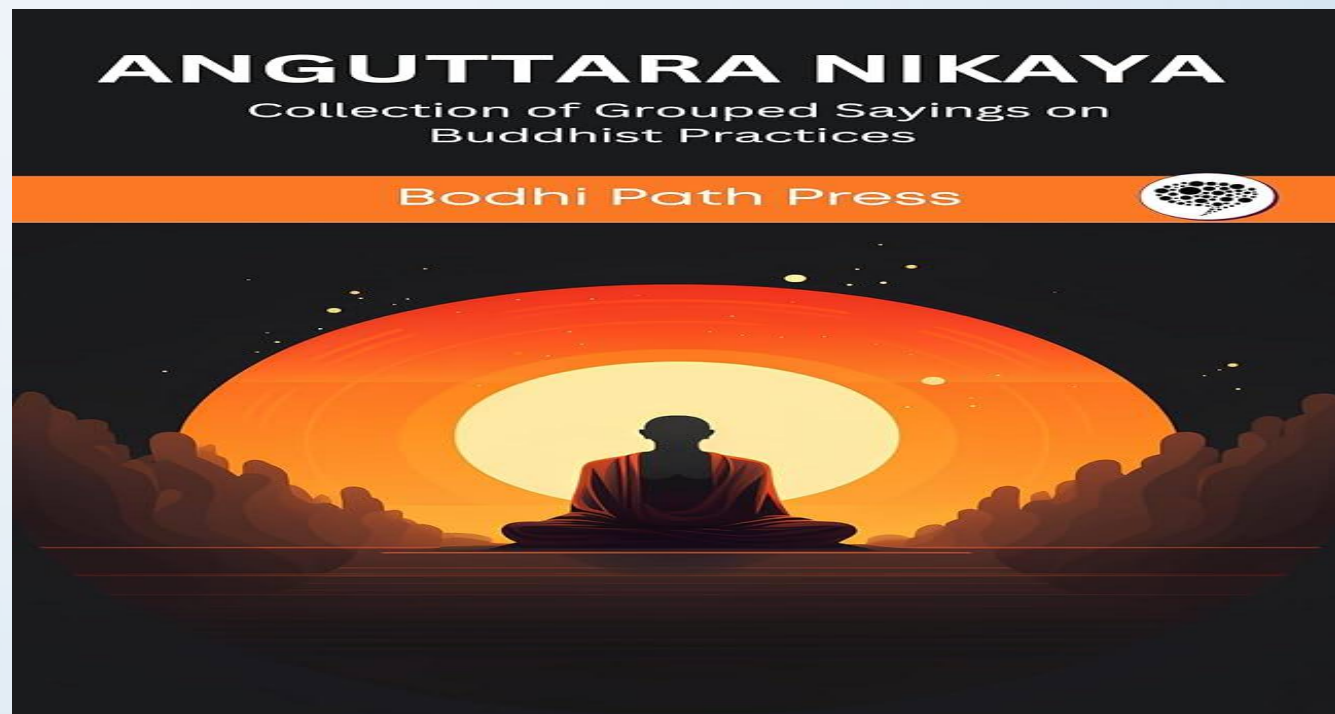




## Source

- 1. Anguttara Nikaya (Buddhist Text)
- ii) Bhagavati Sutra (Jain Text)
- iii) Astadhyayi of Panini
- iv) Gangamala Jataka



# The Sixteen Mahajanapadas

## 1. Anga

- **Location:** Modern-day Bihar and West Bengal.
- **Capital:** Champa.
- **Significance:** Anga was known for its trade and commerce, particularly its trade routes and markets. The strategic location along the Ganges River facilitated its economic prosperity. Anga's wealth from trade made it a target for conquest, eventually leading to its annexation by the powerful Magadha kingdom under King Bimbisara.

## 2. Assaka

- **Location:** Present-day Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Capital:** Potali or Podana.
- **Significance:** Assaka was located on the banks of the Godavari River and was significant for its agricultural productivity and trade. It was one of the few Mahajanapadas situated in southern India, indicating the geographical spread of these states. Assaka's trade connections extended to other parts of India, fostering cultural and economic exchanges.

