the Sailodbhavas.
- The Sailodbhavas ruled over Kongoda nearly about **200 years**. During their period, Brahmanism arose as a great religion over Kongoda. The dynasty faced great upheavels from external enemies and withstood those aggressions. At last, the Bhauma-Karas brought eclipse to the Sailodbhava dynasty.
- The Sailodbhava period was a period of creativity in Odishan art and architecture. A number of Saiva temples like **Parsurameswar, Bharteswar, Laxmaneswar, Satrughneswar, svarnajaleswar** etc. can be assigned to Sailodbhava period.



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