

<https://www.examveda.com/history/practice-mcq-question-on-magadha-empire/>

<https://mcqprime.com/magadha-empire-mcq/>

Absolutely  — here's a **compact, exam-focused summary** of all the **post-Mauryan lineages** we have studied so far: **Shunga → Kanya → Indo-Greek → Satavahana**.

This summary connects their **chronological order, key rulers, political-social-economic conditions, religion, culture, and legacy** — exactly the kind of overview expected in **government and competitive exams (UPSC, SSC, PSC, etc.)**.

Post-Mauryan Dynasties: Summary Notes

After the decline of the **Mauryan Empire (c. 185 BCE)**, India saw the rise of **regional kingdoms** — both **indigenous** (Shungas, Kanvas, Satavahanas) and **foreign** (Indo-Greeks).

These dynasties ruled different parts of India but collectively shaped the **transition from a centralized empire to regional powers**.

Chronological Order

Dynasty	Period (Approx.)	Founder	Capital	Region	Successor
Shunga	185 – 73 BCE	Pushyamitra Shunga	Pataliputra	Magadha (North India)	Kanya
Kanya	73 – 28 BCE	Vasudeva Kanya	Pataliputra	Magadha	Satavahana
Indo-Greek	200 BCE – 10 CE	Demetrius I	Taxila / Sagala	Northwest India	Indo-Scythians (Sakas)
Satavahana	1st BCE – 3rd CE	Simuka	Pratishthana (Paithan)	Deccan (Maharashtra–Andhra)	Ikshvaku Dynasty

1. Political Overview

Aspect	Shunga	Kanva	Indo-Greek	Satavahana
Founder	Pushyamitra (killed last Mauryan)	Vasudeva Kanva (minister of last Shunga)	Demetrius I (Bactria → India)	Simuka (overthrew Kanvas)
Nature of Rule	Native Brahmin kings	Small Brahmin monarchy	Foreign Greek rulers	Deccan monarchy (Andhra)
Strength	Moderate power, revived Magadha	Weak, short-lived	Several small kingdoms	Strong Deccan empire
Duration	~112 years	~45 years	~190 years	~300 years

2. Religion and Society

Dynasty	Main Religion	Features
Shunga	Hinduism (Vedic revival)	Reestablished Brahmanical rituals, but Buddhism continued.
Kanva	Hinduism (Brahmanism)	Continued Shunga policies, ritual sacrifices.
Indo-Greek	Buddhism + Greek religion	Menander (Milinda) converted to Buddhism; religious harmony.
Satavahana	Hinduism + Buddhism	Promoted both religions; women held respected roles (e.g., Gautami Balashri).

3. Economic Conditions

Dynasty	Economic Features
Shunga	Agriculture-based, limited trade; revival of internal commerce.
Kanva	Agrarian; reduced prosperity, limited urban growth.
Indo-Greek	International trade hub (India–Central Asia–Rome); introduced bilingual coins.
Satavahana	Prosperous economy, active Indo-Roman trade, guild-based crafts, agriculture and seaports flourished.



4. Cultural & Artistic Contributions

Dynasty	Contributions
Shunga	Renovation of Bharhut and Sanchi Stupas , Sanskrit learning revived.
Kanya	Preserved earlier art, minor patronage to religion and literature.
Indo-Greek	Origin of Gandhara Art (Greco-Buddhist art); first coins with human images.
Satavahan a	Amaravati Stupa, Nasik & Karle caves , Prakrit literature, realistic sculpture.



5. Administrative Features

- **Shungas & Kanas:**
 - Continued **Mauryan administrative pattern**, but power decentralized.
 - Magadha remained center of authority.
 - **Indo-Greeks:**
 - Hellenistic administration; kings called *Basileus* (King).
 - Bilingual coinage (Greek + Prakrit).
 - **Satavahanas:**
 - Hereditary monarchy.
 - Provinces (*Ahara*), governed by local officials (*Amatyas*).
 - Matrilineal respect — mothers' names mentioned in inscriptions.
-



6. Life of the People

- Agriculture remained the **economic base** throughout.
- Trade revived strongly under **Indo-Greeks and Satavahanas**.

- Society became **hierarchical**, but social mobility existed under Satavahanas.
 - **Art, education, and learning** flourished in cities like **Taxila, Nasik, and Amaravati**.
-

7. Decline and Successors

Dynasty	Cause of Decline	Successor
Shunga	Weak successors; Kanya usurpation	Kanya
Kanya	Overthrown by Satavahanas	Satavahana
Indo-Greeks	Internal wars; Saka and Parthian invasions	Indo-Scythians (Sakas)
Satavahana	Succession disputes; Saka wars; rise of local rulers	Ikshvakus, Abhiras, Vakatakas

8. Overall Significance of the Post-Mauryan Period

- Transition from **centralized empire** (Mauryan) to **regional kingdoms**.
 - Rise of **foreign contact and cultural exchange** (Indo-Greeks, Sakas, Kushans).
 - Spread and artistic expression of **Buddhism and Hinduism**.
 - Growth of **trade, urban centers, and crafts** — economic decentralization.
 - Cultural synthesis that prepared ground for **Gupta Age** (later golden age).
-

Timeline Recap

Century	Major Rulers / Events
3rd BCE	Fall of Mauryas → Pushyamitra Shunga rises
2nd BCE	Indo-Greek invasion (Demetrius, Menander); Shungas rule Magadha
1st BCE	Kanas replace Shungas; Simuka Satavahana founds Deccan power

1st CE – 3rd CE Satavahana empire flourishes; Indo-Greek rule ends

After 3rd CE Rise of Ikshvakus, Abhiras, and Vakatakas

Key Takeaways for Exams

1. **Shunga** – Revival of Brahmanism; Pushyamitra Shunga; Bharhut & Sanchi art.
 2. **Kanva** – Short rule; continued Brahmanism; overthrown by Satavahanas.
 3. **Indo-Greek** – Menander (Milinda), conversion to Buddhism, Gandhara art.
 4. **Satavahana** – First great Deccan empire; Gautamiputra Satakarni; Indo-Roman trade; Amaravati art.
 5. Transition era showing **foreign influence + regional growth** — a link between **Mauryas** and **Guptas**.
-