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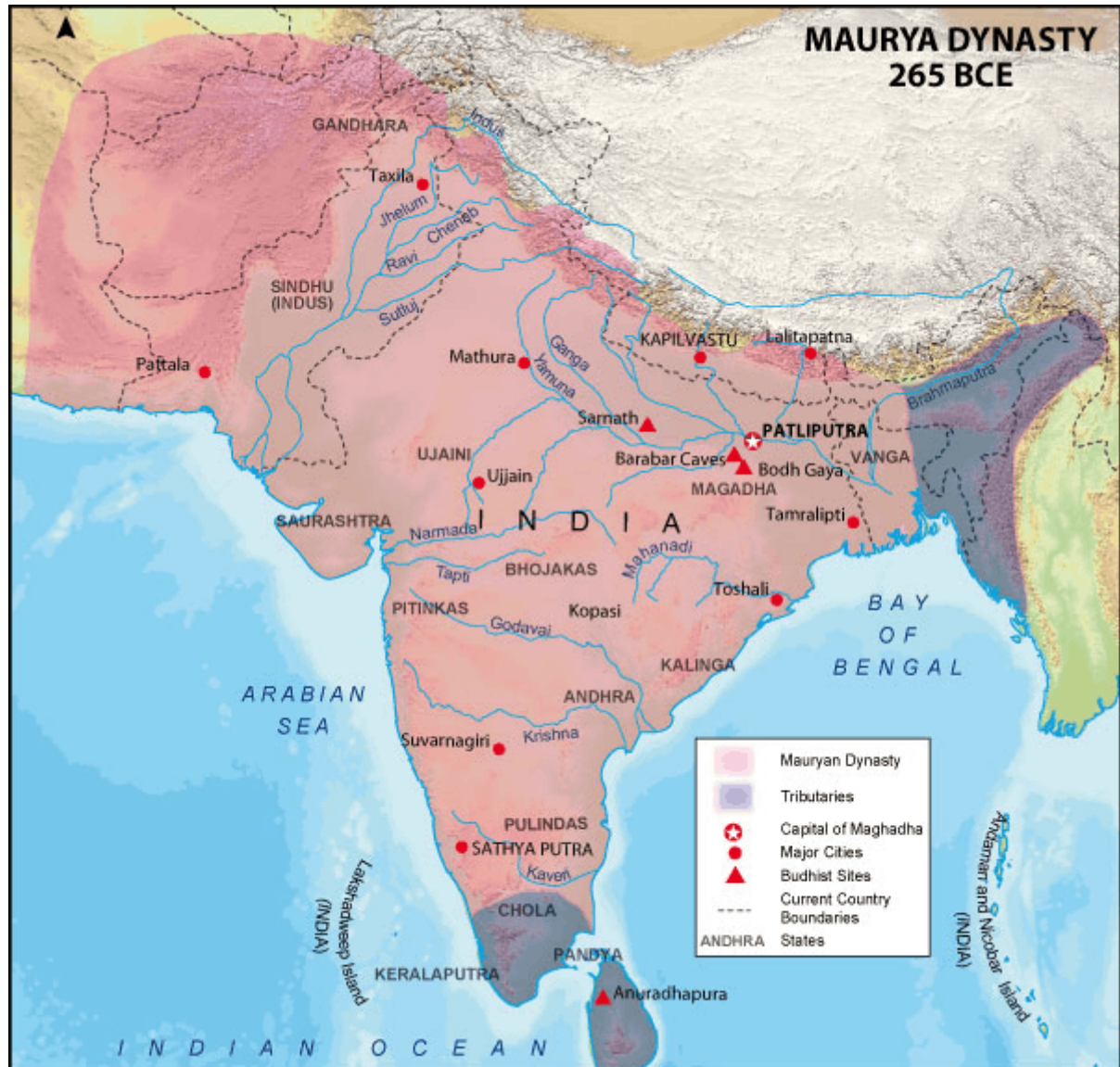
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Mauryas - Origin of Mauryas

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Origin of Mauryas

- It is a matter of great controversy
- Vishnupurana- Chandragupta was the son of Mura - a shudra
- Even Puranas mention him as Shudra
- Mudrarakshasa-Mauryas were known as Vrishala and Kulahina, which may be regarded as Shudra
- Divyadana - Bindusara was a Kshatriya
- Mahavamsa -Chandra-gupta was a Kshatriya and was related to Kshatriya clan Mauriya
- Mahaparinibanasutta - Mauryas belonged to a ruling clan of Piphallivam (Malla) .



Political History of the Mauryas

Chandragupta Maurya (324 - 300 B. C.)

- He ascended the throne in 321 B. C.
- The Greek sources refer to him as Sandrocottus
- He met Alexander around 326 - 325 B. C.
- He fought a war with Selucus Nicator in 305 B. C. and defeated him
- Matrimonial alliance was made between Chandragupta Maurya and Selucus
- A treaty was also signed according to which the following areas were to be given to Chandragupta Maurya:-
 - i. **Gedrosis** (Baluchistan)
 - ii. **Arachoria** (Kandhar)
 - iii. **Paropamisadai** (Kabul)

iv. **Aria** (Herat)

- Megasthenese was the ambassador of Selucus, who was in Chandragupta's court
- According to **Parsisthaparvana**, a Jain text, Chandragupta Maurya renounced the throne and became a Jain in old age
- He went to south with **Bhadrabahu**, a Jain saint and adopted Jainism. He died at Sravana Belgala in the orthodox Jain way by slow starvation
- A small hill at Sravana Belgola he called 'Chandragriha', because Chandragupta lived and performed penance there
- He ruled for 24 years

Extent of Chandragupta's Empire

- Almost the whole of India came under his control
- Only the following areas were outside his empire in the south
 - i.* Cholas
 - ii.* Pandayas
 - iii.* Keralputras
 - iv.* Satyaputras