

Scribes', Engravers' and Ministers' Lineages, an Indication (among others)
of the Royal Donor's Identity :
the Case of the Ruchida and the Mahākosala plates (Somavamśin corpus)



Amandine Wattelier-Bricout

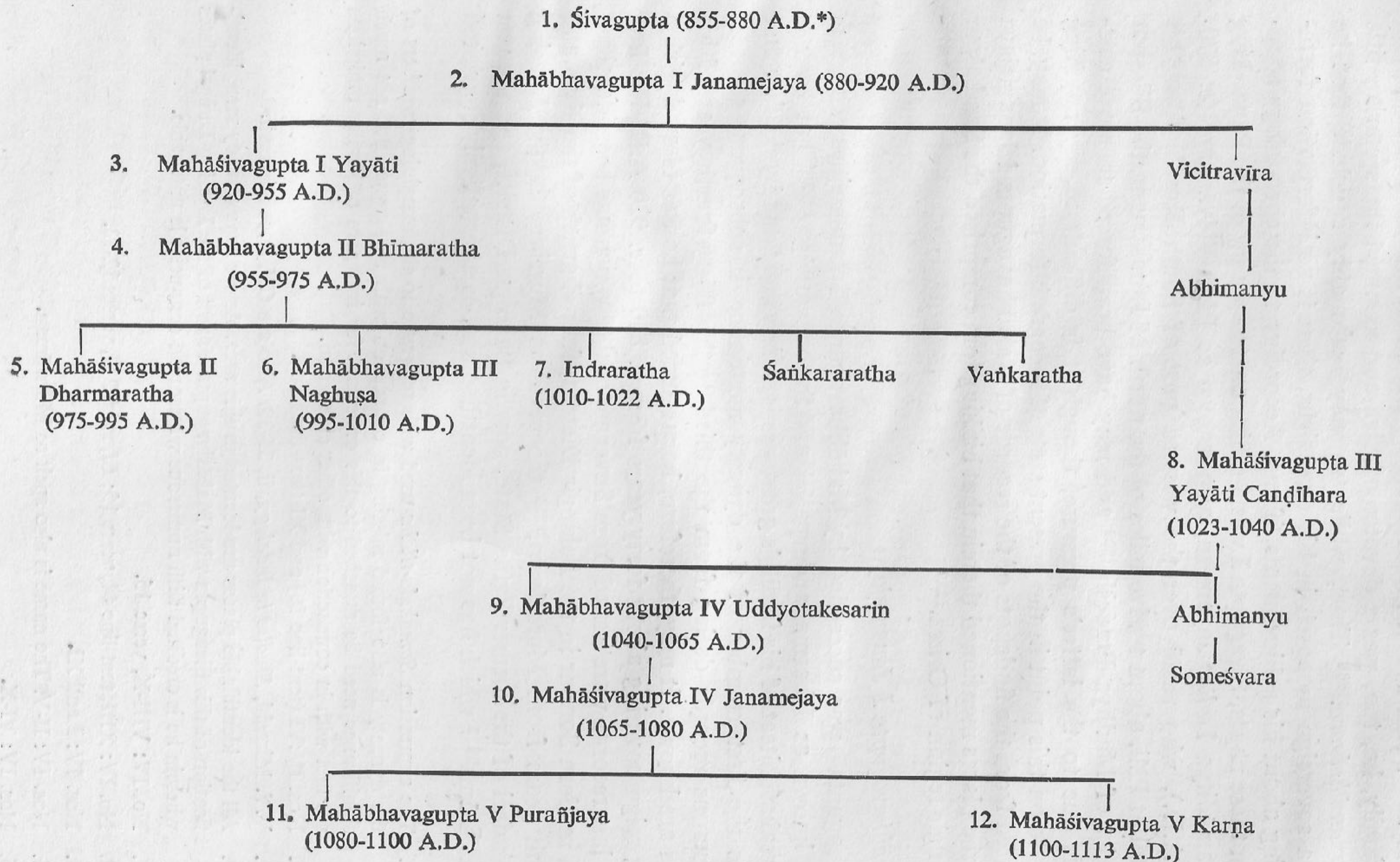
PONDICHERRY DHARMA WORKSHOP 30.01.2023 to 3.02.2023

Scribes', Engravers' and Ministers' Lineages, an Indication (among others) of the Royal Donor's Identity:

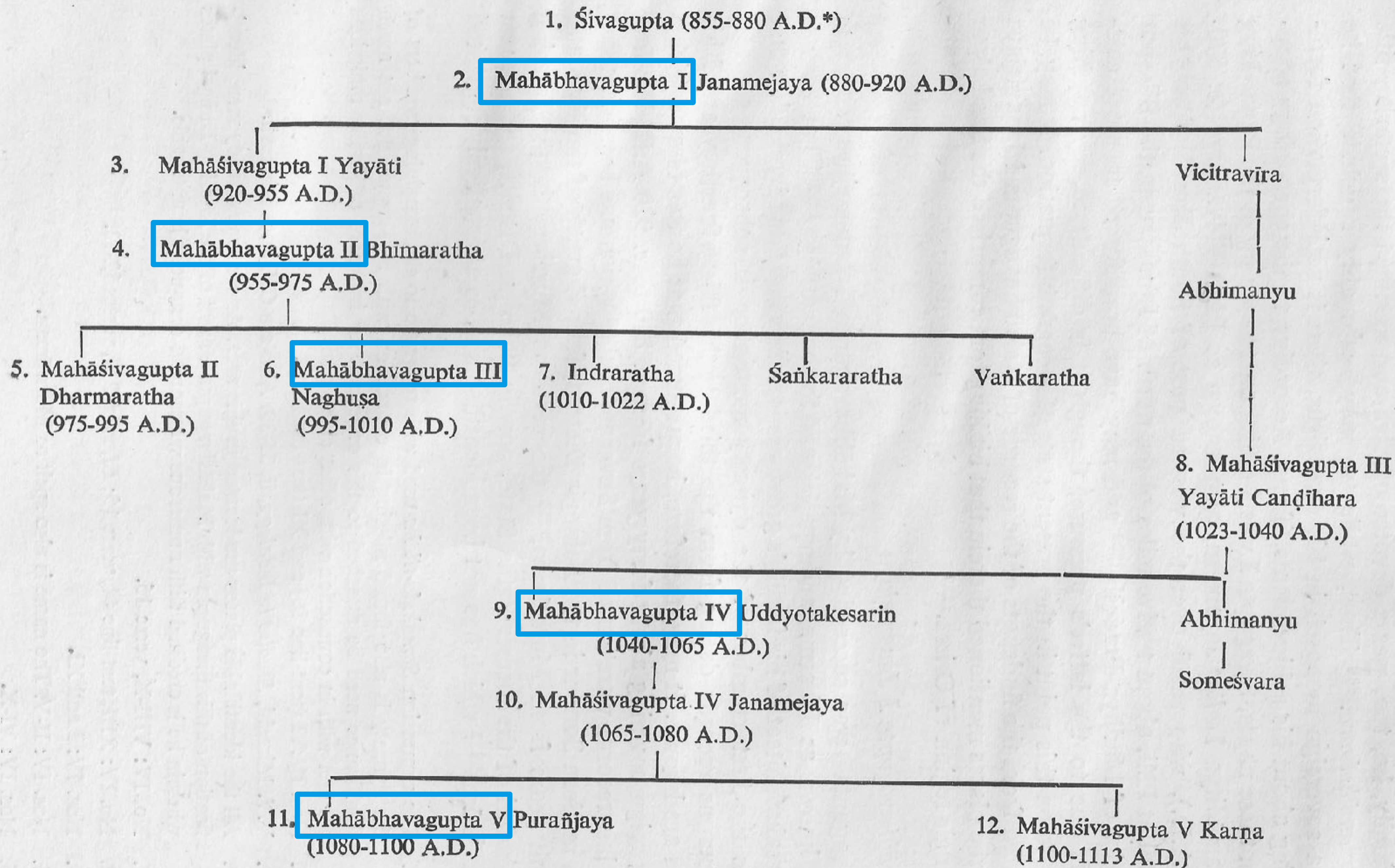
- The Mahākosala Historical Society's plates of Mahābhavagupta RY11 = INSSomavamsin00028
- The Ruchida plates of Mahābhavagupta RY8 = INSSomavamsin00039
- The Jatesinga-Dungri Plates of Mahāśivagupta Yayāti, RY3 = INSSomavamsin00016
- The Nuapatna Plates of the Time of Janamejaya, RY5 = INSSomavamsin00021