### 3. Avanti

- **Location:** Western India, around present-day Madhya Pradesh.
- **Capitals:** Ujjain (north) and Mahishmati (south).
- **Significance:** Avanti was a prominent center of trade and commerce and played a crucial role in the spread of Jainism and Buddhism. Ujjain was a key commercial hub, known for its strategic location on trade routes connecting the northern and southern parts of India. Avanti's rulers, such as King Pradyota, were known patrons of the arts and religion.

### 4. Chedi

- **Location:** Present-day Madhya Pradesh.
- **Capital:** Suktimati.
- **Significance:** Known for its strategic location and its contributions to Indian literature and culture. The Chedi kingdom is often mentioned in ancient Indian epics like the Mahabharata, indicating its historical and cultural importance. The Chedis maintained strong military and political alliances with neighboring states.



## 5. Gandhara

- **Location:** Northwest region, including parts of modern-day Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- **Capital:** Taxila.
- **Significance:** Gandhara was an important center for trade and culture, known for its university and as a hub of Buddhist learning. Taxila was one of the ancient world's renowned centers of education, attracting students from various regions. Gandhara played a significant role in the cultural exchanges between India and the Hellenistic world following Alexander the Great's invasion.

## 6. Kamboja

- **Location:** Modern-day Afghanistan and Tajikistan.
- **Capital:** Rajapura.
- **Significance:** Known for its horse trade and warrior class, Kamboja had strong military traditions. The region's strategic location along the trade routes connecting Central Asia and India made it a significant player in trans-regional commerce and military affairs. The Kambojas were frequently involved in conflicts with other Mahajanapadas and external invaders.

## 7. Kashi

- **Location:** Present-day Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Capital:** Varanasi.
- **Significance:** Kashi was an ancient center of learning, culture, and spirituality, renowned for its religious significance. Varanasi, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, was a major center for Hindu rituals and scholarly activities. The city's prominence in religious and educational fields attracted pilgrims and students from across India.

## 8. Kosala

- **Location:** Modern-day Uttar Pradesh.
- **Capital:** Shravasti.
- **Significance:** Kosala was a major kingdom known for its prosperity and its association with the Buddha, who spent many years there. King Prasenjit of Kosala was a contemporary of the Buddha and supported his teachings. The kingdom's rich agricultural lands contributed to its economic strength, making it one of the most powerful Mahajanapadas.

## 9. Kuru

- **Location:** Modern-day Haryana and Delhi.
- **Capital:** Indraprastha and Hastinapur.
- **Significance:** Kuru was one of the earliest and most influential Mahajanapadas, known for its contributions to early Vedic literature. The Kurus are mentioned extensively in the Vedas and the Mahabharata, highlighting their importance in ancient Indian history. The Kuru kingdom played a crucial role in the development of Vedic culture and traditions.

## 10. Magadha

- **Location:** Present-day Bihar.
- **Capital:** Rajagriha and later Pataliputra.
- **Significance:** Magadha became the most powerful Mahajanapada, laying the foundation for the Maurya and Gupta empires. It was a center of political power, learning, and culture. The strategic location and fertile plains of Magadha contributed to its rise as a dominant regional power. Magadha's rulers, such as Bimbisara and Ajatashatru, expanded its territory through military conquests and alliances.

## 11. Malla

- **Location:** Modern-day Uttar Pradesh.
- **Capital:** Kusinagra and Pava.
- **Significance:** Malla was known for its republican form of governance and was significant in the life of the Buddha, who attained Parinirvana at Kusinara. The Mallas maintained a confederation of republican states, emphasizing collective decision-making and governance. Their political system provided an alternative to the monarchies prevalent in other Mahajanapadas.

## 12. Matsya

- **Location:** Present-day Rajasthan.
- **Capital:** Viratnagar.
- **Significance:** Matsya was known for its agricultural prosperity and strategic location. The Matsya kingdom played a role in the Mahabharata, indicating its historical and cultural significance. Its fertile lands supported a robust agrarian economy, contributing to its stability and growth.



