

Chandragupta Maurya:

- **Background:**

- Chandragupta Maurya was born in the 4th century BCE in a humble family in Pataliputra (modern Patna, Bihar).
- He belonged to the Maurya clan, which was part of the Kshatriya warrior class.

- **Rise to Power:**

- Chandragupta's rise to power began when he met Chanakya (also known as Kautilya), a brilliant strategist and scholar.
- Chanakya recognized Chandragupta's potential and trained him to become a skilled leader.
- Together, they formulated a plan to overthrow the Nanda dynasty, which was ruling Magadha at that time.

- **Overthrowing the Nandas:**

- In 322 BCE, Chandragupta Maurya, with the guidance of Chanakya, successfully defeated the Nanda king Dhana Nanda and established the Mauryan Empire.
- This marked the beginning of the Maurya dynasty, one of the most powerful dynasties in ancient India.

- **Expansion of the Mauryan Empire:**

- Chandragupta's empire extended across northern India, including modern-day India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
- His conquests were facilitated by a strong army and efficient administration.

Rise of the Mauryan Empire:

1. **Administration:**

- Chandragupta Maurya implemented a highly organized administrative system.
- He divided his empire into provinces, each headed by a governor.
- The empire had a vast network of spies (amatyas) to gather information and maintain control.

2. **Economy:**

- The Mauryan Empire's economy thrived due to agriculture, trade, and mining.
- Chandragupta introduced standardized weights and measures to facilitate trade.

3. Legacy:

- Chandragupta Maurya is known for setting up a strong centralized administration, which later rulers of the Mauryan dynasty and subsequent empires in India followed.
- His dynasty laid the foundation for the golden age of the Mauryan Empire under his grandson Ashoka.

4. Decline and Succession:

- Chandragupta Maurya is believed to have abdicated the throne around 298 BCE and became a Jain ascetic.
- He was succeeded by his son Bindusara, who continued the expansion of the empire.

