

MAGADHA DYNASTY

- **Magadha Dynasty** was one of the most powerful dynasties in ancient India.

❖ HARYANKA DYNASTY (600 BCE - 413 BCE)

- Founded by **Bimbisara**, who expanded Magadha's territory and made **Rajagriha** the capital.

❖ BIMBISARA

- Expanded Magadha's territory through conquest and alliances.
- Established **Rajagriha** as the capital.
- Became a patron of **Gautama Buddha**.
- First ruler to be **killed by his son** for throne
- Annexed **Anga** to avenge his Father's defeat.
- First king to have a standing Army

❖ AJATASHATRU:

- **Further expanded Magadha's territory.**

- Conquered the city of **Vaishali** and engaged in wars with **Kosala**.
- Constructed a fortress at **Pataliputra**.
- Killed **his father** for throne
- Developed various Military Instruments; **Mahashilakantaka**, and **Rathmoosala**

❖ UDAYIN

- Shifted Capital from Rajagriha to Pataliputra
- Nagadashaka- Last Haryanka Ruler

❖ SHISHUNAGA DYNASTY (412 BCE - 345 BCE)

- Founded by Shishunaga after overthrowing the Haryanka dynasty.

❖ SHISHUNAGA:

- Shifted the capital from **Pataliputra** to **Vaishali**.
- **First Brahmin ruler** of Magadha Empire
- **Defeated** Pradyota Dynasty of Avanti

❖ KALASHOKA

- Also known as **Kakarvarna** (a/c to Puranas)
- Shifted **capital** from Vaishali to Patliputra
- **Second Buddhist** Council during his Reign

❖ NANDA DYNASTY (345 BCE - 321 BCE)

- Founded by Mahapadma Nanda after overthrowing the Shishunaga dynasty.

❖ Mahapadma Nanda:

- took the title of **Ekarat**

- **Conquered** Panchala, Kuru, Asmaka, Surasena
- **Effective Taxation system** and **maintained a large Army**
- Nanda dynasty witnessed a period of consolidation and centralization of power.

❖ Dhana Nanda:

- **Last ruler of the Nanda dynasty.**
- **Pataliputra** remained **the capital and a major economic and political centre.**
- Overthrown by Chandragupta Maurya

❖ MAURYA DYNASTY (321 BCE - 185 BCE)

- 🚩 Founded by **Chandragupta Maurya**, who overthrew the **Nanda dynasty** with the help of **Chanakya**

❖ Chandragupta Maurya:

- Expanded the **Mauryan Empire** through military campaigns.
- **A/c to Jain texts, Chandragupta Maurya** adopted Jainism and went to Shravana Belgola with Bhadrabahu and committed Sallekhana (death by slow Starvation)
- Defeated **Selcus Nicator** and married **his Daughter Helena**

❖ Bindusara

- Also known as **Amitrochates** (slayer of enemies) or **Amitraghat.**
- **Antiochus I (Syrian King)** sent Deimachus as an ambassador to his court.
- Joined **Ajivika Sect**
- **Taranath** (a Tibetan Monk) states that he won **16 states**
- Appointed **Ashoka Governor of Ujjain and Taxila**

❖ Ashoka the Great:

- Transformed the empire with his **Buddhist teachings and principles of Dhamma**.
- **Pataliputra continued** as the capital, known for its grandeur and administration.
- **Maurya dynasty** witnessed significant advancements in **governance and infrastructure**.
- Initiated military campaigns to expand the empire.
- After the **Battle of Kalinga**, he renounced **violence and embraced Buddhism**.
- **Promoted welfare activities**, including the construction of hospitals and public works.

❖ CULTURAL & SOCIAL HISTORY

- **Spread of Buddhism:** Ashoka played a pivotal role in the propagation of Buddhism within and beyond India.
- Sent missionaries to various regions to spread the teachings of Buddhism.
- Built stupas and monasteries as centres of Buddhist learning and worship.
- **Patronage of Art & Architecture:** Mauryan rulers were patrons of art and architecture.
- Construction of grand structures like the Great Stupa at Sanchi and the Ashokan Pillars.
- **Society & Administration:** The Mauryan Empire had a well-organised administrative system.

- Divisions into provinces (Mahajanapadas) and districts (Janapadas) for effective governance.
- Officials such as Mahamatyas and Rajukas supervised the administration.

