

The Four Vedas are:

- **Rigveda:** The oldest Veda, consisting of 1028 hymns called 'Suktas' and divided into 10 books known as 'Mandalas.'
- **Samaveda:** Known as the Veda of melodies and chants, dated back to 1200-800 BCE, associated with public worship and 1549 hymns.
- **Yajur Veda:** Dates back to 1100-800 BCE, compiled ritual-offering mantras/chants for priests to recite during rituals and 1875 hymns.
- **Atharva Veda:** Contains 730 hymns, charms, and magic spells intended for various benefits, pronounced by individuals .

Veda	Rigveda	Samaveda	Yajurveda	Atharvaveda
Compilation	Around 1500-1000 BC	Not Meant to Be Read as Text; Musical Score Sheet	Two Types: Krishna (Un-arranged) & Shukla (Arranged)	
Literal Meaning	'To Praise'; Knowledge	-	-	-
Contents	1028 Hymns Dedicated to Deities (Agni, Indra) Attributed to Sage Rishi	1549 Verses; Part-I: Melodies (Gana), Part-II: Three Verses (Archika)	Oldest Layer with 1875 Verses Mostly from Rigveda	730 Hymns/Suktas, 6000 Mantras, 20 Books
Verses	10,600	Shortest of All Vedas	-	-
Structure	Books 1 & 10 Youngest and Longest; Books 2-9 Deal with Cosmology	Udgatri Experts; Root of Indian Classical Music and Dance	-	Paippalada and Saunakiya Surviving Recensions
Significant Hymns	Mandal III: Gayatri Mantra (Praise of Sun God Savitri); Mandal IX: Purusha Sukta (Discussion of Varna System)	Embedded Upanishads: Chandogya and Kena	-	Collection of Charms and Spells; Magical Hymns for Disease Relief
Experts	Rishi Called Hotra or Hotri	-	Adhvaryu	-
Commonalities	Many Shared Features with Zend-Avesta (Oldest Iranian Text)	-	-	Origin of Ayurveda from Atharvaveda
Notable Rishi	Vishvamitra	-	-	-

Political Structure:

- Political units included Grama (village), Vis (clan), and Jana (people).
- Aryans were organized into tribes, not kingdoms, with a chief known as a Rajan.
- Tribal councils called Sabha and Samiti restricted the autonomy of the Rajan and governed the tribe.
- The Rajan required approval from these councils to accede to the throne.
- They collected tributes, known as "Bali," from their subjects

kula family	Gram (Village)	Vis (Clan)	Jana (People)	Rashtra (Country)
Basic unit	Kula unites to make one gram.	Gram unites to make one Vis.	Vis unites to make one Jana.	Jana unites to make one Rashtra.
Head of family - Kulapa	Head of gram - Gramini	Head of vis - vispati	Head of jana - Gopa/Gopati	Head of rashtra - Rajan (king)

•Officials:

- The king was aided in administration by various functionaries including the purohita (priest), Senani (general), and Gramani (village headman).
- The purohit held the most significant position among state officers and was responsible for performing rituals.

•The Army:

- The army primarily consisted of infantry (Patti) and chariots (Rathi).
- Soldiers used weapons such as bows, arrows, swords, axes, and spears, all made of iron.

Popular Assemblies:

- The Rig Veda mentions two popular assemblies: **Sabha and Samiti**.
- The king, although powerful, was not an autocrat and consulted these bodies in administration.

Sabha was a select body of elders, and its head was known as '**Sabhapati**'.

Important Rituals:

Rajasuya: A ritual performed by kings to strengthen their influence and confer supreme power.

Asvamedha: Signified unquestioned control over an area where the royal horse ran uninterrupted.

Vajapeya: A chariot race where the king's chariot was made to win against his kinsmen.

Chief Priests:

Hotri: Recited Rig Samhita during sacrifices.

Brahman: Acted as the high priest overseeing the entire ritual.

Social Life in Early Vedic Age:

- **Patriarchal Society:** Rig Vedic society was patriarchal.
- **Leadership:** Kulapati (family head), Grahapati (extended kin group head).
- **Marriage:** Monogamy was common; polygamy also practiced.
- **Women Poets:** Apala, Viswavara, Ghosa, and Lopamudra.



Types of Marriage:

Brahma: Marriage of a duly dowered girl to a man of the same class.