The Somavamśin dynasty

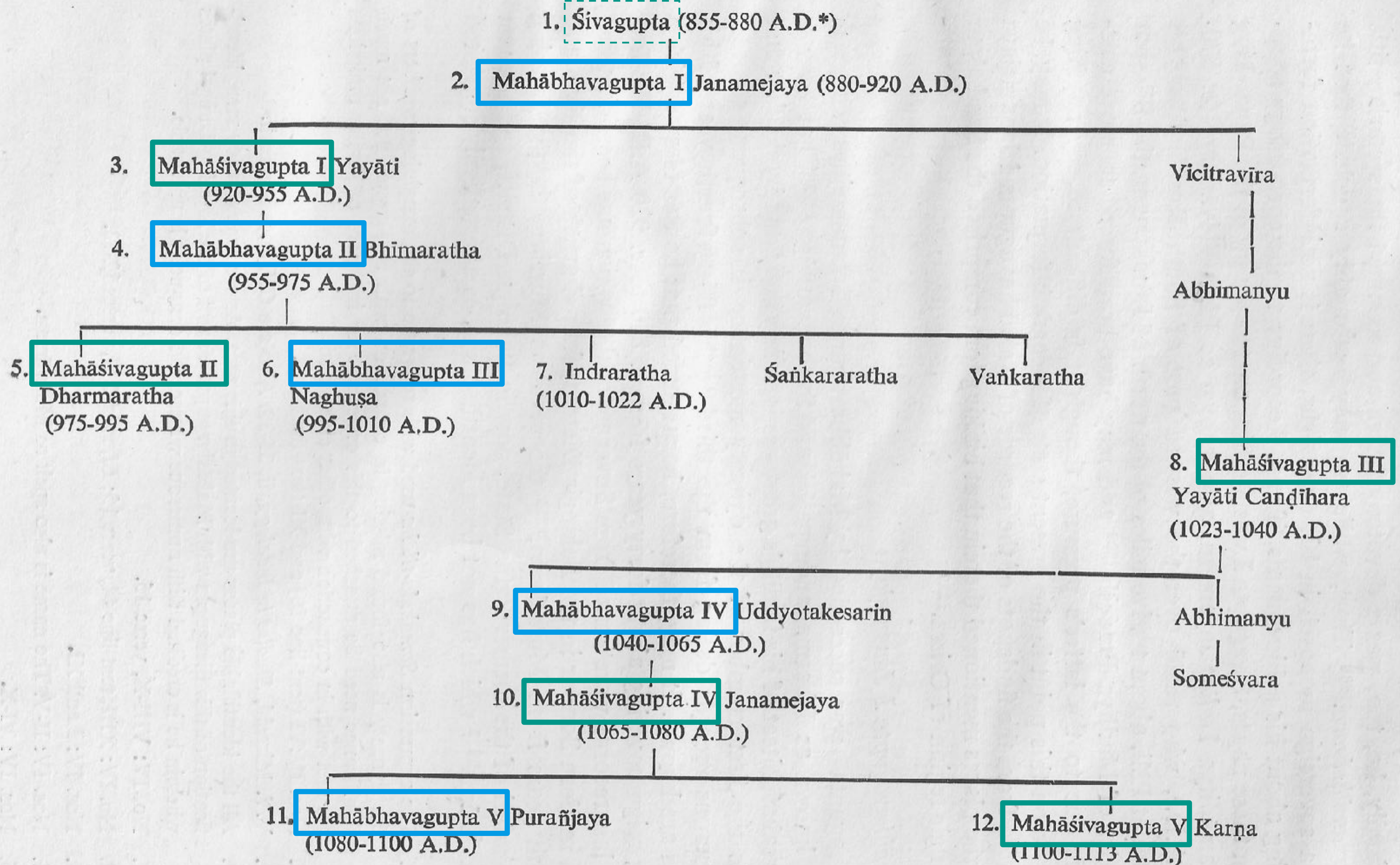
- Family tree suggested by Shastri, Ajay Mitra. 1995. *Inscriptions of the Śarabhapurīyas, Pāṇḍuvamśins and Somavamśīns*. Part I, p.213. Delhi . Indian Council of Historical Research and Motilal Banarsidass



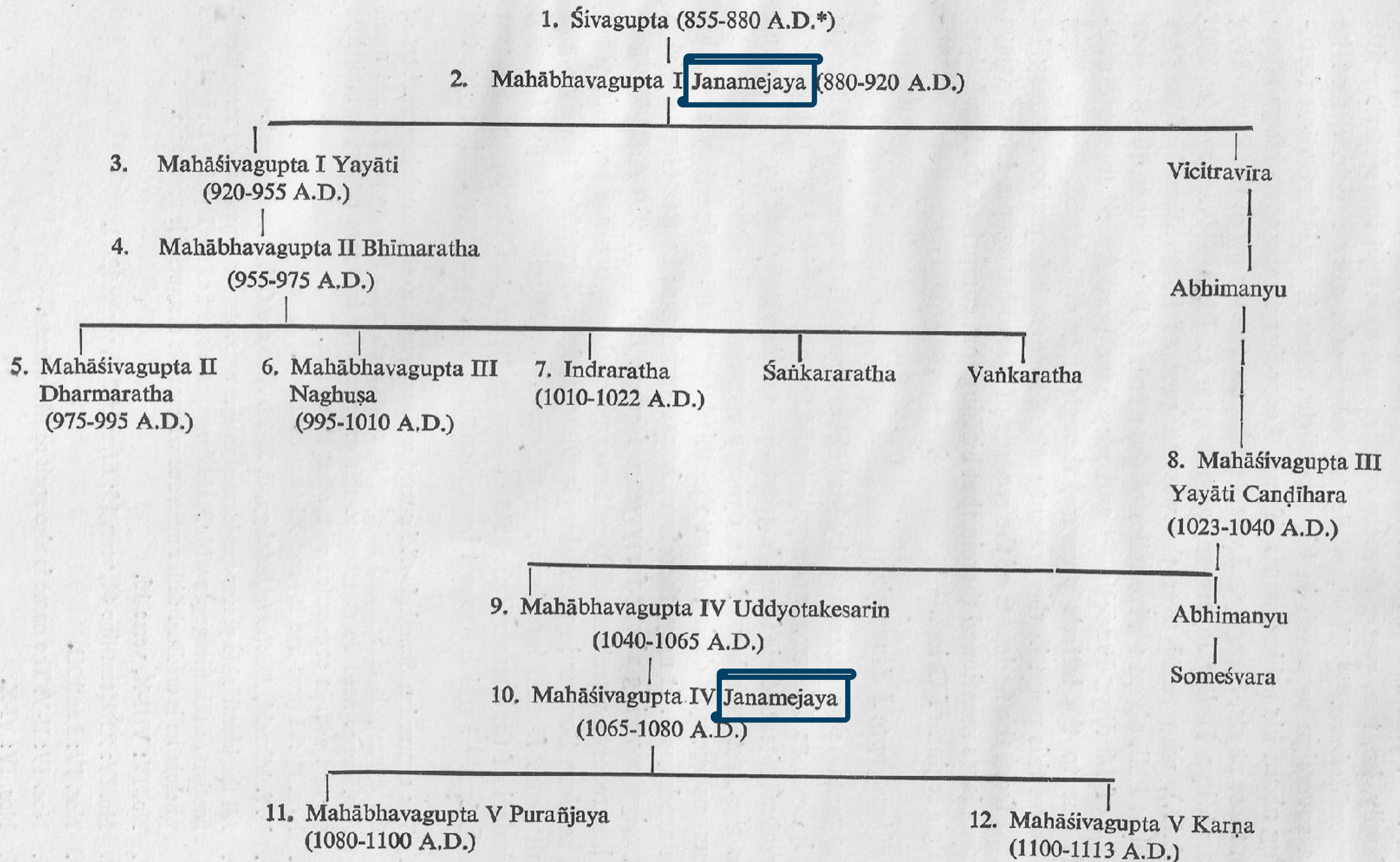
* The dates mentioned in brackets are only approximate.



