

Uttarakhand History

KUNINDAS

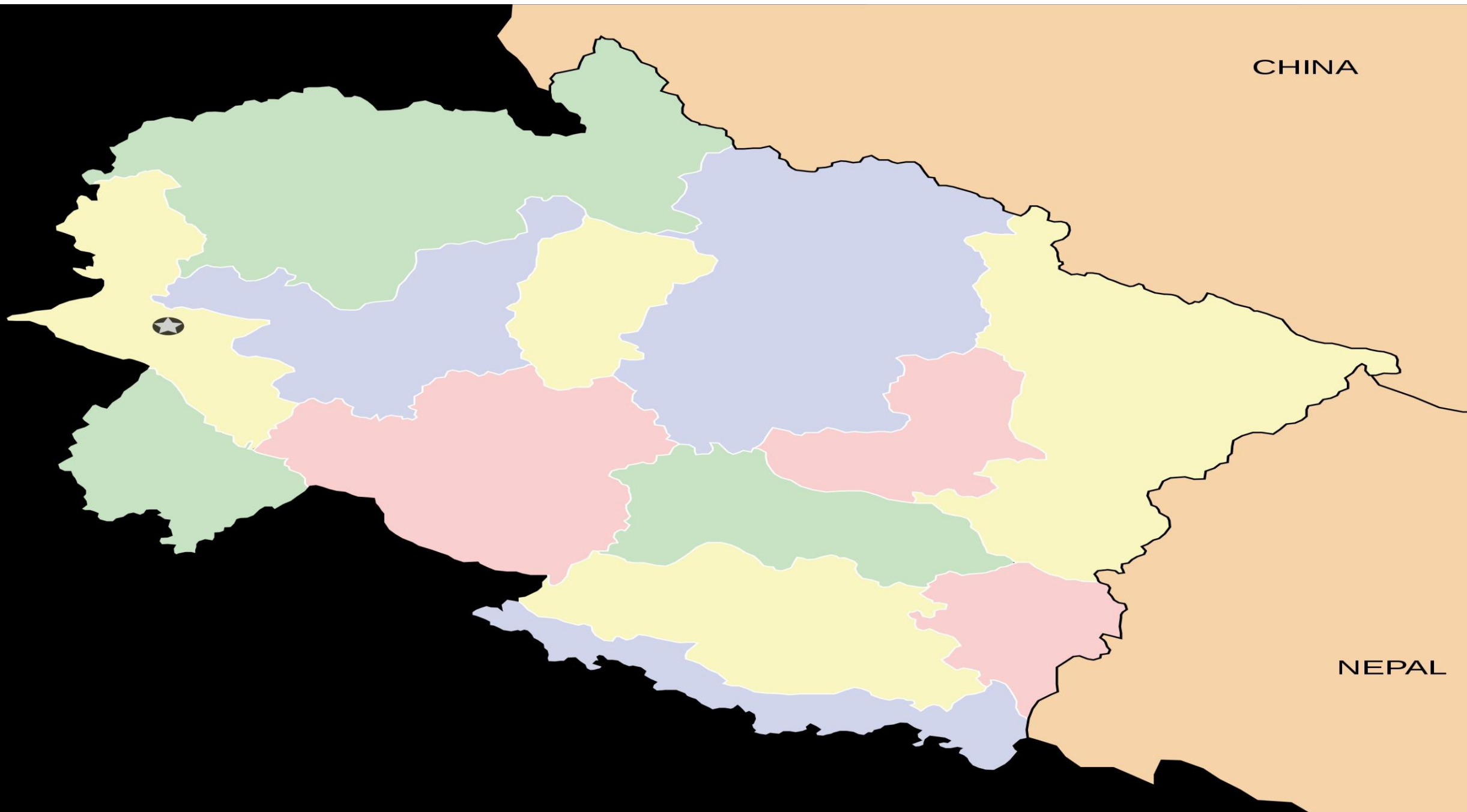
Kuninda Dynasty

Introduction – also referred as Kulinda, Pulinda.