❖ ADMINISTRATION:

- **Prime Minister (Mahamatra):** Assisted the king in governance and decision-making.
- **Chief Treasurer (Samaharta):** Managed the empire's finances.
- **Chief Justice (Maha Dandanayaka):** Ensured justice and maintained law and order.
- **Superintendent of Public Works (Sannidhata):** Overlooked construction and maintenance of public infrastructure.

❖ ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES:

- **Ashokan Edicts:** Inscriptions on pillars and rocks, providing insights into governance, policies, and religious principles.
- **Sanchi Stupa:** A magnificent Buddhist monument, showcasing Mauryan architectural style.
- **Excavations at Pataliputra:** Unearthed ruins of the Mauryan capital, providing insights into urban planning and lifestyle.

❖ ECONOMIC HISTORY

- **Trade & Commerce:** The Mauryan Empire was known for its flourishing trade networks.
- Trade routes connected **India** with the **Mediterranean region** and **Southeast Asia**.
- **Pataliputra**, the capital, served as a major trading centre.

- **Agriculture:** Agriculture was the backbone of **the Mauryan economy**.
- **Irrigation systems** were developed, contributing to increased agricultural productivity.

❖ RELIGIOUS HISTORY

- **Ashoka's Policy of Dhamma:** Ashoka embraced Buddhism and promoted a policy of Dhamma (righteousness).
- Encouraged moral conduct, **non-violence**, and respect for all religions.
- Edicts were inscribed on pillars and rocks, propagating Dhamma and outlining ethical principles.
- **Ashokan Edicts:** Ashoka's edicts were inscribed in various parts of the empire.
- They provided insights into Ashoka's governance, social policies, and religious tolerance.

❖ DECLINE OF THE MAURYAN EMPIRE

- **Factors Leading to Decline:**
- **Weak Successors:** Weak rulers and succession disputes weakened the empire.
- **Regional Revolts:** Provinces started asserting independence, leading to fragmentation.
- **Economic Drain:** Costly military campaigns and bureaucratic expenses strained the treasury.

- **External Invasions:** Foreign invasions by the Greeks, Sakas, and Parthians destabilised the empire.

<u>Edict Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Key Points</u>
Major Rock Edict I	Prohibition of animal sacrifice, especially during festive seasons.	Emphasises non-violence and compassion towards animals.
Major Rock Edict II	Medical treatment of humans and animals, planting of fruits, medicinal herbs, and digging of wells. Mentions the Pandyas,	Encourages healthcare, agricultural development, and mentions southern regions of the empire.

	Satyapuras, and Keralaputras of South India.	
Major Rock Edict III	Generosity to Brahmins. About Yuktas, Pradeshikas, and Rajukas who spread Dhamma every five years.	Promotes generosity and the dissemination of Dhamma through appointed officials.
Major Rock Edict IV	Dhammaghosha (sound of Dhamma/righteousness) over Bherighosha (sound of war). King Ashoka's duty.	Prioritizes Dhamma (righteousness) over war and emphasises the king's sense of duty.
Major Rock Edict V	About Dhammamahamatras and treating slaves right. A cadre of officials appointed to spread Dhamma.	Establishes Dhamma officials responsible for promoting Dhamma

		and ensures fair treatment of slaves.
Major Rock Edict VI	King's desire to know about his people's conditions and welfare measures.	Demonstrates Ashoka's concern for the well-being of his subjects and the implementation of welfare measures.
Major Rock Edict VII	Tolerance towards religions among all sects and welfare measures for the public.	Encourages religious tolerance and welfare initiatives, not only in his kingdom but also in neighbouring regions.

<p>Major Rock Edict VIII</p>	<p>Ashoka's first Dhamma Yatra to Bodh Gaya and the Bodhi tree. Importance of Dhamma tours.</p>	<p>Highlights the significance of Ashoka's religious pilgrimage and the value of Dhamma tours.</p>
<p>Major Rock Edict IX</p>	<p>Condemns popular ceremonies and stresses moral conduct.</p>	<p>Discourages extravagant ceremonies and emphasises the importance of moral behaviour.</p>
<p>Major Rock Edict X</p>	<p>Disapproves of the individual's desire for fame and glory and stresses on Dhamma.</p>	<p>Encourages humility and promotes the pursuit of Dhamma over personal ambition.</p>