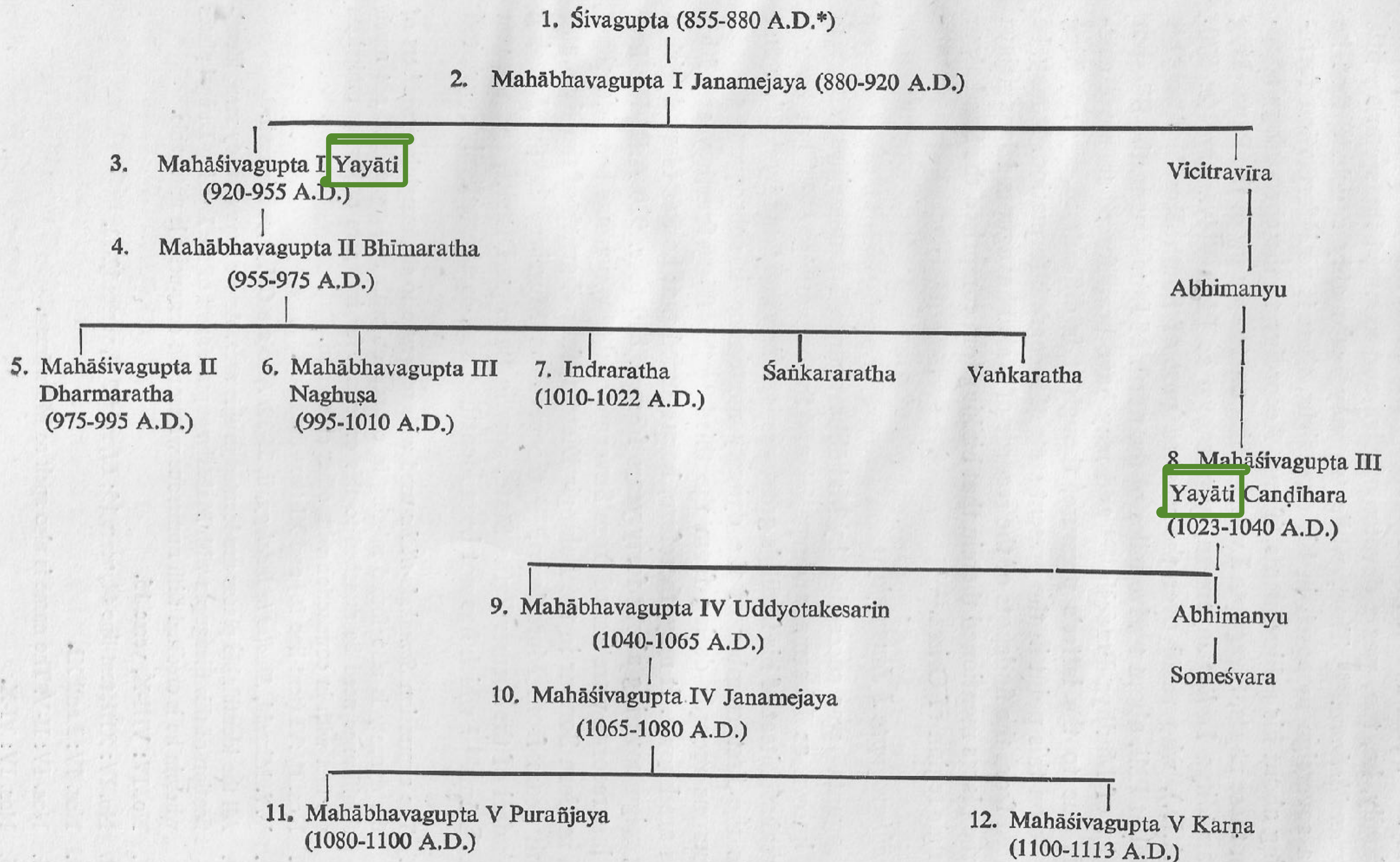
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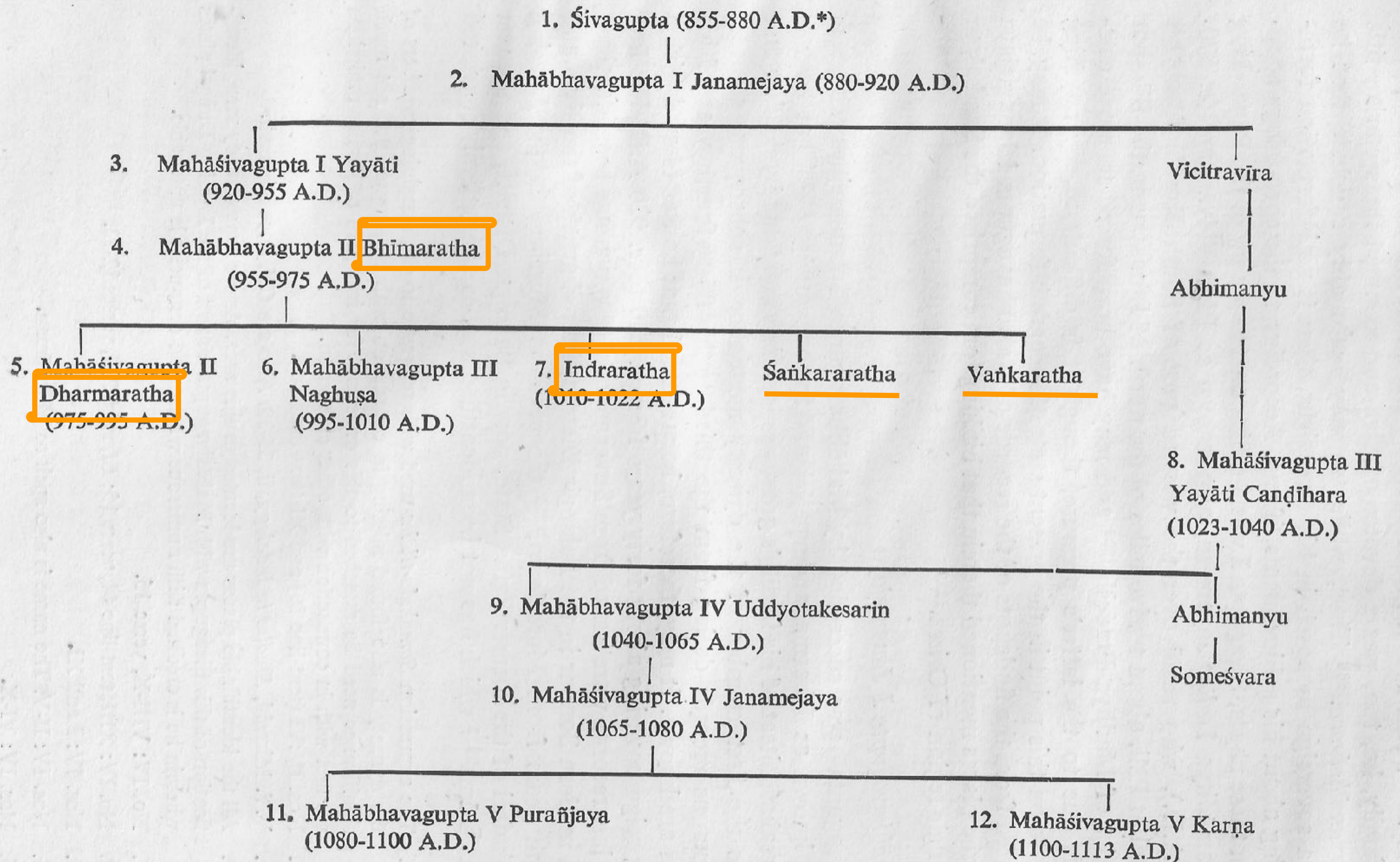
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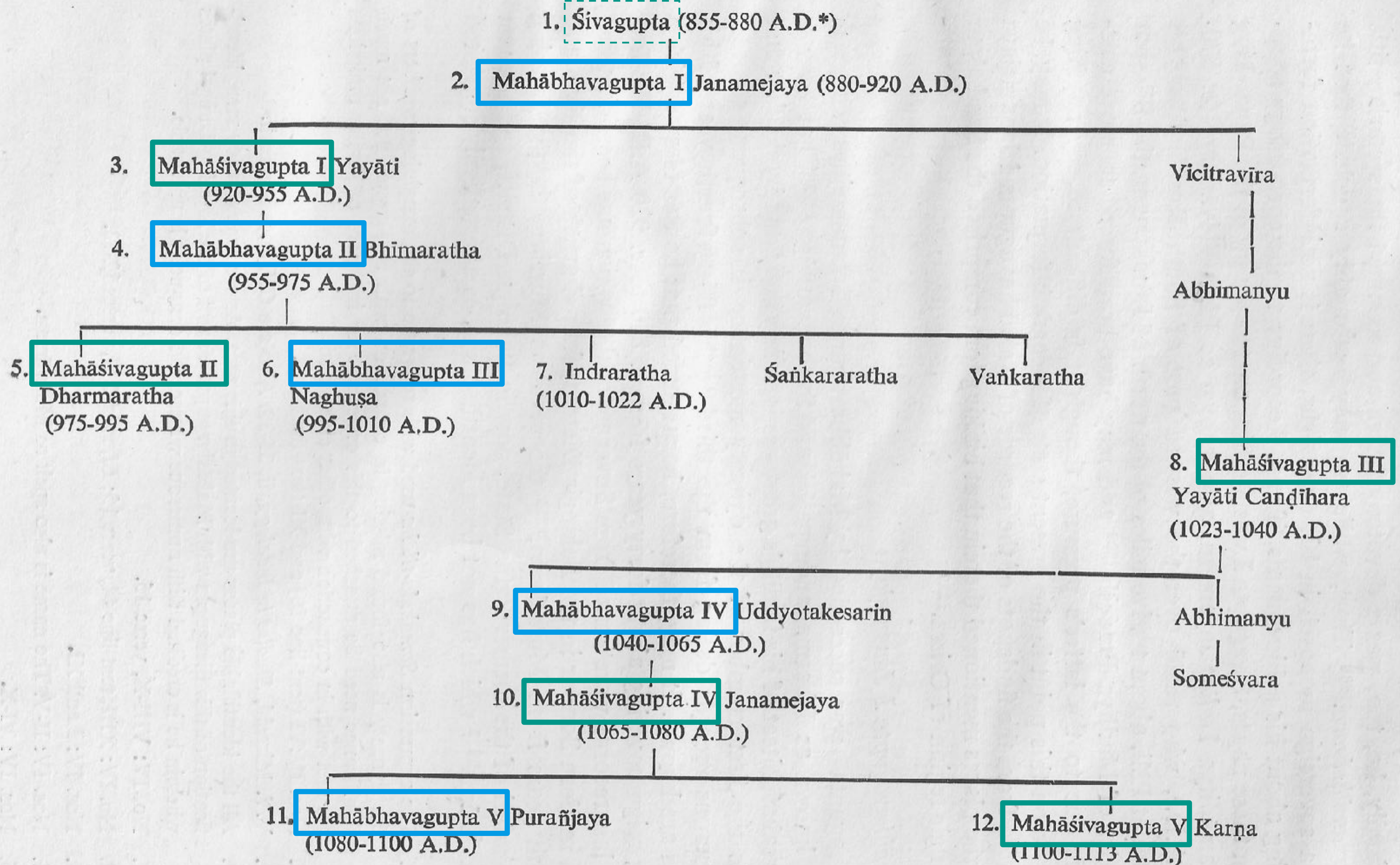
