

7. KINGDOMS AFTER THE MAURYAS

THE SUNGA DYNASTY

- Pushyamitra founded this dynasty. His dominions extended to south as far as the Narmada River and including cities of Pataliputra, Ayodhya and Vidisha. He performed two Ashvamedha sacrifices.
- He also defeated the Bactrian king Demetrius.
- The fifth kind was Bhagabhadra, to whose court Heliodorus, the Greek Ambassador visited.
- A Sunga king, Agnimitra was the hero of Kalidasa's Malavikagnimitram.
- Palanji's classic Mahabhasya was written at time. It is Sanskrit grammar; it is based on Ashvath Adhyay older one.
- He killed last Maurya king.

THE KANVA DYNASTY

- The founder of this short-lived dynasty was Vasudeva, who killed the last Sunga king Devabhuti.
- They were swept away by Satavahanas of the Deccan.

THE CHETIS OF KALINGA

- The Hathigumpha inscription (near Bhubhaneshwar, Orissa) of Kharavela, the third ruler of the dynasty gives information about the Chetis.
- He was a follower of Jainism and patronized it to a great extent.

THE SATAVAHANAS OR THE ANDHRAS

- They were the successors of the Mauryans in the Deccan and the Central India.

- Simuka is regarded as the founder of this dynasty.
- The most important king was Gautamiputra Satakarni Satakarni (AD 106-130) who raised the power and prestige of Satavahanas to greater heights. He set up his capital at Paithan on the Godavari in Aurangabad district.

ASPECTS OF SATAVAHANA

- Mostly issued lead coins (copper + bronze).
- Acted as a bridge between North and South India.
- Satavahanas ruler called themselves Brahmins. Performed Vedic rituals and worshipped gods like Krishna, Vasudeva and other. Also promoted Buddhism.
- Two common religious constructions were the Buddhist temple and Monasteries.
- Buddhist temples were called Chaitya and Monasteries were called Vihara.
- Most famous Chaitya is that of Karle in W. Deccan.
- Their district was called Ahara as it was in Ashoka's time. Their officials were known as Amatyas and Mahamatras as they were known in Mauryan times.
- Started the practice of granting tax free villages to Brahmins and Buddhist monks.
- Official language was Prakrit and script was Brahmi as in Ashokan times. One Prakrit text called Gathasattasai is attributed to a satavahana king called Hala.
- They followed Mauryas.