

# Chandragupta Maurya

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**In news**– Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said that Chandragupta Maurya had defeated Alexander of Macedon in battle and yet, it is the latter whom historians have chosen to call “great”. **In Indian history, ‘great’ has been used for the emperors Ashoka, Rajaraja and Rajendra Chola, and Akbar, among others.**

## **About Chandragupta Maurya**–

- He was the **founder of the Mauryan empire.**
- **He was born in 340 BC in Pataliputra.**
- The only definite inscriptional reference to Chandragupta history is found in the **Junagarh inscription** from the 2nd century CE.
- He was **also known to the Greeks as Sandrakottos or Sandrokottos.**
- He was **the first emperor to unify most of India under one administration.**
- He is credited with **saving the country from maladministration from the Nanda dynasty and freeing it from foreign domination.**
- Expanding his empire to the borders of Persia, in 305 **he defeated an invasion by Seleucus I Nicator**, a Greek contender for control of Alexander’s Asian empire.
- **With the help of Kautilya/Chanakya, Chandragupta** laid the foundations of an extensive and efficient system of centralised administration and tax-collection that formed the bases of his empire.
- **Chandragupta was influenced to accept Jainism by the sage Bhadrabahu I**, who predicted the onset of a 12-year famine.
- He left to spend his last days in the service of Bhadrabahu at Shravanabelagola, Karnataka, where

Chandragupta fasted to death(Sallekhana).

### About Alexander–

- He was **born in 356 BC at Pella in ancient Greece, and succeeded his father, king Phillip II**, to the throne at the age of 20.
- **In 327 BC, Alexander crossed the Indus**, the farthest frontier of the old Persian empire, and began his Indian campaign that lasted about two years.
- **In 330 BC, he defeated Darius III in the decisive battle of Gaugamela**, and after a long campaign in Bactria in the region of the Amu Darya north of today's Afghanistan, **he crossed the Hindu Kush and entered the Kabul valley**.
- **In the battle of Hydaspes that followed, Alexander won, but following his famous interview with Porus**, he was impressed enough to return to the captive Porus his kingdom, and to leave him in charge of Punjab when the Greek army ultimately retreated.
- After the defeat of Porus, **Alexander wished to march on into the heartland of the Gangetic basin – but upon reaching the river Beas, his generals refused to go further**.
- **The Magadha ruler during these times was Dhanananda (329-322/321 BCE) of the Nanda Dynasty, known to the Greeks as Xandrames or Agrammes**.
- **Alexander was forced to turn back and he reached Susa in Persia in 324 BC, and in the following year, died in the ancient city of Babylon**, to the south of today's Baghdad.