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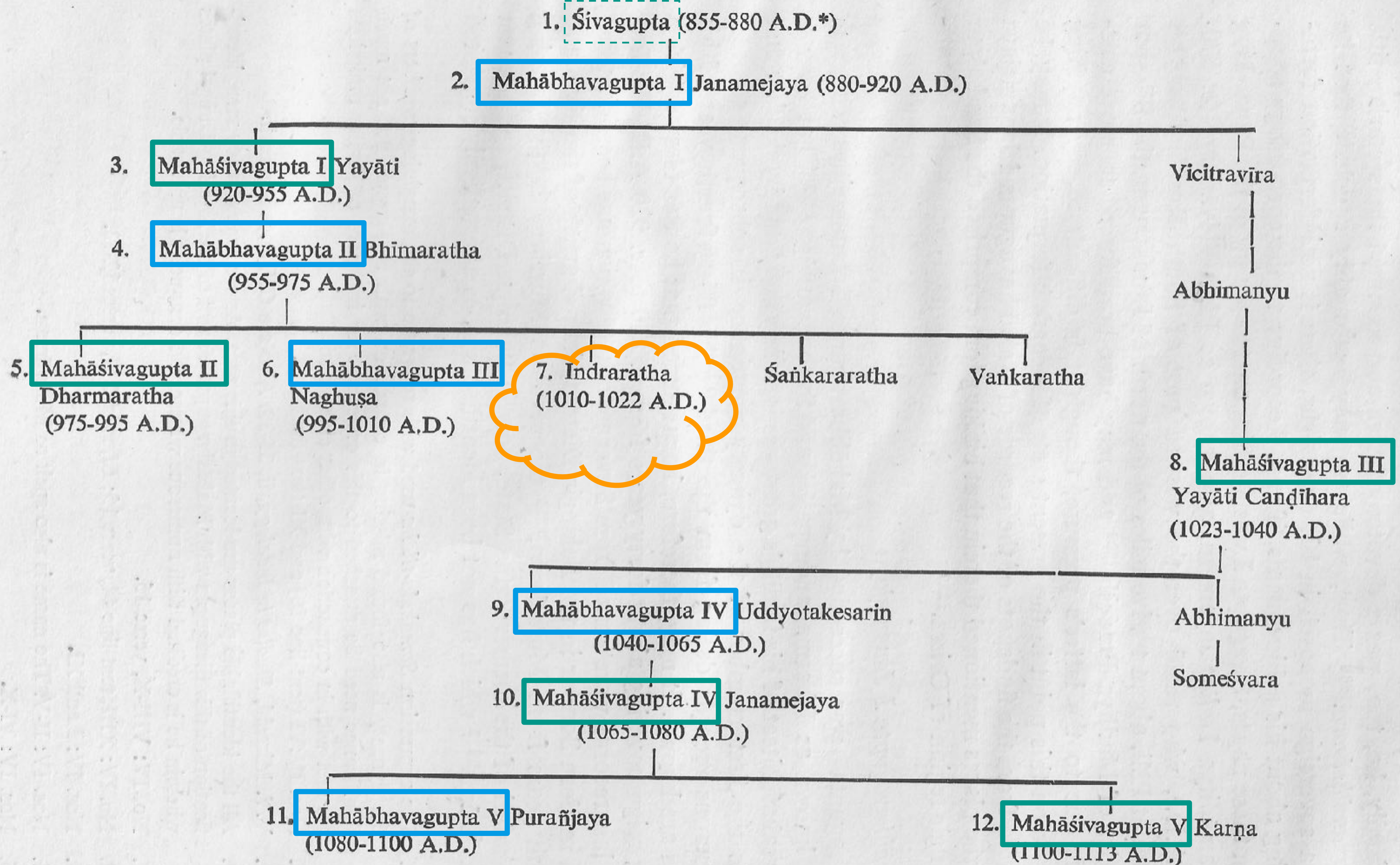
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Material available : 8 issuer kings