Daiva: Father gives his daughter to a sacrificial priest as part of his fee.

Arsa: Token bride-price of a cow and bull is given in place of dowry.

Prajapatya: Father gives the girl without dowry or bride-price.

Gandharva: Marriage by consent of both parties, often solemnized by plighting troth.

Asura: Bride bought from her father, looked down upon by sacred texts.

Rakshasa: Marriage by capture, practiced by warriors.

Among these, the first four were generally approved.

Amulom-

Pratilom-

Economic Life in Early Vedic Age:

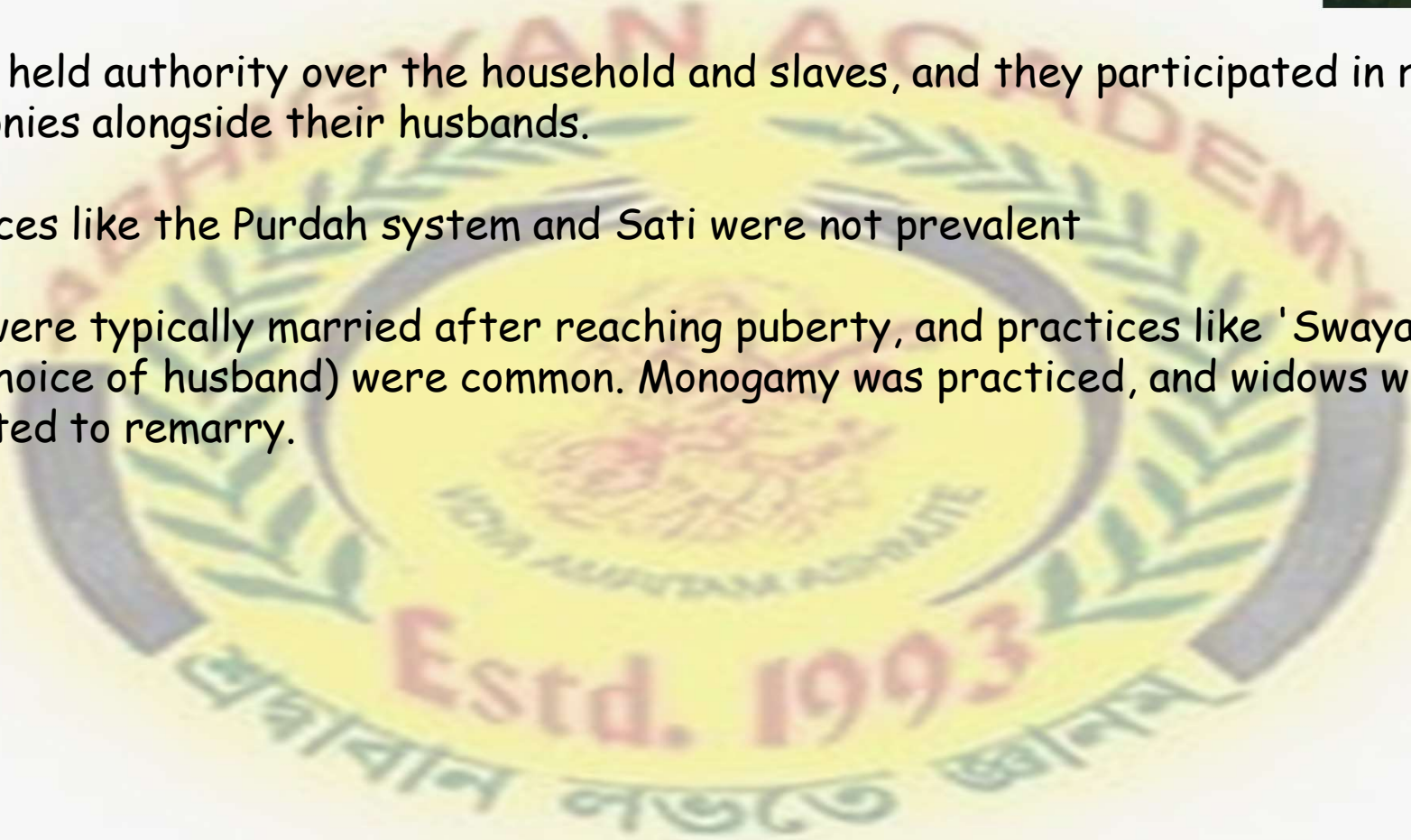
- **Pastoral Lifestyle:** Main occupation was cattle rearing.
- **Professions:** Carpentry was significant.
- **Trade:** Barter system.