<p>Major Rock Edict XI</p>	<p>Dhamma as the best policy, respect for elders, and concern for slaves and servants.</p>	<p>Advocates Dhamma as a guiding principle, respect for elders, and compassionate treatment of slaves and servants.</p>
<p>Major Rock Edict XII</p>	<p>Mentions Mahamattas in charge of women's welfare and tolerance towards others' dhamma.</p>	<p>Acknowledges officials responsible for women's welfare and reiterates religious tolerance towards diverse beliefs.</p>
<p>Major Rock Edict XIII</p>	<p>Mentions victory over Kalinga and Ashoka's Dhamma victory over Greek Kings.</p>	<p>Reflects on the brutal Kalinga War, Ashoka's remorse, and his conversion to Buddhism. Mentions interactions</p>

		with Greek kings and regional rulers.
Major Rock Edict XIV	Purpose of rock edicts.	Summarises the intent and significance of the rock edicts in spreading Dhamma and moral principles throughout the empire.

❖ There are only 4 places where **Ashoka** has used his name

1. Maski
2. Brahmagiri (Karnataka)
3. Gujjara (MP)
4. Nettur (AP)

❖ IMPORTANT EDICTS AND INSCRIPTION OF ASHOKA

Edict/Inscription	Remarks
Allahabad – Kosam/Queens Edict/Kausambi or Schism Edict	Ashoka urges the Sangha members to avoid causing divisions. It also contains Samudragupta's inscription.
Kandahar Inscription	Famous bilingual edict in Greek and Aramaic.
Kalinga Edicts (Bhauri and Jaugada)	Mentions the phrase 'All men are my children.'
Sannati Inscription (Karnataka)	Site of all 14 major rock edicts and two separate Kalinga edicts.

Rummindei Inscription (Nepal)	Mentions exemption from bali and reduced taxes for Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha.
Girnar Rock Inscription of Rudradaman (Kathiawar)	Mentions the Sudarshan lake constructed during Chandragupta Maurya's reign.
Minor Rock Edict 1	Indicates Ashoka's gradual turn towards Buddhism after 2.5 years in power.
Minor Rock Edict 3	Ashoka expresses his deep faith in the Buddha, dhamma, and Sangha and recommends Buddhist texts for monks.
Inscriptions at Shahbazgarhi and Mansehra	Written in Kharosthi script.

❖ Ashoka's Contemporary King

1. Antiochus II - Syria

2. Plotemy II - Egypt
3. Antigonos- Macedonia
4. Magas- Cyrene/ Cyrenaica

❖ POST-MAURYAN DYNASTIES (185 BCE - 321 CE)

- After the **decline** of the Mauryan Empire, Magadha saw the rise of **several smaller dynasties**.

❖ Shunga Dynasty (185 BCE - 72 BCE):

- **Pushyamitra Shunga** established the dynasty.
- Followed Brahminism
- Important Rulers:

❖ Bhagavata

- During his reign Heliodorus (Greek ambassador of Antialcidas) erected Besnagar Pillar (Garuda Pillar)

❖ Vasumitra

- **Defeated** Greek king Menander
- Conversation between **Menander and Nagsen** is compiled into a book "**Milindapanha**"

❖ Devbhuti

- A/c to Harshacharita, Devbhuti was murdered on the instructions of Vasudeva.

❖ Kanva Dynasty (73 BCE - 28 BCE)

- **Established by Vasudeva Kanva after the fall of the Shungas**

- Probably the **descendents of Rishi Kanva**
- Simuka (Satvahana) overthrew **last ruler Susharman**

❖ SATAVAHANAS

- Founded by **Simuka**
- Capital- **Pratistanpura** (Near Godavari bank); **later shifted to Amaravati**
- As known as **Andhras** a/c to **Puranas** but this name **doesn't** appear in Satavahana inscription.
- **Gautamiputra Satakarni** was a powerful ruler; the Nashik inscription mentions their achievement.
- **Junagarh** inscription mentions that **Vashishthiputra Pulumavi** married the daughter of **Rudradaman I.**
- **Satavahanas** along with **Ikshvakus** were patrons of Amravati school of Art.

❖ INDO- GREEKS

Construction of Great Wall of China; Scythians were pushed back; moved towards neighbouring Parthians and Greeks; Greeks invaded India.

