

BINDUSARA (296-273 BC)

Bindusara, Chandragupta's son (296-273 BC), succeeded him and conquered the south and annexed the regions up to Mysore into his empire. He was a very wise and brave warrior. He successfully maintained the administration of the vast empire he inherited from his father. Ashoka, who was then the governor of Ujjain, assisted him very well. Bindusara had to face two major revolts at Taxila, which he suppressed without much difficulty. According to some Buddhist texts, Bindusara married sixteen times and had more than 100 sons. He made his eldest son, the crown prince Susheema, the governor of Taxila and his second son, Ashoka, the governor of Ujjain. However, he rejected his eldest son after two revolts at Taxila and decided to give the throne to Ashoka. Ashoka was to succeed as the king after the death of Bindusara in 273 BC. However, Ashoka could become a ruler only in 269 BC, four years after Bindusara's death. Possibly, his elder brother might not have allowed the throne to be easily passed on to Ashoka. There is no account of these four years in any Mauryan texts.

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