Religion in Early Vedic Age:

- **Deities:** Prithvi (Earth), Agni (Fire), Vayu (Wind), Varuna (Rain), Indra (Thunder).
- **Popularity:** Indra was prominent.
- **Hymns:** 250 dedicated to Indra.
- **Varuna:** Upholder of natural order.
- **Female Deities:** Aditi and Ushas.

Position of Women:

- Women enjoyed an honored place in society during the early Vedic age.
- Wives held authority over the household and slaves, and they participated in religious ceremonies alongside their husbands.
- Practices like the Purdah system and Sati were not prevalent
- Girls were typically married after reaching puberty, and practices like 'Swayamvara' (self-choice of husband) were common. Monogamy was practiced, and widows were permitted to remarry.



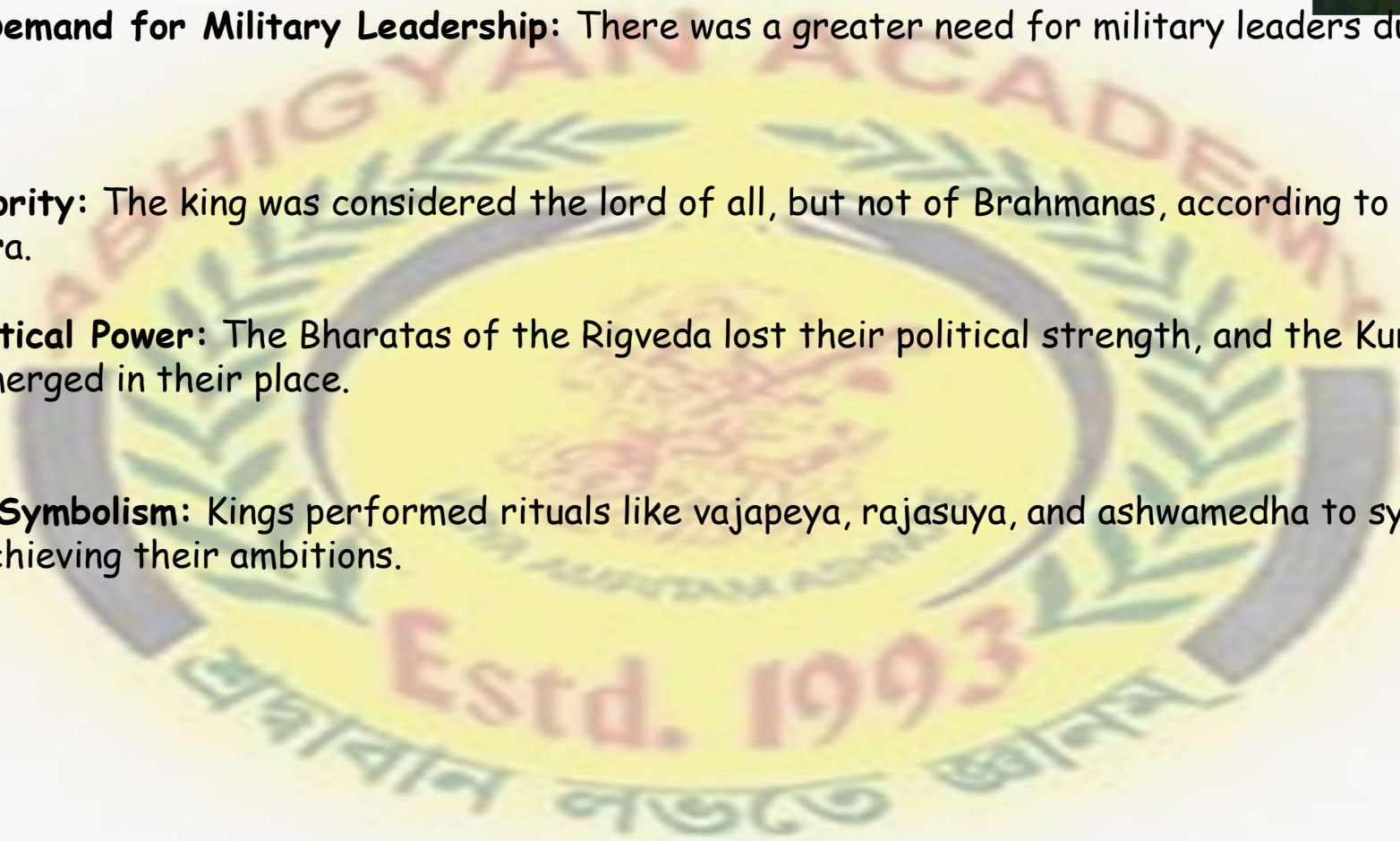
The later Vedic period:

Increased Demand for Military Leadership: There was a greater need for military leaders during this period.

King's Authority: The king was considered the lord of all, but not of Brahmanas, according to the Gautama Dharmasastra.

Shift in Political Power: The Bharatas of the Rigveda lost their political strength, and the Kurus and Panchalas emerged in their place.

Rituals and Symbolism: Kings performed rituals like vajapeya, rajasuya, and ashwamedha to symbolize their success in achieving their ambitions.



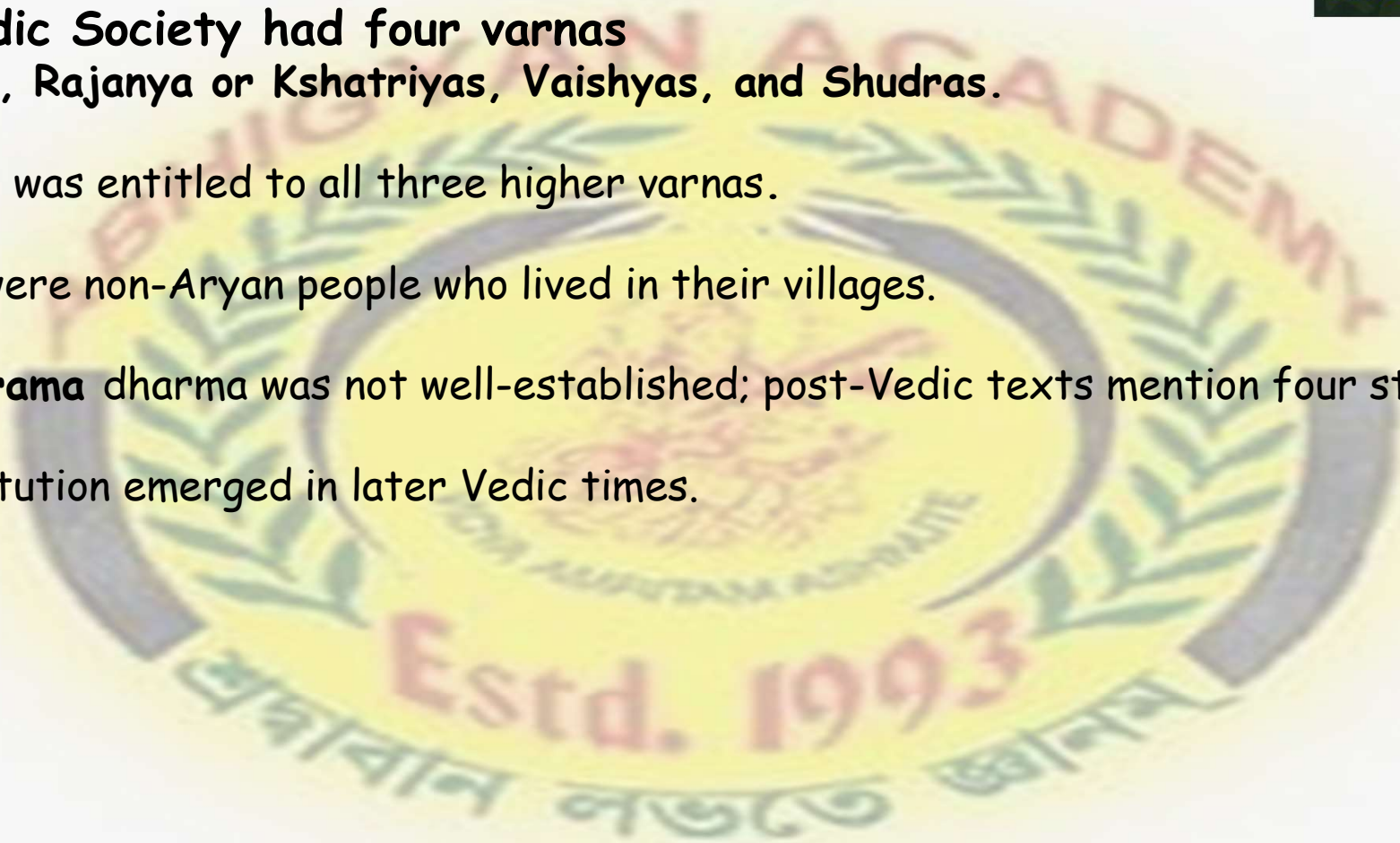
Titles for Kings: Different titles such as raja, adhiraja, samrat, virat, ekarat, and sarvabhauma were used to denote various levels of rulership.