- first to introduce **Gold coin in India**
- Introduced Hellenistic art in the **north-west** frontier of India

❖ SAKAS/ SCYTHIANS

- replaced **Indo- Greeks** and controlled large parts of **India & Afghanistan**

- **Five Branches of the Shakas**

1. Afghanistan
2. Punjab (**Capital- Taxila**)
3. Mathura
4. Western India (Kshatrapas)- **ruled until the 4th century AD.**

5. Upper Deccan region.

- **Moga/ Moa/ Maues** - first Saka king in India

Two important line of **Kshatrapas** rulers are:

1. The **Kshaharatas**: Important ruler- **Nahapana**
2. The **Kardamakas**: Important ruler- **Rudradaman I**

❖ Rudradaman I

- **Repaired Sudarshan Lake**
- Junagarh inscriptions and Girnar inscription

❖ Parthians

- Originally belonged to **Iran**; occupied a smaller portion of **north-western India**.
- Most famous ruler- **Gondophernes**; during his reign St. Thomas

❖ KUSHANS

- Also known as **Yuechis/ Yuexhi** or **Tocharians**
- **Yuechi** tribe was divided into **5 clans** out of which **Kushans** came from **Steppes of North Central India**
- settled in **lower Indus basin** and **parts of Gangetic basin**
- **Kadphises I/ Kujula Kadphises** laid the foundation of **Kushan Empire**
- **Wima Kadphises II/ Vima Kadphises** succeeded him
- He issued large number of **Gold coins**
- Most Popular King- **Kanishka**

❖ Kanishka

- Issued number of **gold coins** with high **metallic purity**

- **Purushapura/ Peshawar was first capital**
- **Mathura was the second capital**
- Took the title of **Devputra**
- **Rabatak** Inscription (Afghanistan) give information about his rule
- controlled Silk route
- gave patronage to Buddhism
- Vasudeva was **the last king of the dynasty**

❖ Impact of Central Asian Contacts

- **Shakas and Kushans** didn't have their own script or any organised religion, so they adopted these from India
- In **Cavalry, Shakas and kushans** used toe stirrups, reins, and saddles.
- Introduced turban, tunics, trousers, and heavy long coat. They also **used cap, helmet, and boots**
- **Kushans** were the **first** rulers **in India** to **issue gold coins** on a large numbers
- Their rule also saw the beginning of Feudatory organisation
- **Kushans** adopted Pompous titles; to legitimise their royal authority and strengthen the idea of the divine origin of Kingship
- **Kushans** **introduced the Satrap System**, which saw hereditary dual rule (father & son jointly ruled at same time).
- led to the rise of several schools of **art of Gandhara** and **Mathura School of Art**.

❖ Gandhara/ Greco- Roman School of Art

- developed during the **first** century AD.
- **Famous for the portrayal of Buddha** in a spiritual state, eyes half- closed in meditation

❖ Mathura School of Art

- developed during the **Shunga** period; reached its zenith during the **Gupta period**.
- **Red sandstone was primarily used**
- At Sanchi, Bharhut, Gaya, Buddha was depicted as a symbol of either two footprints or wheels.

❖ Sangam Age

- -South of Krishna River, three Kingdoms existed: **Pandyas, Cholas, and Cheras**.
 - Sangam= meeting point of Tamil Poets
 - **Three Sangams** held in South India:
1. **First Sangam** at Old Madurai (believed that Gods & legendary sage attained it; no literary sources available)
 2. **Second Sangam** - Kapatpuram/ Kapadapuram (large number of poets attained this; Tolkappiyam- only book available)
 3. **Third Sangam** - Madurai

❖ Sources for Sangam Age

1. Sangam Literature
2. Ashokan Inscriptions
3. Megasthenes

❖ CHERAS

- Also known as Kerala Putras
- Present day Kerala and part of Tamil Nadu

- **Important Kings**- Nedunjeral Adan (AKA Adhiraja), Senguttuvan

❖ Senguttuvan

- **AKA Red Chera**
- Introduced **Pattini cult**
- His brother **Ilango Adigal** wrote “**Silappatikaram**”, and Adigal adopted **Jainism**.

❖ CHOLAS

- Present day **Tirunchi district** (Southern Andhra)
- around **2nd century BC**, **Elara, chola ruler, conquered Sri Lanka and ruled for 50 years.**
- **Capital** from **Uraiyyur** to **Puhar** was shifted by Karikala.
- **Karikala** founded Puhar (**Kaveripattanam**)
- **Karikala** defeated a confederacy of **Cheras and Pandyas** in the Battle of Venni
- **cholas** had an efficient Navy.