- First political power of Uttarakhand. Kuninda is a Sanskrit word for **Wild**.
- **Geographical extension** – From river **Satluj** to **Alaknanda**
- **Time period** – 200BC – 300AD
- **Capital** – **Subahupur**(Srinagar), **Kalkut** (Kalsi), **Shatrughan**

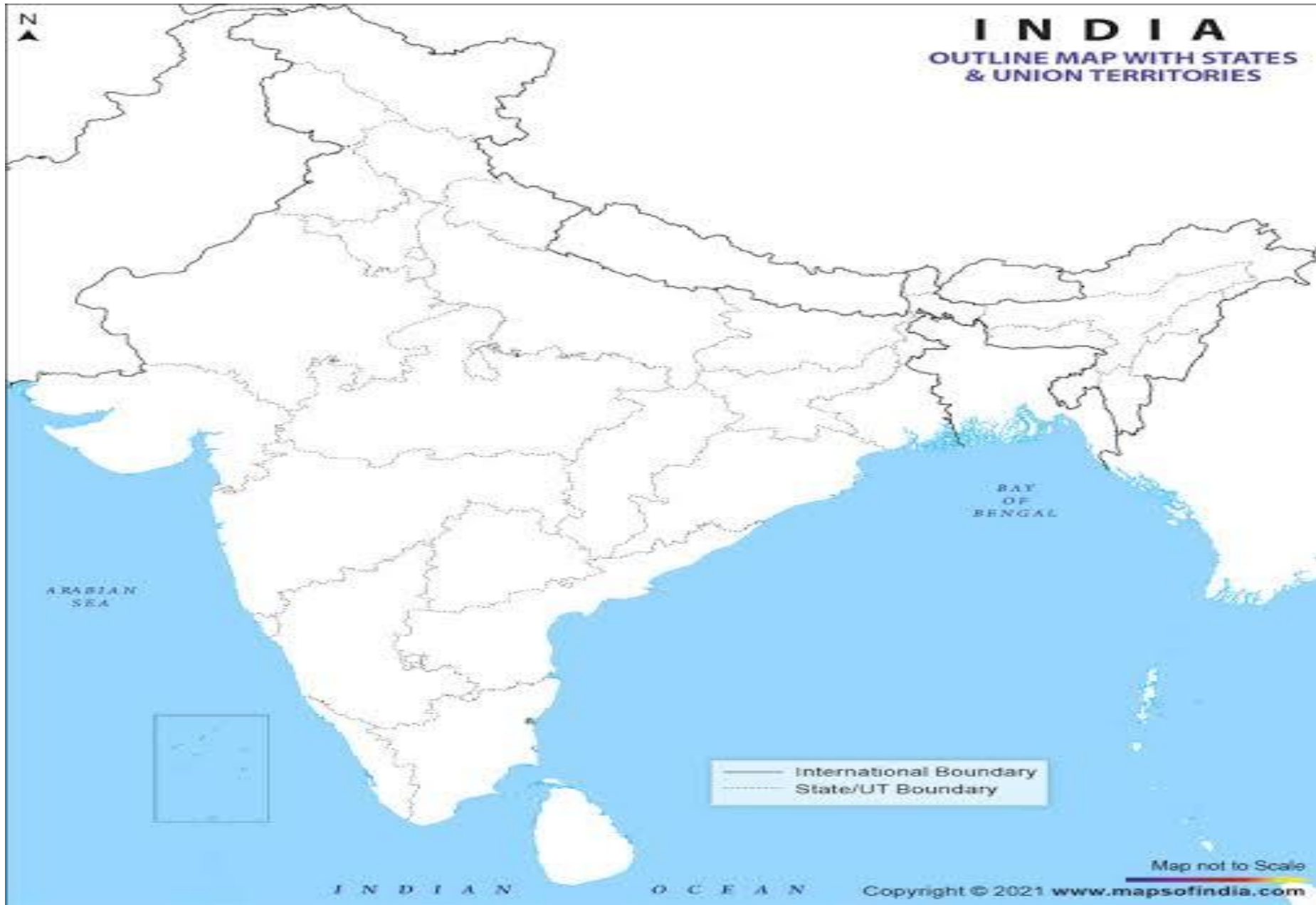
Sources of Kuninda History:

Literature – reference of Kuninda state is found in **Van parva, Sabha Parva and Bheesm Parva** of **Mahabharat**. **Subahu** was the ruler of Kuninda dynasty.



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Inscription:

Kalsi Rock eddict – established in 257BC by Ashoka on the bank of river Tons and Yamuna. Discovered by **John Forest** in **1860**.

Inscription is written in Prakrit language and Brahmi script.

Uttarakhand is referred as **Aprant** and people of this region are called **Pulinda**.

In total 5 inscriptions of KUNINDAS are discovered so far, out of which four are discovered from **Barhut** and **Mathura**

Coins:

Copper and Silver coins of KUNINDAS tells us about their history.

Rulers of Kuninda Dynasty:

Subahu, Amoghbhuti, Mrig Bhuti, Vijay Bhuti, Gomutra, Assek, ShivDutt, HariDutt, Shivpalit, ShivRakshit.