### 13. Panchala

- **Location:** Modern-day Uttar Pradesh.
- **Capitals:** Ahichhatra (northern) and Kampilya (southern).
- **Significance:** Panchala was significant in the Mahabharata and known for its cultural and educational contributions. The Panchalas were influential in the Vedic and epic periods, contributing to the development of Indian literature and philosophy. The kingdom's emphasis on education and culture made it a prominent center for learning.

### 14. Surasena

- **Location:** Present-day western Uttar Pradesh.
- **Capital:** Mathura.
- **Significance:** Surasena was an important cultural and religious center, particularly for the early development of Krishna worship. Mathura, the capital, was a significant urban center and pilgrimage site. The kingdom's association with Lord Krishna and the Yadava dynasty added to its religious importance.

## 15. Vajji

- **Location:** Northern Bihar.
- **Capital:** Vaishali.
- **Significance:** Vajji was known for its republican form of government and was a significant center for Buddhism and Jainism. The Vajjis maintained a confederation of eight clans, including the Licchavis, known for their democratic governance. Vaishali was a prominent center for religious and cultural activities, attracting scholars and spiritual leaders.

## 16. Vatsa

- **Location:** Present-day Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Capital:** Kausambi.
- **Significance:** Vatsa was a prosperous kingdom known for its trade and its association with Buddhism. The kingdom's strategic location along the trade routes contributed to its economic prosperity. King Udayana of Vatsa was a notable patron of Buddhism and played a role in the spread of the religion.

1. Varanasi the Capital of Kasi was Spiritual capital of India.
2. Vriji and Malla Was republic.
4. Gandhar and Comboj Situated outside of India.
5. Gautam Buddha died at Kusinagar which was Capital of Malla Mahajanpad.
6. Mahavir Died at Pava which was Capital of Malla Mahajanpad.
7. The City Kasi (Varanasi) Got Its name from River Varuna and Ashi as Cited In Matsya Puran.
8. Gandhar Maha Janapad Supplied Man And Materials to the persian army Fighting against Greek.
9. Magadha was the first to Use Elephant In War.