Decrease in Popular Assembly Importance: There was a considerable decrease in the significance and function of popular assemblies like sabha and samiti.

Evolution of Parisad: The Parisad evolved into a selected body of scholars dominated by priests, marking a shift in the political and intellectual landscape

- **Nirukta** shows evidence of elected kings in the later Vedic period.
- **Gautama Dharmasutra** states the king was lord of all except Brahmanas.
- **Suta and Gramani** were referred to as Raja Kartri or kingmakers.
- **Prasna Upanishad** mentions village officials appointed by the king as the lowest rung.
- '**Gana**', meaning republic, appears 46 times in the Rig Veda.
- At least one reference in Rig Veda titles the leader of the gana as 'Rajan'.

- Later Vedic Society had four varnas
- Brahmanas, Rajanya or Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras.
- Upanayana was entitled to all three higher varnas.
- Nishadas were non-Aryan people who lived in their villages.
- Varna ashrama dharma was not well-established; post-Vedic texts mention four stages of life.
- Gotra institution emerged in later Vedic times.



Rigvedic names of Rivers

Rigvedic Name	Modern Name
Sindhu	Indus
Vitase	Jhelum
Akshivi	Chenab
Pusushni	Ravi
Vipas	Beas
Sutudri	Satluj
Gumal	Gomati
Krumu	Kurram
Drishdvati	Ghaggar



•There are broadly two types of Vedic literature: Shruti Literature & Smriti Literature

The word 'Shruti' from the term '**Shruti Literature**' means '**to hear**' and describes the sacred texts which comprise of **Vedas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, & Upanishads.**

Brahmanas	
1. Details	Meanings of Vedic hymns, their applications, and stories of origins.
2. Allotment to Rigveda	Aitareya/Kaushitaki Brahmanas.
3. Allotment to Samveda	Tandya/Jaiminiya Brahmanas.
4. Allotment to Yajurveda	Taittireeya/Shatpatha Brahmanas.
5. Allotment to Atharvaveda	Gopath Brahmanas.
Aranyakas	
1. Meaning	'Forest.'
2. Purpose	Written for hermits and Vedic students.
3. Transition to Upanishads	Initiated a shift from materialistic to spiritual religion.
4. Role	Acts as a bridge between Vedas/Brahmanas and Upanishads.

Upanishads	
1. Phase	Last phase of Vedic literature.
2. Number	108 Upanishads.
3. Focus	Metaphysics (Philosophy).
4. Also Called	Vedanta.
5. Subjects Covered	Soul, Brahmana, rebirth, theory of karma.
7. Literal Meaning	'To sit near the feet of.'
8. Important Upanishads	Chhandogya, Brihadaranyaka, Katha, Isha, Prasna, Mundaka.
10. Influence on National Emblem	"Satyameva Jayate" from Mundaka Upanishad.

Samhita	
Collection	Hymns associated with the Vedas.
Number of Hymns	1028.
Total Verses	About 10,600.

