

History of Dev (Deo/Chaudhary)

Before Nepal's emergence as a nation in the later half of the 18th century, the designation 'Nepal' was largely applied only to the Kathmandu Valley and its surroundings. Thus, up to the unification of the country, Nepal's recorded history is largely that of the Kathmandu Valley. References to Nepal in the Mahabharata epic, in Puranas and in Buddhist and Jaina scriptures establish the country's antiquity as an independent political and territorial entity. The oldest Vamshavali or chronicle, the Gopalarajavamsavali, was copied from older manuscripts during the late 14th century, is a fairly reliable basis for Nepal's ancient history. The Vamshavalis mention the rule of several dynasties the Gopals, the Abhiras and the Kiratas—over a stretch of millennia. However, no historical evidence exists for the rule of these legendary dynasties. The documented history of Nepal begins with the Changu Narayan temple inscription of King Manadeva I (c. 464–505 AD) of the Licchavi dynasty.

During the time of Gautama Buddha, the kings of the Lichchhavi dynasty were ruling over Baisali (Muzaffarpur, in modern Bihar in India). Baisali had a partly democratic form of government. According to the later inscription by King Jaya Dev II, Supushpa was the founder of the dynasty, but he was defeated by Ajatashatru, the powerful Magadha king, in the fifth century BC.

When the kings of the Kushan empire became powerful in India, the Lichchhavis migrated to Nepal. The twenty-fourth descendant of King Supushpa, Jaya Dev II, re-established the rule of the Lichchhavis in Nepal. Brisha Dev was another powerful member of the dynasty who greatly extended his territory. Chandra Gupta I, the Gupta Indian emperor, was alarmed of the rise of Brisha Dev. However, he preserved the sovereignty of India by the use of politics rather than warfare. He visited Nepal and married Kumara Devi, the daughter of Brisha Dev. Kumara Devi gave birth to Chandra Gupta's successor, Samundra Gupta. Some historians are of the opinion that it was Bhasker Verma, not Brisha Dev who was the father of Kumara Devi.

Mana Deva is considered to be the first king of Nepal having historical authenticity.

EXTERNAL LINK: Nepal History (Entry extract)

305 - ?

Bhumi Verma

Adopted heir of the last Soma king.

? - 505

Dharma Deva

464 - 505

Mana Deva

Son. Held back the rise of the Mallas.

464

Mana Deva is only a small boy when he ascends the throne. Taking advantage of this, the Thakuri governors of the eastern provinces rebel and try to win independence. Mana Deva suppresses the rebellion forcefully. Then he marches towards the west and occupies many provinces there. With the help of his maternal uncle he invades Mallapur, across the Gandaki river, and annexes it to the kingdom. With this his kingdom is extended up to the Himalayas in the north, to the other side of the Gandaki in the west, and to the Koshi in the south.

505 - ?

Mahideva

505 - ?

Basanta Deva

Mana Deva II

c.588 - 605

Shiva Deva I

Son. Shared administration with Amshuverma.

605

Amshuverma is of the Thakuri clan, so when his father-in-law dies he becomes sole sovereign and begins a new dynasty.