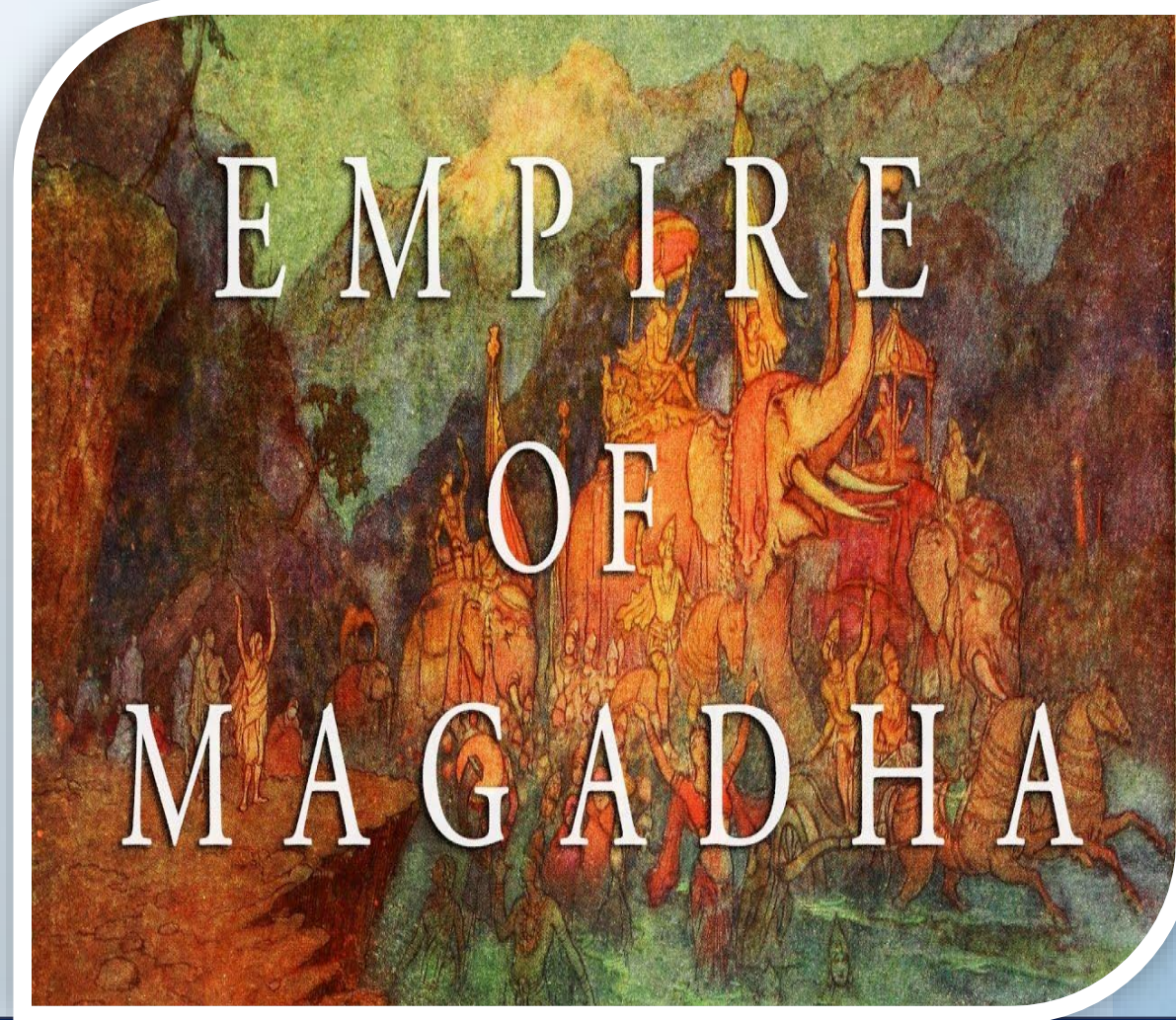