MAHAJANAPADAS



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•The Buddhist literature Angutara Nikaya gives us a list of 16 great kingdoms called Mahajanapadas

Mahajanapada	Capital	Modern Location
1. Anga	Champa	Bihar and West Bengal
2. Magadha	Girivraja/Rajagriha	Gaya and Patna
3. Kasi	Varanasi	Banaras
4. Vatsa	Kausambi	Allahabad
5. Kosala	Sravasti	Uttar Pradesh
6. Saurasena	Mathura	Western Uttar Pradesh
7. Panchala	Ahichchatra and Kampilya	Western Uttar Pradesh
8. Kuru	Indraprastha	Meerut
9. Matsya	Viratnagar	Jaipur
10. Chedi	Sothivati	Bundelkhand
11. Avanti	Ujjaini or Mahismati	Malwa and Madhya Pradesh
12. Gandhara	Taxila	Rawalpindi
13. Ashmaka/Assaka	Pratisthan/Paithan	Bank of Godavari
14. Vajji	Vaishali	Bihar
15. Malla	Kusinagar and Pavapuri	Uttar Pradesh
16. Kamboja	Pooncha	Rajouri and Hajra

MAHAJANAPADAS





Four Powerful Mahajanapadas:

- **Vatsa:**
 - Capital: **Kaushambi** (Shifted from the Kuru clan).
 - Most Powerful Ruler: Udayana.
 - Post-Udayana: Annexed to Avanti.
 - Geography: Situated on the banks of the Yamuna River.
- **Avanti:**
 - Capital: **Ujjain**.
 - Key Ruler: Pradyota.
 - Relation with Buddhism: Patronized Buddhism.
 - Fate: Eventually annexed to Magadha.
- **Kosala:**
 - Capital: **Ayodhya**
 - Prominent Ruler: Prasenjit, whose sister married Bimbisara.
 - Political Move: Prasenjit gave Kasi as dowry to Magadha.
 - Post-Prasenjit: Kosala became part of Magadha after his death.
- **Magadha:**
 - Capital: **Rajagriha**.
 - Geographical Features: Fertile soil, iron ores near Rajgir, and copper and iron deposits near Gaya.

Famous Kings from Magadha:

- **Bhimbisara:**
 - Founder: Established Hariyanka Dynasty.
 - Initiatives: Sent physician Jivika to Ujjain, had the first standing army.
 - Contemporary: Lived during the time of Buddha and Mahavira.
- **Ajatashatru:**
 - Religious Affiliation: Embraced Buddhism.
 - Council: Convened the First Buddhist Council at Rajagriha after Buddha's death.
 - Conquests: Took 16 years to conquer Vaishali.
 - Capital: Established the new capital at Pataliputra at the confluence of two rivers.
- **Udayabhadra/Udayin:**
 - Capital Shift: Moved the capital to Pataliputra (Patna).

Sisunaga Dynasty (413-345 BCE)

- Founded by Sisunaga after overthrowing the Haryanka Dynasty
- Ruled Magadha Empire for approximately 68 years
- Key rulers: Sisunaga, Kakavarana, Kalasoka.

Sisunaga (413-395 BCE)

Founded Sisunaga Dynasty
Initially minister adviser to previous king
Expanded empire's territory

Kalasoka (395-367 BCE)

Succeeded Sisunaga
Continued expansion policies
Conflicts with neighboring kingdoms (Avanti)

