

**ORIGIN,
CHRONOLOGY AND
GENERAL
CONDITIONS OF
SATAVAHANAS**

ORIGIN OF SATAVAHANAS

- The Satavahanas established their kingdom out of the ruins of the Mauryan empire.
- There is a lot of controversy among the historians regarding the origin of Satavahanas.
- The puranas mention that a succession of 30 kings rules for 450 years (B.C 225 – A.D 225).
- The founder of this line was Simuka who was an Andhrabhritya.

- The inscriptions and coins mentioned several kings belonging to the Satavahanakula.
- The inscriptions clearly state that Satavahana is only the name of the dynasty, but Andhra is the name of a race.
- Now it is firmly established that the word Satavahana represents a kula or family, while Andhra was the name of a Jati or tribe.

NAME OF THE DYNASTY

- ❑ According to the Puranas, Simuka was the founder of the Satavahana dynasty.
- ❑ In inscriptions and literature, the terms Satavahana and Salivahana were used interchangeably.

ORIGINAL HOME

- ❖ Andhra Satavahans , original home was Andhradesa – they spread to Maharashtra.
- ❖ The Satavahans inherited the Prakrit language from Maurya's along with political power.

CRONOLOGY OF SATAVAHANAS

- Puranas let to a controversy about the cronology of the Satavahana's.
- After the downfall of the Mauryas, the Andhra Satavahanas established an independent kingdom in the south-west.
- Simuka, laid the foundation of the dynasty and the dynasty ruled upto the middle of 3rd century A.D.

IMPORTANT SATAVAHANA RULERS

- ✓ Simuka : Founder of Satavahana empire.
- ✓ Satakarni 1 : He was one of the greatest rulers of the Satavahana dynasty. His wife Naganika , described his victories in her Nangana inscription. Satakarani 1 invaded and occupied Malwa. He assumed the title Dakshinapathapati.

- Satakarni 2 : He ruled 56 years. The Saka-Satavahana struggle began in his reign.
- Kuntala Satakarni
- Pulomavi 1
- Hala : He assumed the title kavivatsala. He patronised many poets and scholars. He compiled Gathasaptasati.
- Gautamiputra satakarni (78-102 A.D): He was the greatest of the Satavahana rulers and one of most illustrious rulers of ancient India. He ruled 24 years. The Nasik inscription of his mother

- Balasri described him as the destroyer of Yavanas, Sakas and Pallavas. He conquered Kukura, Anupa, Assaka, Mulaka, Vidarbha, Konkan and Kuntala and annexed them to his empire.
- His empire included Godavari region Bedar, Malwa, Gujarat and Kuntala. Gautamiputra defeated the Saka Satrap, Nahapana and occupied most of his territories.

- ❖ He also overthrew the Greeks and the Parthians. Besides being a conqueror, Gautamiputra was a good administrator and a just ruler.
- ❖ He was a scholar and described as Agamanilaya. He won the title Ekabrahmana. It was he who started the Salivahana Era in 78 A.D.

Successors of Gautamiputra

- Pulomavill conflicted with Sakas-Vasistiputra Siva Sri Satakarni was defeated by Saka king, Rudradamma-Gautamiputra-Yagnasri Satakarni, last great ruler-His title Trisamudradhipati.
- The Importance of the Satavahanas:
 1. The first empire in South India-gave India political integrity-Saved India from foreign invaders.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE SATAVAHANA'S

- Political conditions : King was the highest official of the Government and his office was hereditary.
- The Satavahana rulers did not believe in divine rights of a king and they carried administration in accordance with the directives of the Dharma Shastras and the social customs.
- There was also a council of ministers to advice. The king was the head of the Government as well as the protector to his people.

- There were three grades of feudatories – the ‘Raja’, the ‘Mahabhoja’ and the ‘Maharathi or ‘Senapati”.
- The ‘Raja’ belonged to the highest grade. He had the right to impose taxes and to strike coins.
- The kingdom was divided into provinces and ‘Janapadas’ for administrative efficiency.

- The highest official in a province was 'Amatya' or minister. His office was not hereditary. Each unit had several villages.
- A village was administered by a 'Gramika'.
- There were several officials to help the king. Out of them, the most important were 'Senapati', 'Mahabhoja', 'Koshadhyaksha', 'Rajadoof', 'Amatya' etc.

- In this period, the local administration had its own importance.
- There were separate organization to look after the administration of the towns and the villages.
- The towns were administered by a body called the 'Nagarsabha' while in villages there were 'Gram Sabhas'.
- These organizations carried their functions independently without any interference.

- The military administration of the Satavahanas was also quite efficient. Their army consisted of foot soldiers, cavalry and elephants.
- Efficient military administration that the Satavahanas succeeded in expanding their empires.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

- ✓ Caste System: The traditional divisions of society- the faith of lower caste in Buddhism-Foreigners incorporated in caste system.
- ✓ Family: Joint families-male predominance- honourable place to women.
- ✓ Dress and Ornaments: Scanty dress and profuse ornaments-Loin cloth-head-dress of twisted cloth-Ear-rings worn by men and women.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Different Occupations:

Halikas(Cultivators), Srestis(Merchants),
Gathikas

(Druggists) , Vadhakas(carpenter),
suvarnakara(Gold Smith) etc....,

Srenis: Guilds – Acted as banks,
gave interest – made grants – Their own
practices, conventions.

1. Inland Trade:

Trade routes to market towns-provision of comforts to merchants-Bater System.

2. Foreign Trade:

Yagnasri shipmarked coins -Commercial relations with Roman empire -Barukaccha – Sopara - Kalyani were important ports.

RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS

- Vedic religion patronised by king – sacrifices
- Buddhism: Popular religion- Stupas- Viharas
- Acharya Nagarjuna: wrote Sruhulakha-
- Prakrit: Hala-Gadhasaptasati – Gunadya Brihatkatha
- Art: Rock-cut monuments- Stupas,
- Chaityas , Viharas.
- Contribution of Satavahanas: Hindu colonies in South-East Asia – Cultural Unity.