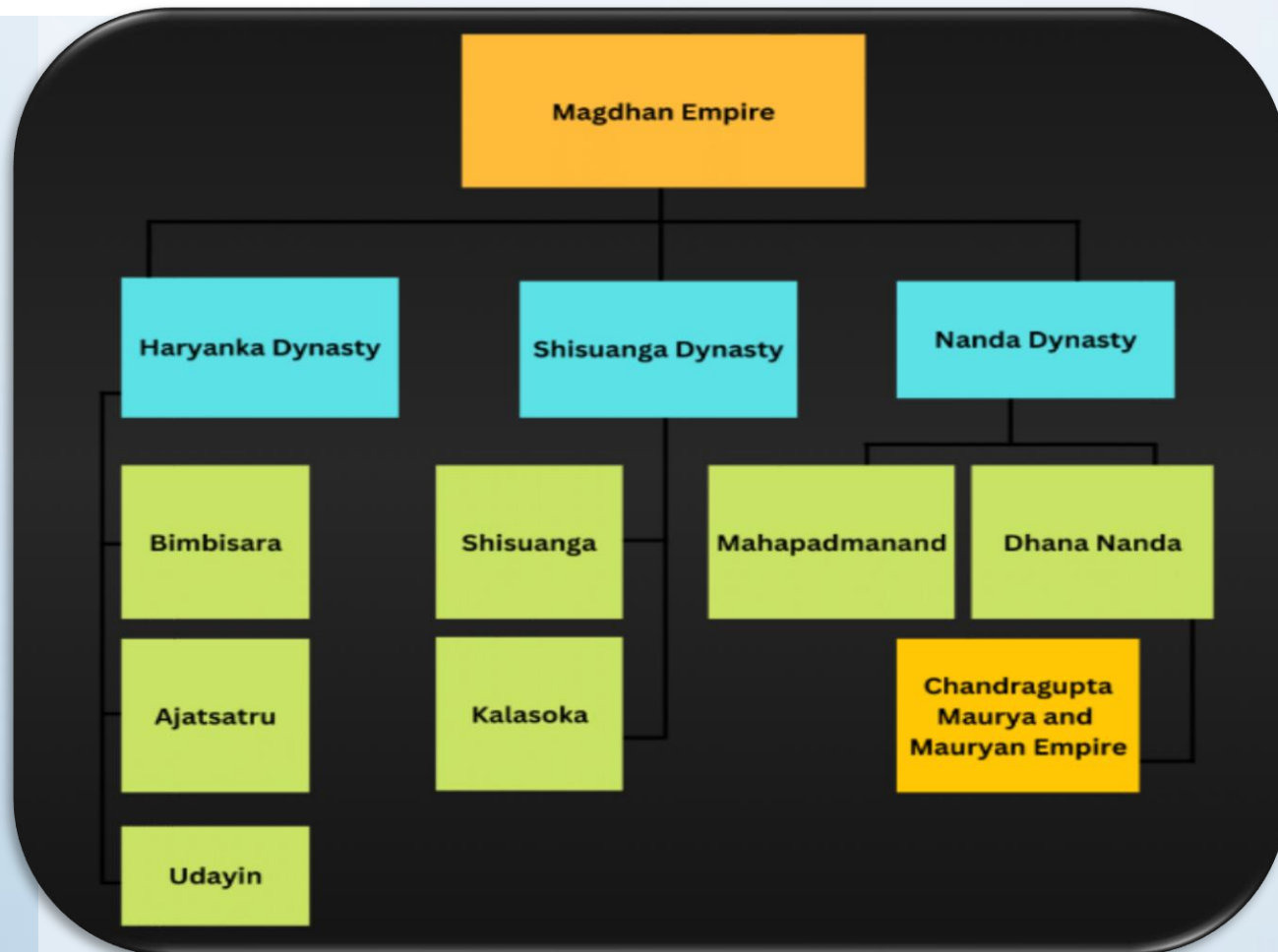