- Mahābhavagupta Janamejaya • 17 copper plates
- Mahāśivagupta Yayāti • 6 copper plates
- Mahābhavagupta Bhīmaratha • 1 copper plate
- Mahāśivagupta Dharmaratha • 1 copper plate
- Indraratha • 1 copper plate
- Mahāśivagupta Yayāti • 1 copper plate
- Mahābhavagupta Uddyotakesarin • 4 copper plates
- Mahāśivagupta Karṇa • 1 copper plate

Attested names from the copper plate inscriptions of the four first kings

Śivagupta Svabhāvatuṅga

Mahābhavagupta Janamejaya

Mahāśivagupta Yayāti

Mahābhavagupta Bhīmaratha

Mahāśivagupta Dharmaratha

Attested names from the Indraratha's inscription

Śivagupta Svabhāvatuṅga

Mahābhavagupta Janamejaya

Mahāśivagupta Yayāti

Mahābhavagupta Bhīmaratha

Mahāśivagupta Dharmaratha

Abhimanyu

Indraratha

From the inscription issued by Uddyotakeśarin's mother

Janamejaya

Yayāti

Bhīmaratha

Dharmaratha

===

Caṇḍīhara

Uddyotakeśarin

From the inscriptions issued by Uddyotakeśarin

Janamejaya

Janamejaya

Yayāti

Yayāti

Bhīmaratha

Bhīmaratha

Dharmaratha

Dharmaratha

===

Naghuṣa

Caṇḍīhara

Mahāśivagupta Yayāti

Uddyotakeśarin

Mahābhavagupta Uddyotakeśarin

Janamejaya

Yayāti

Bhīmaratha

Dharmaratha

Naghuṣa

Yayāti

Uddyotakeśarin

Janamejaya

Purañjaya

Mahāśivagupta Karṇa

From the Karṇa's inscriptions

Śivagupta Svabhāvatuṅga

Mahābhavagupta Janamejaya

Mahāśivagupta Yayāti

Mahābhavagupta Bhīmaratha

Mahāśivagupta Dharmaratha

Abhimanyu

Indraratha

Mahāśivagupta Yayāti

Mahābhavagupta Uddyotakeśarin

Mahāśivagupta Janamejaya

Purañjaya

Mahāśivagupta Karṇa

List of the names attested within the Somavamśin corpus

Different identifications

- The Mahākosala
Historical Society's plates
of Mahābhavagupta RY11
- The Ruchida plates of
Mahābhavagupta RY8
- The Jatesinga-Dungri
Plates of Mahāśivagupta
Yayāti, RY3
- The Nuapatna Plates of
the Time of Janamejaya,
RY5

4 problematic copper plate inscriptions

Specific and atypical features

- The Mahākosala Historical Society's plates of Mahābhavagupta RY11
 - Seal with a bull
 - Śaiva initial invocation
 - predecessor mentioned without any royal titles
 - compound *royal titles + coronation name of the predecessor + pādānudhyāta + Royal titles + coronation name of the issuer* becomes *mātāpitṛpādānudhyāta^o*
- The Ruchida plates of Mahābhavagupta RY8
 - physical features
 - final sentence craving for the indulgence of the learned readers