❖ PANDAYA

- **Southern Tamilnadu**
- Great Patrons of **poets and scholars**
- **Pandayas** were **first** mentioned by **Megasthenes**, **Sangam literature** mentions them
- A/c to **Megasthenes** Pandaya kingdom was famous for Pearls.
- First known king: **Nedunjeliyan**
- Battle of **Talaiyalanganam**: **Pandaya king defeated combined force of Cheras, cholas and five other chieftains.**

❖ Sangam Literature

- **Agattiyam**: first known book on Tamil Grammar; written by Sage Agathiyar.
- **Tolkappiyam**: Grammar
- **Thirukkural** : Deals with Philosophy
- - Two epics: 1. Silappadikaram 2. Manimekalai

❖ Economic Life:

1. **Agriculture**: The primary occupation of the people was agriculture, with fertile plains, abundant rivers, and a favourable monsoon climate supporting the cultivation of crops like rice, millets, pulses, sugarcane, and cotton.
2. **Trade and Commerce**: Flourishing trade links with the Roman Empire, Southeast Asia, and East Africa were established. Major ports like Muziris and Arikamedu facilitated maritime trade.
3. **Urbanisation**: The growth of urban centres, such as Madurai and Uraiyur, contributed to economic prosperity and cultural exchange

❖ Gupta Dynasty (240 CE - 550 CE)

- **Fall of Mauryan Empire**:- rise of regional kingdoms like Satvahanas in Deccan, Kushans in the north; on the ruins of Kushans, emerged Gupta Empire.
- **Guptas** were possibly the feudatories of the **Kushans**, their earlier empire was on the fertile plain of Gangetic basin.
- This age is known as **Golden Age or Classical Age**

❖ Order of Kings:

- **Srigupta- Ghatotkacha- Chandragupta I- Samudragupta - Chandragupta II - Kumaragupta I - Skandagupta**

❖ Sri Gupta

- Founder of **Gupta Dynasty**; used the title of Maharaja

❖ Ghatotkacha

- Adopted title of Maharaja

❖ Chandragupta I

- First important King of **Gupta dynasty**
- Adopted the title of **Maharajadhiraja** (king of Kings)
- Empire included parts of Modern Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Bengal; capital: **Patliputra**
- Married **Kumaradevi**, princess of **Lichchhavi** clan of Nepal.

❖ Samudragupta

- Expansion of empire to a **great extent**
- Follower of **God Vishnu**
- AKA Lichchhavi- dauhitra in **Allahabad Pillar Inscription** (Prayag Prashasti) by Harisena.
- court language: **Sanskrit**
- Performed Ashvamedha **Yajna**
- A/c to Chinese records, he allowed **Meghavarman** (king of Ceylon) to build a monastery in Bodhgaya.

❖ Chandragupta II

- **Ramgupta** succeeded **Samudragupta**; **Saka ruler** attacked him & defeated him. **Ramgupta** made peace by surrendering his wife **Dhruvadevi**; **Chandragupta II** was infuriated by this, he defeated **Saka ruler**, killed his brother **Ramgupta** and married **Dhruvadevi**.
- Married **Kubernaga**
- Married his daughter **Prabhavati** to **vakataka** king **Rudrasen II**
- Known as **Vikramaditya**
- **Nine jewels** in his court

Name	Designation	Important Works
Kalidasa	Poet and Playwright	Abhijnanasakuntalam (The Recognition of Shakuntala), Raghuvamsha , Meghaduta , Kumārasambhava
Varahamihira	Astronomer and Astrologer	Panchasiddhantika (Five Astronomical Canons), Brihat Samhita , Brihat Jataka

Amarasimha	Lexicographer	Amarakosha (A Sanskrit Thesaurus)
Dhanvantari	Physician	Dhanvantari Nighantu (Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia)
Vararuchi	Grammerian	Prakrita Prakasa, grammer of Prakrit language

Shanku, Kahapanaka, Vetala Bhatta, and Ghatakarapara

❖ Kumaragupta I

- Known as **Maharajadhiraja, Paramadvaita, and Paramabhattaraka**
- Founded **Nalanda university**
- performed **Asvamedha Yajna**

❖ Skandagupta

- **defeated Hunas** and **repulsed them successfully**

❖ Gupta Administration

- **King is the head of state**
- **Decentralised administration**

- Clearly defined rule of succession
- Empire divided into **Bhukti**, **bhukti** into **vishyas**, **vishyas** into **vithis**, **Vithis** into **gram**
- **Army**: largely dependent on infantry archers; military organisation: **feudal in nature**
- **Judiciary**: most developed during ancient time, clear demarcation of Civil & Criminal Law
- Revenue came from Agriculture (**1/6th of the produce**)