History Of Magadha Up to Nanda

- I. Haryanka II.
- II. Sisunaga
- III. Nanda



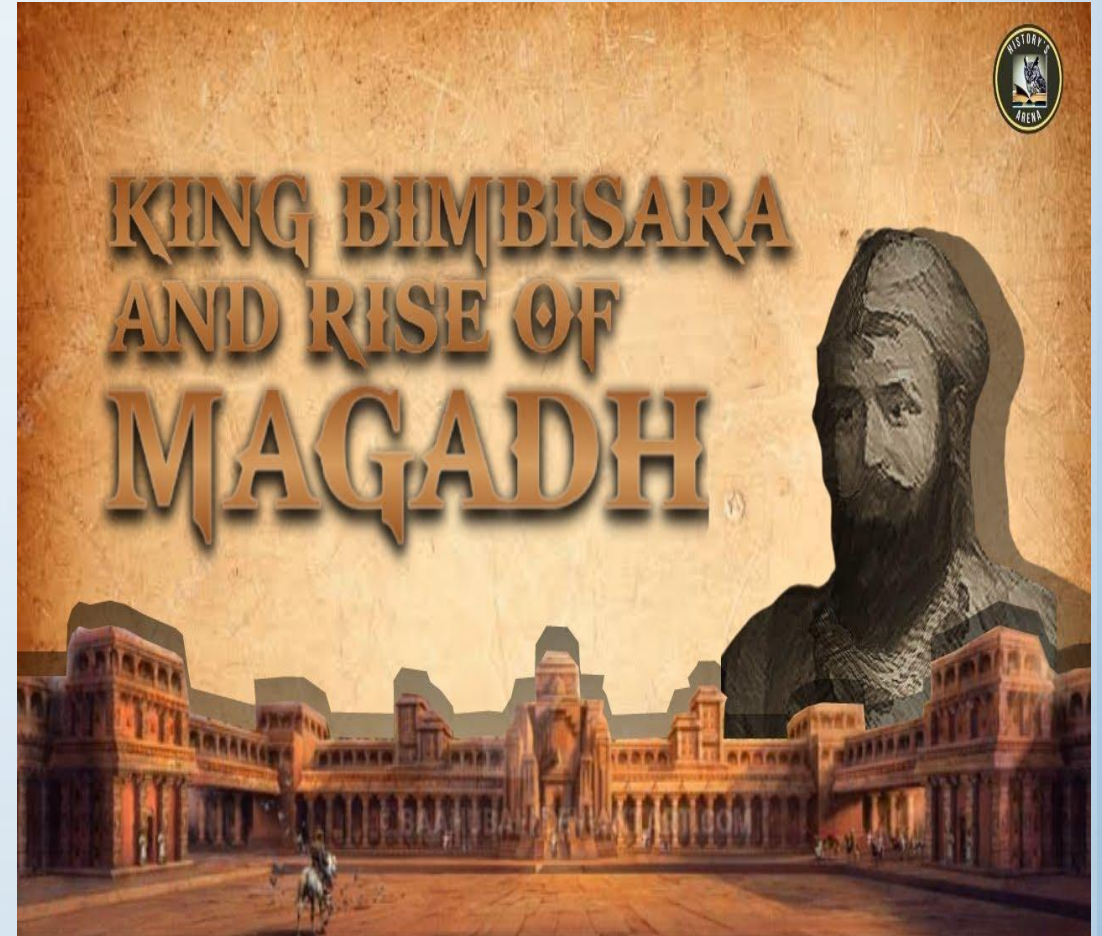




## Haryanka Dynasty (545-430 BC)

### Bimbisara (545-493 BC)

1. Bimbisara was the founder of Haryanka dynasty.
2. Bimbisara was known as Shrenik.
3. His court physician was Jibaka.
4. Contemporary and follower of Gautama Buddha.
5. His capital was Giribraja or Rajagriha.
5. He was killed by his son Ajatashatru.



### Ajatsatru (493-462 BC)

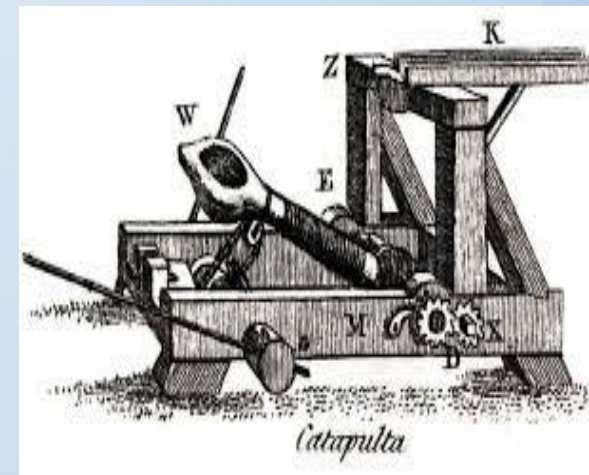
- ❖ He was the greatest ruler of Haryanka dynasty.
- ❖ He was known as Kanika.
- ❖ Mahavir Initiated Jainism into Him
- ❖ His minister was Vassakar.
- ❖ He captured Vriji after 16 years' battle.
- ❖ Both Gautama Buddha & Mahavira died during his reign.
- ❖ Rathamushal & Mahasilakantaka were introduced during his time.
- ❖ He was killed by his son Udayin.
- ❖ The first Buddhist Council at Rajagriha was held during his time. (483 B.C.)

### Udayin

- ❖ He was known as Udaybhadra.
- ❖ He transferred the capital from Rajagriha to Pataliputra.
- ❖ He was credited with the Foundation of Patliputra