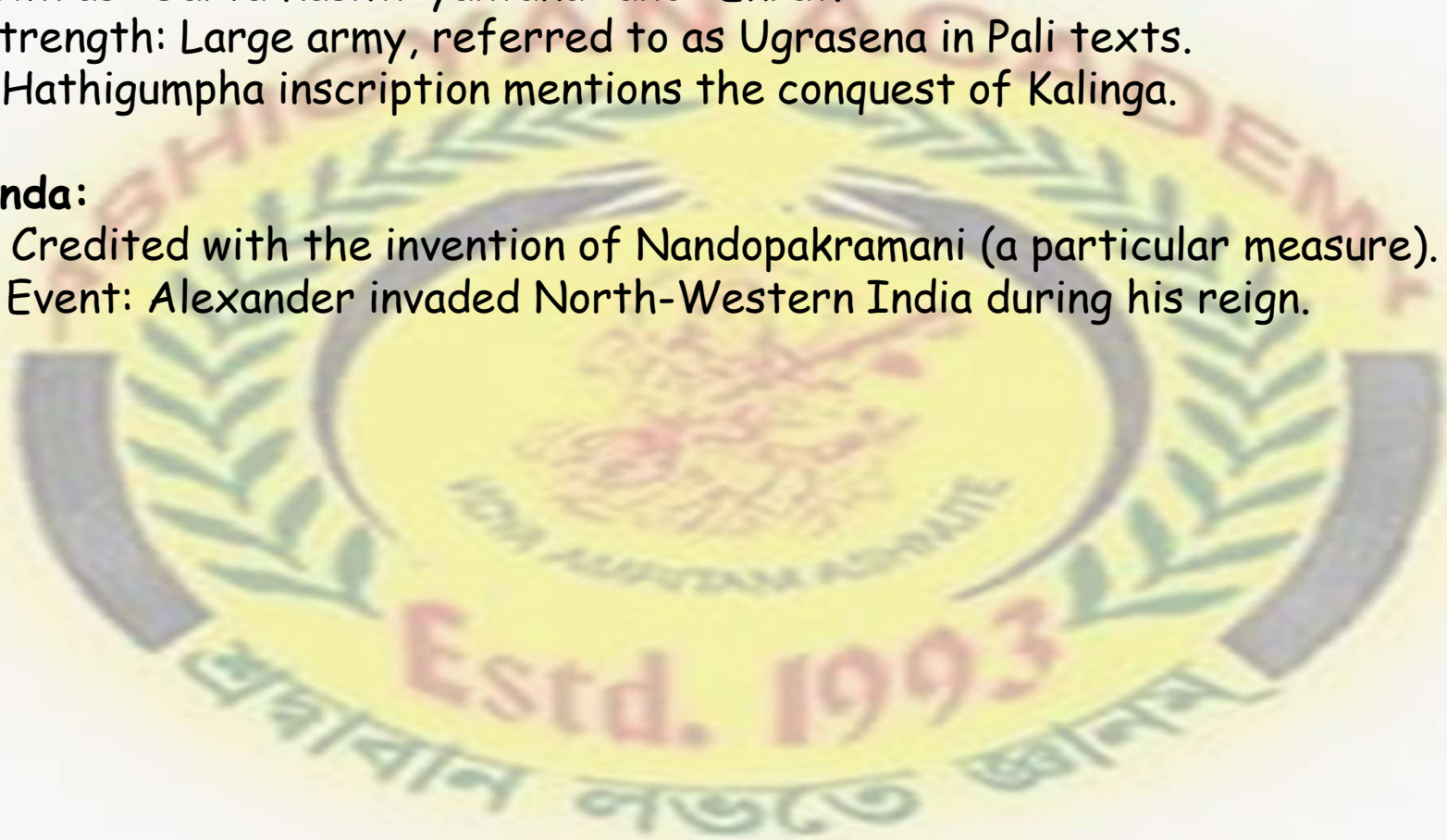
- Patronized arts (music, dance).
- Described as cruel and despotic by some accounts

- **Mahapadma Nanda:**

- Titles: Known as "Sarva Kashatriyantaka" and "Ektrat."
- Military Strength: Large army, referred to as Ugrasena in Pali texts.
- Conquest: Hathigumpha inscription mentions the conquest of Kalinga.

- **Dhana Nanda:**

- Invention: Credited with the invention of Nandopakramani (a particular measure).
- Historical Event: Alexander invaded North-Western India during his reign.



Geographical Advantage:

Magadha possessed rich iron deposits near Rajgir, its earliest capital, facilitating superior weaponry for its princes.
Iron deposits in eastern Madhya Pradesh near Avanti's capital, Ujjain, provided competition.

Strategic Capitals:

Magadha's capitals, Rajgir and later Pataliputra, offered strategic advantages.
Rajgir's natural defenses, surrounded by five hills, made it nearly impregnable.
Pataliputra, situated at the confluence of major rivers, commanded communication routes.

Agricultural Fertility:

Magadha, located in the fertile middle Gangetic plain, had highly productive alluvial soil.
Abundant rainfall supported cultivation, particularly of paddy.

Economic Prosperity:

Town development and coin usage contributed to economic growth.
Control over trade routes allowed Magadhan princes to levy tolls, accumulating wealth.

Military Innovation:

Magadha pioneered large-scale use of elephants in warfare, sourced from the eastern regions.

Elephants were crucial for storming fortresses and navigating tough terrains.

Weapons-Rathmusalak and Mahashilakantak(Stone catapult)

Unorthodox Social Structure:

Magadha's society comprised Kiratas and Magadhas initially looked down upon by orthodox Brahmanas.

Racial admixture with Vedic arrivals created a society more inclined toward expansion.

Magadha's expansion was fueled by these factors, leading to the establishment of the first Indian empire.