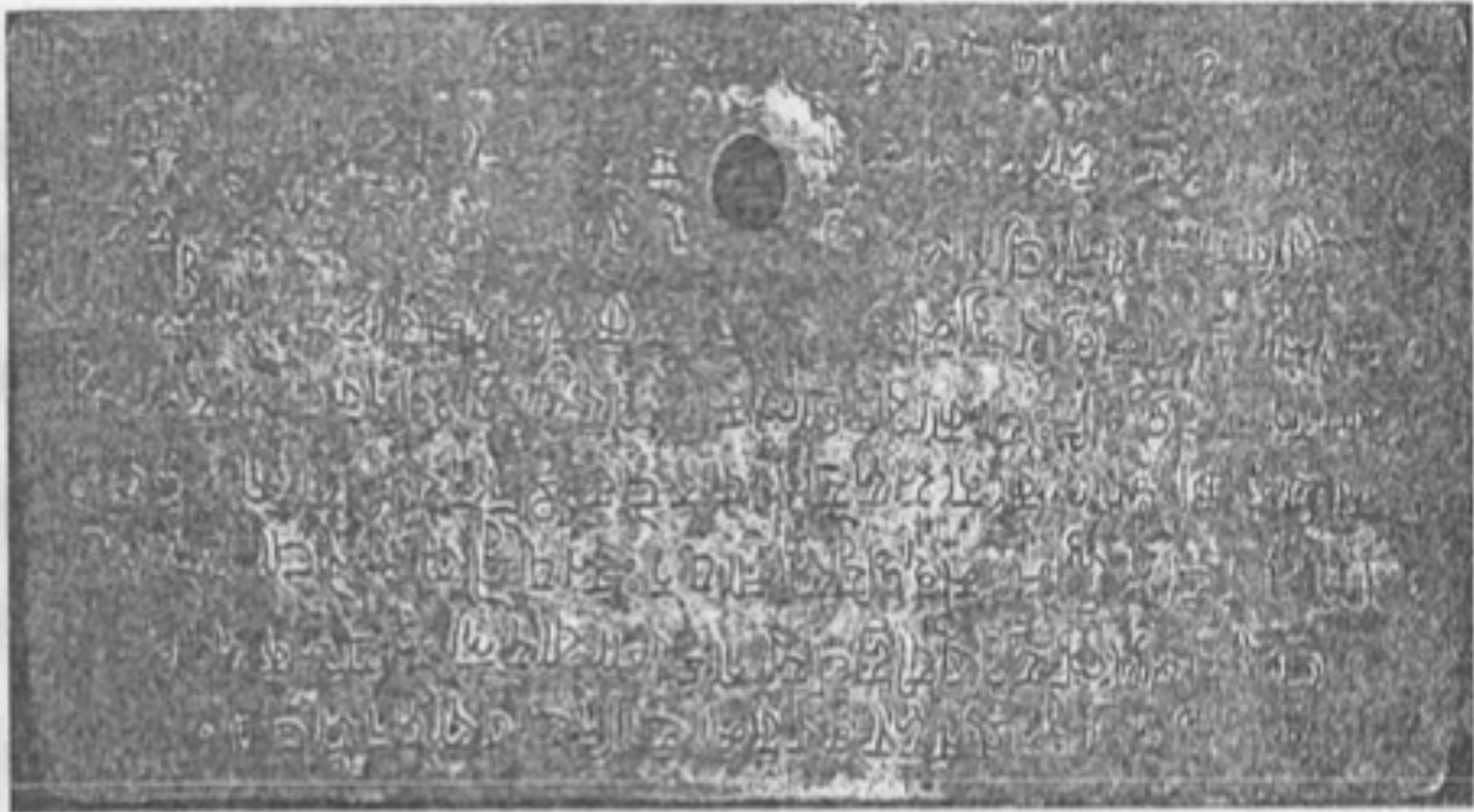
Different identifications

- The Mahākosala Historical Society's plates of Mahābhavagupta RY11
- The Ruchida plates of Mahābhavagupta RY8
- The Jatesinga-Dungri Plates of Mahāśivagupta Yayāti, RY3
- The Nuapatna Plates of the Time of Janamejaya, RY5
- Naghuṣa (Tripathy), Uddyotakeśarin (Panigrahi, Sircar, Shastri), Janamejaya's ancestor (Panda, Chopdar, Nayak, Acharya)
- Naghuṣa (Tripathy), Uddyotakeśarin (Panigrahi, Sircar, Shastri), Janamejaya's ancestor (Panda, Chopdar, Nayak, Acharya)
- Mahāśivagupta Yayāti I (Mazumdar)
Mahāśivagupta Yayāti II (Shastri)
- Janamejaya II (Shastri)

Physical features

Ruchida Plates of Mahābhavagupta, Year 8

रुचिदाप्लेटा महोद्भवगुप्तस्य



SECOND PLATE, SECOND SIDE

Image : Acharya, Subrata Kumar. 2013. "Ruchida Plates of Mahābhavagupta, Year 8." *JESI*, Journal of the Epigraphical Society of India, XXXIX: 26–42

Jatesinga-Dungri Plates of Mahāśivagupta Yayāti

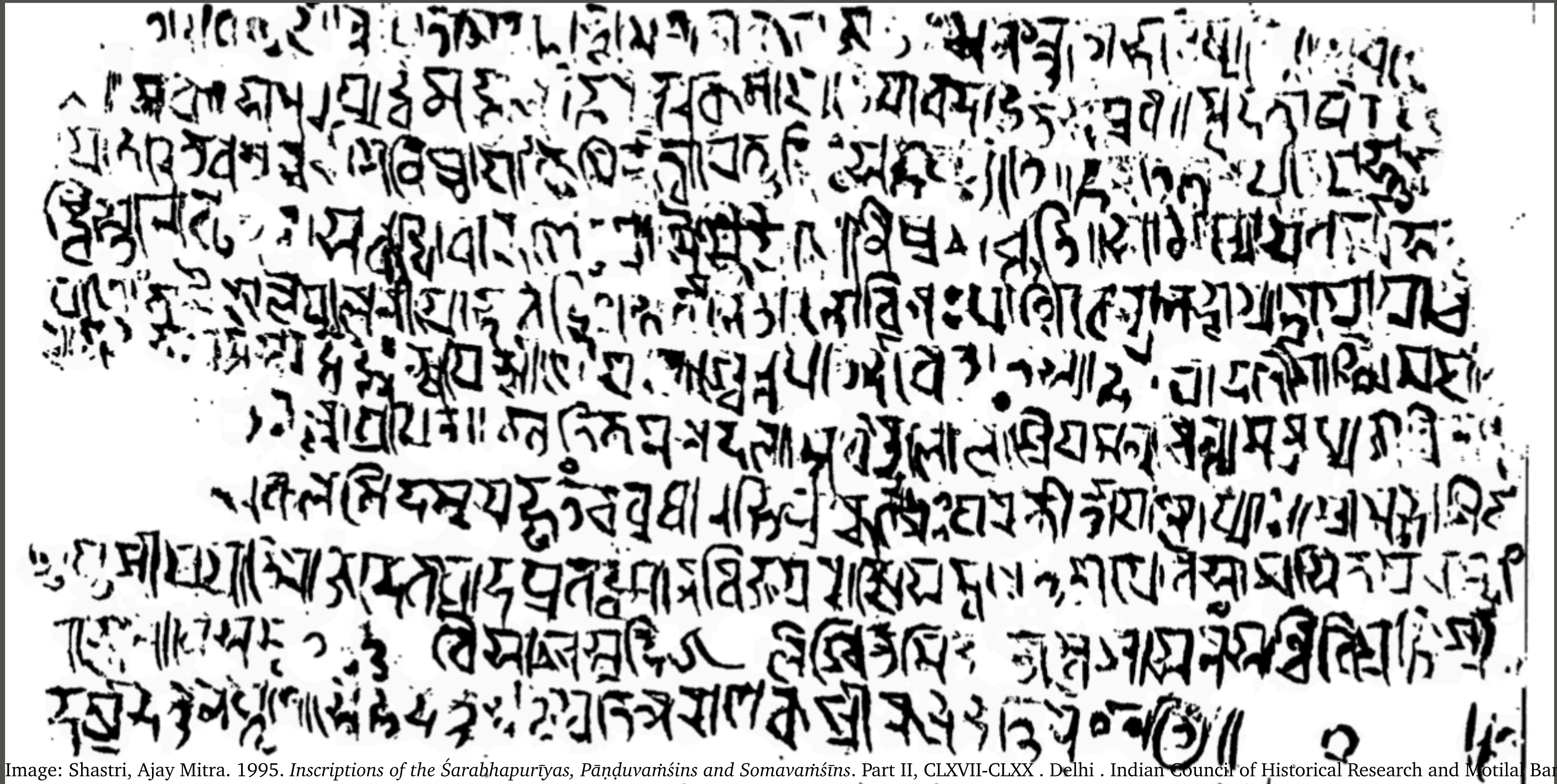


Image: Shastri, Ajay Mitra. 1995. *Inscriptions of the Śarabhapurīyas, Pāṇḍuvarṁśins and Somavarṁśins*. Part II, CLXVII-CLXX. Delhi. Indian Council of Historical Research and Motilal Banarsidass