❖ Society

- divided into **four Varnas**- **Brahamans**, **Kshatriyas**, **Vaishyas**, **Shudras**
- Economic and social status of Shudras & women improved a bit but **higher class women** had no access to **independent** sources of livelihood.
- **Male dominating society**, **widow remarriage was allowed**

❖ Art & Craft

- **Sultanganj, Bihar**- 2m high Bronze Image of Buddha (Mathura school of Art)
- **Vishunu sculptures in Udayagiri rock-cut cave**
- **Dhamek Stupa at Sarnath**
- **Buddhist cave in Ajanta**
- **Dasavatara Temple in Deogarh**

❖ Literature

- **Sanskrit** was the official language
- This age saw rise of various Prakrit forms- **Suraseni in Mathura**, **Ardha-Magadhi in Awadh**, etc
- **Siddhasena** laid the foundation of logic among the **Jainas**.
- **Arya Deva** and **Arya Asanga** were most notable **Buddhist writers**

- **Chandrogomia** composed a book on Grammar named Chandra Vyakaranam.

❖ Reason for Decline

- **Huna invasion**
- Gradual **decline** in Economic prosperity
- Decentralised administration
- **Rise of Feudatories**
- **Weak successors**

❖ Comparison between Mauryan and Gupta Empire

Aspect	Mauryan Empire	Gupta Empire	Similarities
Geographical Location	Covered a larger extent of the Indian subcontinent, including present-day India, Pakistan,	Primarily centred in northern and central India	Both empires were centred in the Indian subcontinent.

	Bangladesh, and Afghanistan		
Administration	Centralised administration with a highly organised bureaucracy	Decentralised administration with regional and local governance	Both empires had administrative systems to govern their territories.
Emperors	Chandragupta Maurya, Ashoka the Great, Bindusara, etc.	Chandragupta I, Samudragupta, Chandragupta II, etc.	Shared the name "Chandragupta" among their emperors.
Economy	Thriving trade and commerce, extensive road	Flourishing trade and commerce,	Both empires had robust economies with a focus on

	networks, taxation system	development of guilds, gold coins	trade and commerce.
Religion	Ashoka promoted Buddhism; religious tolerance prevailed	Religious tolerance; revival of Hinduism as the dominant religion	Both empires exhibited religious tolerance and accommodated multiple faiths.
Literature	Ashoka's inscriptions in Prakrit language	Rich Sanskrit literature, including plays, poetry, and scientific texts	Both empires contributed to the development of literature in ancient India.

Art and Architecture	Pillars with inscriptions, rock-cut caves, stupas, and palace complexes	Elaborate temple architecture, sculptures, and Ajanta Caves	Both empires left a significant architectural legacy and patronised the arts.
Decline	Internal conflicts, external invasions, and economic decline	Invasion of Hunas (White Huns), regional fragmentation, and weak rulers	Both empires faced challenges such as invasions and internal conflicts that led to their decline.

❖ Post- Gupta Era

- with the **decline of Gupta empire** several small political powers emerged

In North India

- 1. The Maitrakas**
- 2. The Maukharis**
- 3. The Gaudas**

4. The Hunas
5. Pushyabhutis of Thanesar

In south India

1. Ikshvakus
2. Chalukyas of Badami
3. Pallavas of Kanchi
4. The Kadamba Kingdom
5. The Kalabhras

❖ Pushyabhuti Dynasty

- Feudatories of the Guptas
- AKA Vardhana Dynasty
- **Prabhakarvardhan** was the fourth king of the dynasty, who made the dynasty powerful and strong. **Defeated Hunas**
- **Rajavardhana** succeeded him but was murdered by **Shashanka**. Thus **Harshavardhana** (Harsha) Became **king of Thanesar**
- **Hsuan Tsang** visited India and wrote **Si-Yu-Ki**
- Banabhatta (Court poet of Harsha) wrote **Harshacharita**
- **Harsha** himself was **a great scholar and poet**, wrote **Nagananda, Ratnavali, and Priyadarshika**
- followed Tolerant religious philosophy; followed Shaivism but later converted to **Mahayana Buddhism**
- Administration became **Feudal and decentralised**
- Organised Religious assemblies in the **5th** year of his reign at Prayaga, convened an assembly at **kannauj** to honour **Husan Tsang**
- A/c to Hsuan Tsang Kannauj has become **important city replacing Patliputra**