### Nagadasaka

- ❖ Last ruler of Haryanka dynasty
- ❖ He was killed by his Minister Sisunaga



Mahasilakantaka



## Sisunaga Dynasty

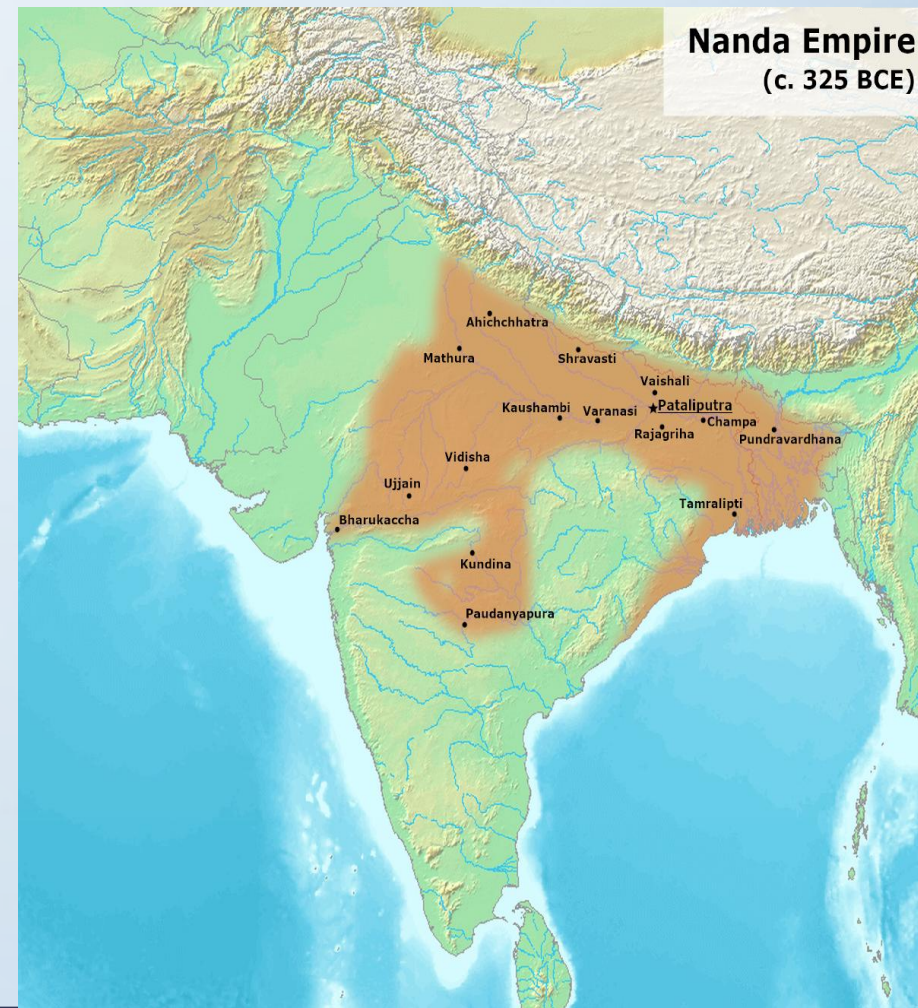
- Founder and greatest ruler was **Sisunaga** .
- He transferred the capital from Patliputra to Vaishali.

### Kalasoka

- He was the last ruler of Sisunaga dynasty.
- In 383 B.C Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali was held during his time.
- . He was killed by Mahapadmananda.

