

5. MAGADHA EMPIRE

6th Century – 4th Century BC

- Magadha embraced the former districts of Patna, Gaya parts of Shahabad and grew to be the leading state of the time.

HARYANKA DYNASTY

- Originally founded in 566 BC by the Grandfather of Bimbisara. But actually founded by Bimbisara. Bimbisara's son was Ajatshatru.

BIMBISARA, 544 BC – 492 BC

- Contemporary of Buddha.
- He conquered Anga (E. Bihar).
- His capital was Rajgir (Girivraja).
- He strengthened his position by matrimonial alliance with the ruling families of Kosala, Vaishali and Madra.
- His capital was surrounded by 5 hills.

AJATSHATRU, 492 BC - 460 BC

- Son of Bimbisara, killed his father, first and last historical man, who killed his father.
- Annexed Vaishali and Kosala. Vaishali with the help of a war engine, which was used to throw stones like catapults. Also possessed a chariot to which a mace was attached thus facilitation mass killing. Kosala was ruled by Prasenjit at that time also called Pitrigata.
- Buddha died during his reign, arranged the first Buddhist council.

UDAYIN 460-444 BC

- He founded the new capital at Patliputra situated at the confluence of the Ganga and son.

SHISHUNAGA DYNASTY

- Founded by a minister Shishunaga. He was succeeded by Kalasoka (2nd Buddhist council). Dynasty lasted for two generations only.
- Greatest achievement was the destruction of power of Avanti.

NANDA DYNASTY

- It is considered first of the non-Kshatriya dynasties.
- Founder was Mahapadma Nanda. He added Kalinga to his empire. He claimed to be the Ekarat,

the sole sovereign who destroyed all the other ruling princes.

- Alexander attacked India during the reign of Dhana-Nanda 326 BC.
- Nandas were fabulously rich and enormously powerful.

CAUSES OF MAGADHA'S SUCCESS

- Geographical Advantages
 - Fertile land.
 - Much agriculture – Much revenue – Income bigger.
 - Elephant – used in war at first time.
 - Iron are available in close proximity. Iron was used in Magadh at first time.
- Strategic capitals – Rajgriha and Patliputra (Rajgir was first also called Ginivraja).
- Patliputra – It is situated at Sangam of three river named Ganga, Gandhak, Son.
- Political advantages.
 - Ambitious kings.
- The name of 16 Mahajanapads were first time known from there.

Buddhist Book – “Angutra Nikaya”

ALEXANDER INVASION

- Alexander (356 BC – 326 BC) was the son of Phillip of Macedon (Greece) who invaded India in 326 BC. At that time NW India was split up into a number of small independent states like Taxila, Punjab (Kingdom of Porus), Gandhara etc.
- Except Porus who fought the famous Battle of Hydaspes on the bank of Jhelum.
- Alexander was with Navel force (Navy). His admiral was Nearchus. He wrote about the geography of India.
- Alexander joined hand with Ambhi the king of Taxila to defeat King Porus.
- Greek/Mosedoins/Helenistic are same
- Alexander returned to his country after handing other wining India to Seleucus Necater.