SUPPL. IV. NUAPATNA PLATES OF MAHĀŚIVAGUPTA IV
JANAMEJAYA, YR. 5

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् ॥ १ ॥
ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥
ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥
ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥
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ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥

FIRST PLATE

Image : Shastri, Ajay Mitra. 1995. *Inscriptions of the Śarabhapurīyas, Pāṇḍuvarṁśins and Somavarṁśins*. Part II, CLXIII. Delhi . Indian Council of Historical Research and Motilal Banarsidass

Palaeography / Decoration

Concentric circles

- The Mahākosala Historical Society's plate

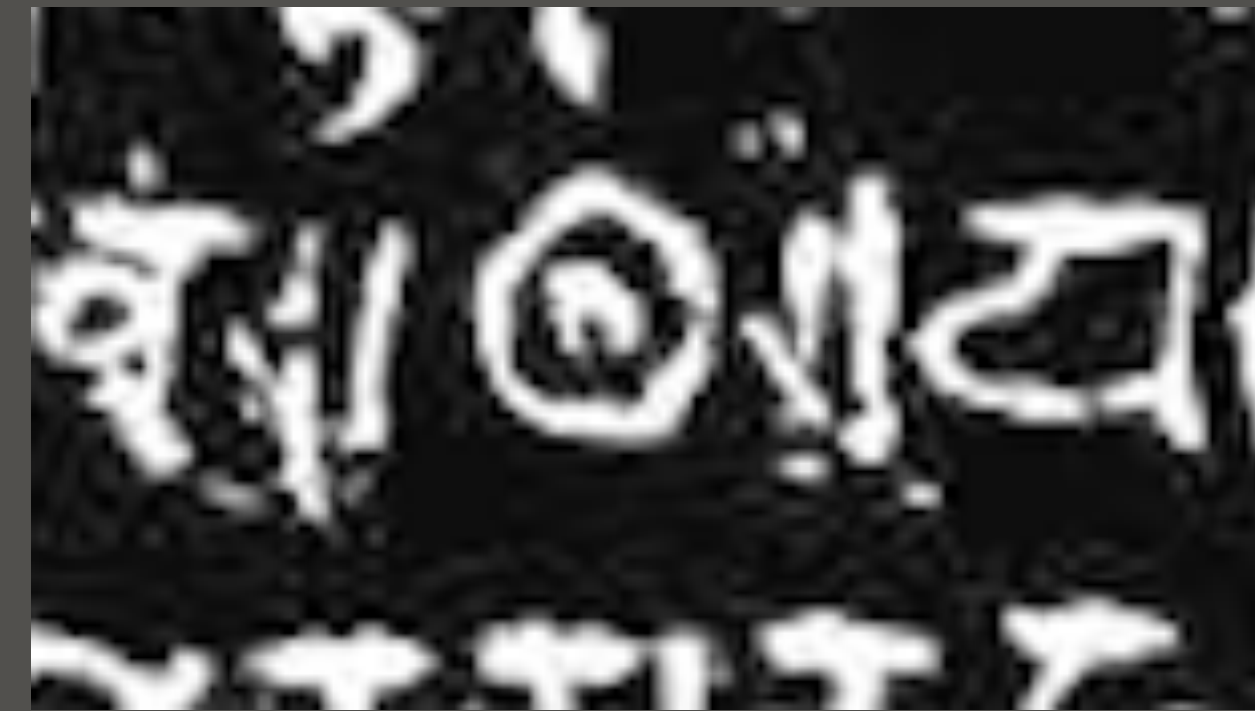


Image : detail from *Epigraphia Indica* 22.1933-34: 135-138

- The Jatesinga-Dungri Plates of Mahāśivagupta Yayāti, RY3

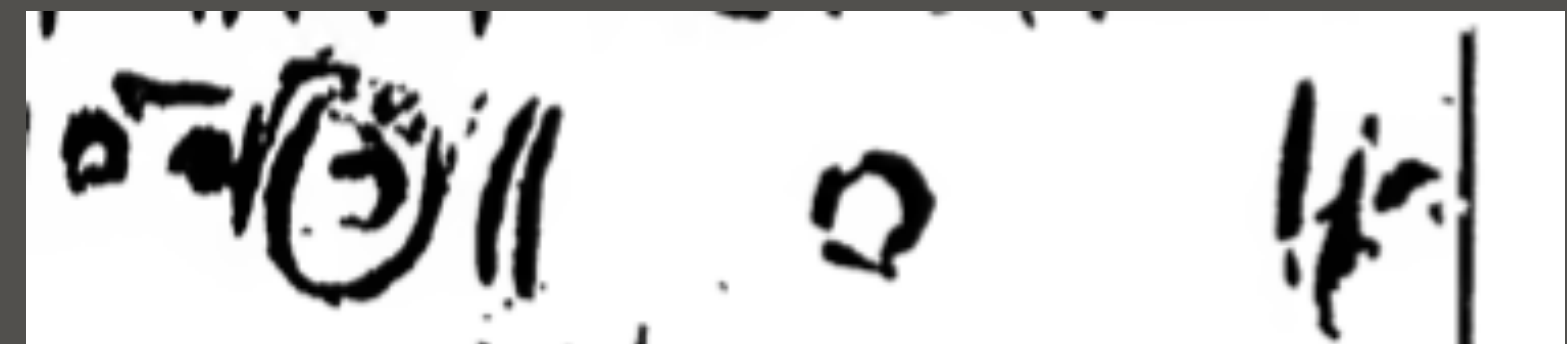


Image: detail from Shastri, Ajay Mitra. 1995. *Inscriptions of the Śarabhapurīyas, Pāṇḍuvarṣins and Somavarṣins*. Part II, CLXVII-CLXX . Delhi . Indian Council of Historical Research and Motilal Banarsidass