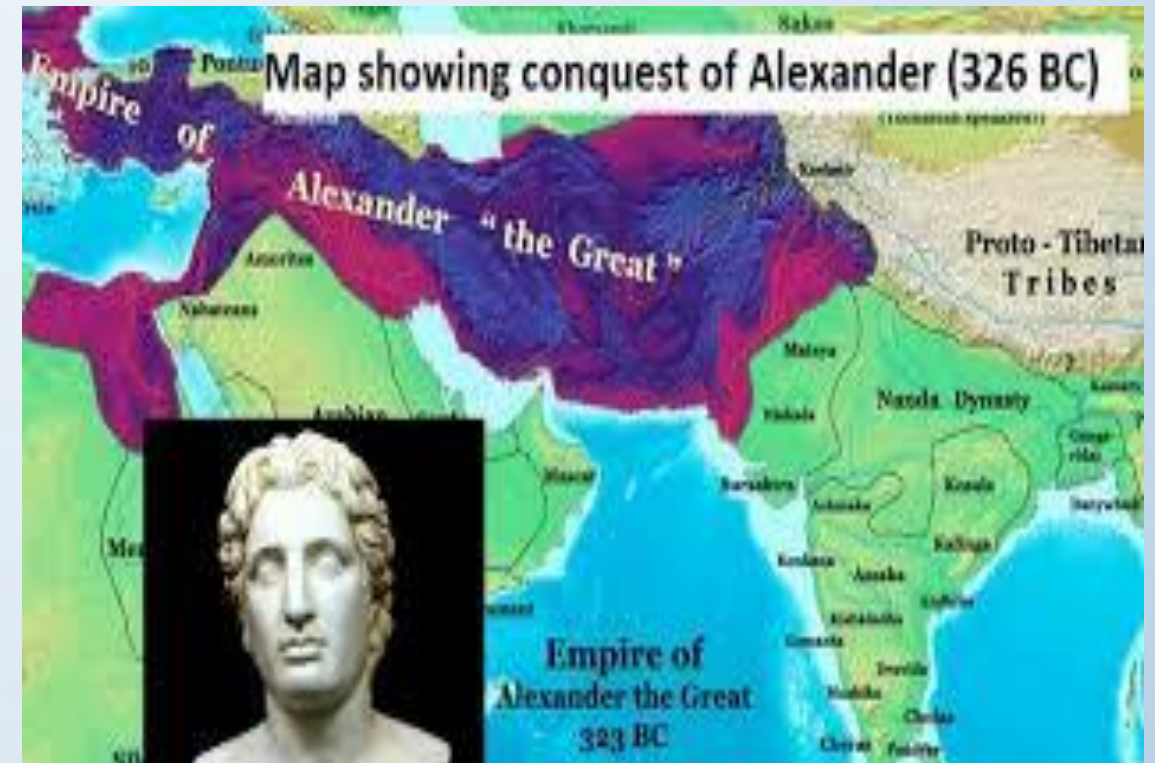
## Nanda Dynasty

- Founder and greatest ruler was . **Mahapadmananda**.
- He assumed the title Ekraat, Parasuram-II and Sarbakshatrantaka.
- He was known as the first Historical Emperor of Ancient India / Northern India.
- He was the follower of Jainism.
- By birth he was a Sudra.



# Dhanananda

- He was known as Agrames.
- He was the follower of Jainism.
- In 327 B.C. Alexander invaded India during his time.  
(Alexander stayed in India for 19 months)
- In 324 B.C. he was dethroned by Chandragupta Maurya.
- Alexander king of Masidonia Invaded India on 327 BC.
- He was the son of Philip
- Battle of Hydaspis or Battle Of Jhiliam Was Fought Between Alexander and Puru On 326 BC.
- His teacher was Aristotal.
- He Died on 327 BC at the age of 32 at Babylon.



## MCQ

1. What was the ancient name of Ujjain? . ( M.P.P.C.S. (Pre) 1993 U.P.P.C.S. (Pre) 2009)  
(a) Taxila (b) Indraprastha (c) Avantika (d) None of above
2. Matsya Mahajanapada of 6th Century B.C. was located in: (B.P.S.C. (Pre)  
(a) Western Uttar Pradesh (b) Rajasthan (c) Bundelkhand (d) Rohilkhand
3. Who among the following kings had founded Pataliputra? ( B.P.S.C. (Pre) )  
(a) Sisunaga (b) Bimbisara (c) Ajatashatru (d) Udayin
4. In which century did the first Magadhan Empire rise?  
(a) Fourth Century B.C. (b) Sixth Century B.C. (c) Second Century B.C. (d) First Century B.C.
5. Which one of the following was initially the most powerful city-state in India in the 6th century B.C. ?  
(a) Gandhar (b) Kamboj (c) Kashi (d) Magadha



6. Which Buddha text has described 16 Mahajanpads of 6th century B.C.?  
(a) Digha Nikaya (b) Tripitaka (c) Deepavansh (d) Anguattar Nikaya (U.P.P.C.S. (Spl.) (Pre) )
7. The capital of North Panchal, according to Mahabharata, was located at :  
(a) Hastinapur (b) Indraprastha (c) Ahichhatra (d) Mathura (U.P.P.C.S. (Mains))
8. In the sixth century B.C. Suiktimati was the capital of  
(a) Panchala (b) Kuru (c) Chedi (d) Avanti (U.P.P.C.S. (Mains))
9. Mahajanapada situated on the bank of river Godavari was-  
(a) Avanti (b) Vatsa (c) Assaka (d) Kamboja (R.A.S./R.T.S.(Pre))
10. The Prince who was responsible for the death of his father was-  
(a) Ajatashatru (b) Chandapradhyota (c) Prasenjit (d) Udayan (U.P.P.C.S. (Pre))