Amoghbhuti – most powerful ruler of the dynasty. Coins issued by Amoghbhuti justifies his greatness as a ruler. He is referred as **Kunidasya Amoghbhuti Maharajasah** (कुण्डिस्य अमोगभूति महाराजसः) in his coins.

Coins of Kuninda Dynasty:

Coins of KUNINDAS are classified in three parts: Amoghbhuti, Almora type and Chhatreshwar type.

- They are mainly found from **Sumadi, Thatyur(Tehri), Almora and Katyur Ghati in Uttarakhand**

1. Amoghbhuti Type: mainly silver and copper coins. Script – **Brahmi and Khroshti.**

Goddess and Mrig(deer) were the main images engraved on the coins.

Snake and S.wastik are also engraved on the few coins.



2. Almora Type: reference of 8 Kuninda rulers found in these coins.

- Shivdutt, HariDutt, Shivpalit, ShivRakshit, Gomutra, Vijaybhuti, Magbhatas and Assek
- Purity of Silver coins is average
- **Chhatreshwar Type:** copper coins with images of lord Shiva and tree
- These coins are supposed to be dedicated to **Lord Shiva (Chhatreshwar)**.

Morphology of Kuninda Coins writte by **M.P. Joshi**

Religion – Principal Diety of KUNINDAS : Lord Shiva

Shakas acquired the plains area after Amoghbhuti

- Confirmation of Shaka's residence in Uttarakhand is found from **Katarmal Sun Temple (Almora)**.

Mauryans and Shunga dynasty was contemporary to KUNINDAS.

They mainly ruled Terai region of Uttarakhand.

Kushans:

acquired the Terai region of Uttarakhand.

Coins of Kushan age are discovered from **Veerbhadra(Rishikesh), Mordhwaj(Kotdwar), Govishaan(Kaashipur), Sumadi(Shrinagar)**

These coins are related to Kanishka(Most powerful Kushan ruler)

Patanjali was chief priest(patron) in the court of Kanishka.

7 coins of Kushan period discovered from **Khateema**

Nandi and Lord Shiva images are engraved on Kushan coins.

Yaudhey Dynasty:

Aquired the territories of Kushan rulers.

Coins of Yaudhey dysnasty are discovered from **Jaunsar Bhabar** and **Kalon Danda(Lansdowne)** - द्वि & त्रि मुद्रालेख)

Fire altar(यज्ञ वेदिका) discovered from **Badawala (Dehradun)** ही **built by Sheelvarman**. He also orgnised an **Ashwamegh Yagya here**. – Sheelvarman is also related to **Gotriya dynasty of Yugshel**.

Chhaglesh Dynasty – Rock eddict discovered from Lakhamandal tells us that Chhaglesh dynasty ruled the nearby areas of Yamuna river.

Yadu Dynasty: 6th and 7th century AD

- Known through **Lakhamandal Prashasti(inscription)**
- **Founder – Senvarman**, Capital – **Sinhpur**
- **Rajkumari Ishwara** also built Shiva temple at Lakhamandal

Naga Dynasty:6th century AD

Evidences of Nag dynasty discovered from **Trishul Eddict of Rudrashiv temple at Gopeshwar** – this particula trishul Eddict is related to **Ganpantinag**

Rulers – Skandnag, Ganpati nag(important ruler), Vibhunag, Anshunag

Maukharis

Vardhan dynasty of Thaneshwar:

- Huen Tsang referred Uttarakhand as **Brahmpur or Po-lo-hi-mo-pu-lo**
- **Hein Tsang** referred Ganga as **Mahabhadra** and Haridwar as **Mo-yu-lo**

After death of Harshvardhan Uttarakhand was divided into three independent states:

- 1. Brahmpur** – state with maximum geographical extension(from river Ganga to Karnali river)
- 2. Govishan-** extended from Ramganga river in the west to Sharda river in the east
- 3. Shatrughan** – yamuna valley

Paurav Dynasty of Brahmpur also known as **Parvatakar Dynasty**

- Ganga to Karnali
- Archaeological source – **Taleshwar inscription of Almora**(discovered in 1915)
- **Known rulers** – Dhyutivarman, Vishnuvarman, Vrishvarman, Agnivarman etc.
- **Coinage** – use of Sanskrit language and Kutila script.

Revenue Setup:

Dronavap – 32 Sher & 16 Nali

Kulyavaap- 8 Drona and 256 sher

Kharivaap – 20 Drona and 640 sher

Kedar bhumi & Sari

Katyuri and kartikeypur