Flowers

- The Mahākosala Historical Society's plate



Image : detail from *Epigraphia Indica* 22.1933-34: 135-138

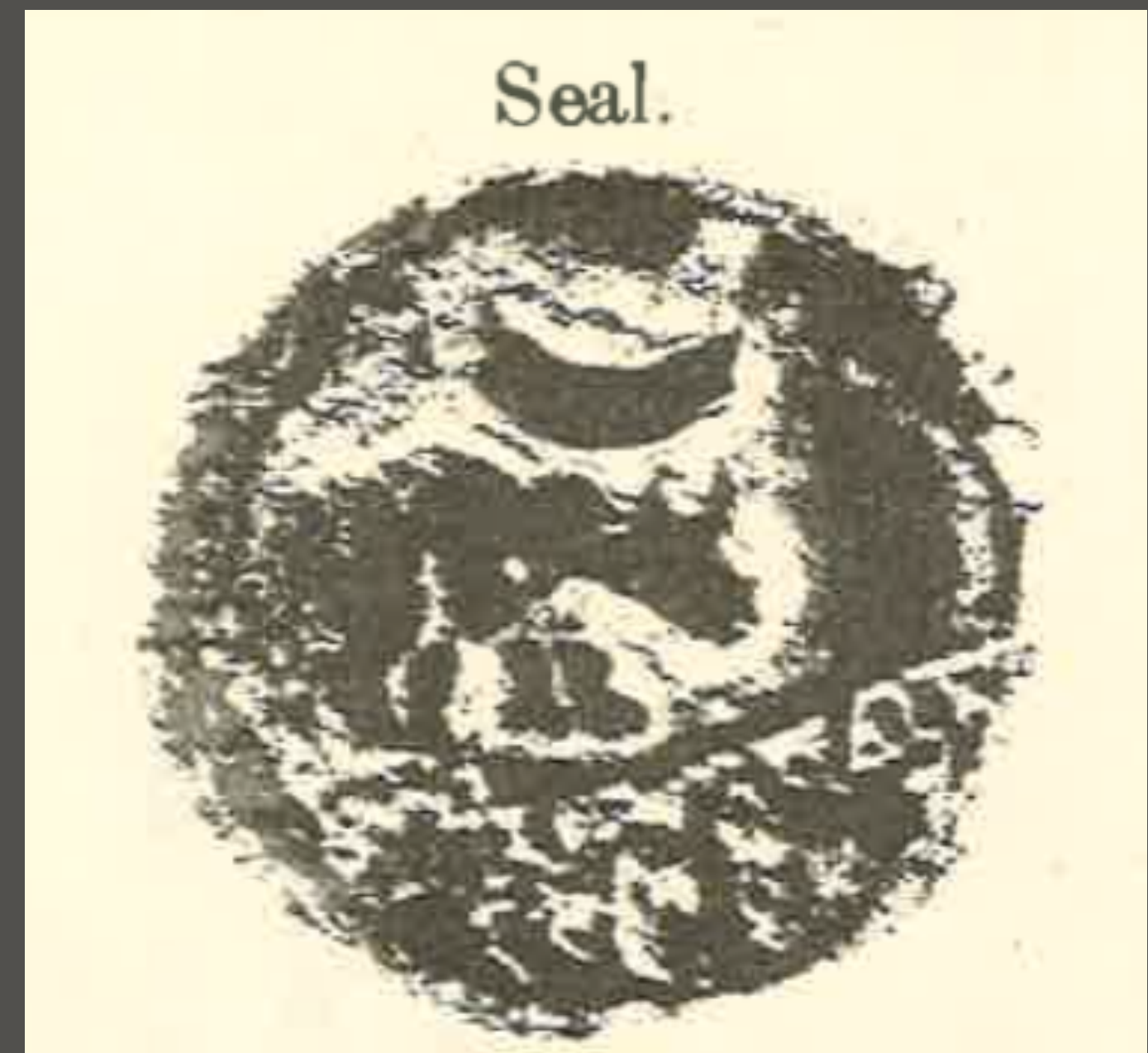
- The Navamuni Cave Inscription of Mahābhavagupta Uddyotakeśarin, RY5



Credit : Annette Schmiedchen

Religious affiliation

Seals



SEAL OF RUCHIDA PLATES

- The Mahākosala Historical Society's plate

Image : detail from *Epigraphia Indica* 22.1933-34: 135-138

- The Ruchida plates of Mahābhavagupta

Image : Acharya, S.K. 2013. "Ruchida Plates of Mahābhavagupta, Year 8." *JESI*, Journal of the Epigraphical Society of India, XXXIX: 26-42

Invocation

- The Mahākosala Historical Society's plate : *namaḥ śivāya*
- The Ruchida plates of Mahābhavagupta : *namaḥ puruśottamāya*
- The Banpur Plates of Indraratha, Year 6 : one initial stanza devoted to Śiva

mātāpitṛpādānudhyāta^o and royal
titles

References to the predecessor

mātā-pitr-pādānudhyāta^o

- The Mahākosala Historical Society's plates of Mahābhavagupta
- The Ruchida plates of Mahābhavagupta
- **Banpur Plates of Indraratha**

śrī-mahābhavagupta-pādānudhyāta^o

- The Jatesinga-Dungri Plates of Mahāśivagupta Yayāti

Writers' Engravers' Ministers'
Lineages

Engraver : Śaṅkillya

- Śaṅkillya is mentioned as the engraver of the Mahākosala Historical Society's plates of Mahābhavagupta
- Śaṅkillya is mentioned as the father of the writer Śrīvatsa in the Gaintala plates belonging to Mahābhavagupta Janamejaya
- Argument possible but rather unlikely

Datta family

- The Nuapatna Plates of the Time of Janamejaya, RY5
- Binding hole in the top side
- no Śaiva invocation
- Malladatta is the minister as in 10 copper plate inscriptions issued by Janamejaya the first

Datta family

- Rudradatta, minister and writer : son of Devadatta
 - The Mahākosala Historical Society's plates of Mahābhavagupta
 - The Ruchida plates of Mahābhavagupta
- Rudradatta, minister and writer : grandson of Harṣadatta and nephew of Siṃhadatta
 - The Jatesinga-Dungri Plates of Mahāśivagupta Yayāti
- Rudradatta, minister of Utkala and Kosala
 - The Bālijhari plates of Mahābhavagupta Uddyotakeśarin RY4
 - The Sankhameri plates of Mahābhavagupta Uddyotakeśarin RY4

Datta family

- Rudradatta, minister and writer : son of Devadatta
 - The Mahākosala Historical Society's plates of Mahābhavagupta
 - The Ruchida plates of Mahābhavagupta
- Rudradatta, minister and writer : grandson of Harṣadatta and nephew of **Siṃhadatta => minister during the reign of Mahābhavagupta Bhīmaratha**
 - The Jatesinga-Dungri Plates of Mahāśivagupta Yayāti
- Rudradatta, minister of Utkala and Kosala
 - The Bālijhari plates of Mahābhavagupta Uddyotakeśarin RY4
 - The Sankhameri plates of Mahābhavagupta Uddyotakeśarin RY4

Summary of the investigation

(Mahākosala and Ruchida plates)

- Physical features : place of the binding hole atypical (no temporal indication) but decoration : time of Uddyotakeśarin
- Religious affiliation : atypical seals with bull but initial homage also found in a CP issued by Indraratha
- Reference to the predecessor : *mātā-pitr-pādānudhyāta* also found in a CP issued by Indraratha + none of CPs issued by MBJ refers to his predecessor with *mahāśivagupta*, only *śivagupta*
- Engravers' lineage : Śaṅkilya mentioned in 1 CP of MBJ but not really convincing
- Datta family : Rudradatta mentioned in 2 CPs dated in the reign of Uddyotakeśarin + Simhadatta his uncle was a minister under Bhīmaratha's reign

Conclusion

- The Nuapatna Plates of the Time of Janamejaya, RY5
=> Malladatta
Likely identification : Mahābhavagupta Janamejaya I (against Shastri's opinion)
- The Jatesinga-Dungri Plates of Mahāśivagupta Yayāti
=> *sva-bhujopājita* 115 + *kaliṅga-koṅgodotkala-kośala-svayambara-prasiddhaḥ* 114
Likely identification : Mahāśivagupta Yayāti II (against Mazumdar's opinion)
- The Mahākosala Historical Society's plates of Mahābhavagupta
- The Ruchida plates of Mahābhavagupta
=> decoration + religious affiliation + *mātā-pitr-pādānudhyāta*
Time of composition : between Bhīmaratha and Uddyotakeśarin
Likely identification : Indraratha or Abhimanyu or Uddyotakeśarin (against Acharya's opinion)

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