

A CEYLON
PRESS TINY
GUIDE

A CHECKLIST
OF THE 44
VIJAYAN
KINGS OF
SRI LANKA

VIJAYAN KINGS



1 PRINCE VIJAYA

King of Tambapanni. Reign: 543 – 505 BCE. Nature of Death: Natural. 1st reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. Founding King of the Vijayan Dynasty.

2 REGENT UPATISSA

King of Upatissa Nuwara. Chief Minister to Prince Vijaya. 2nd monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 505 – 504 BCE. 1st reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have abdicated.

3

KING PANDU
VASUDEVA

Nephew of Prince Vijaya. 2nd King of
Tambapanni and Upatissa Nuwara. 3rd
monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 504
– 474 BCE. Nature of Death: Natural. 2nd
reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a
natural death.

4 KING ABHAYA

Son of King Panduvasudeva. 3rd King of Tambapanni and Upatissa Nuwara. 4th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 474 – 454 BCE. 2nd reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have abdicated.

5 KING TISSA

King of Tambapanni and Upatissa Nuwara. Son of King Panduvasudeva and brother of King Abhaya. 4th King of Tambapanni and Upatissa Nuwara and 5th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 454 – 437 BCE. Nature of Death: Killed in battle. 1st reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. 1st reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died in battle.

6 KING PANDU KABHAYA

Grandson of King Panduvasudeva, and nephew of Kings Abhaya and Tissa. 1st King of Anuradhapura. 6th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 437- 367 BCE. Nature of Death: Natural. 3rd reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. One of Sri Lanka's greatest king's, and real founder of the Anuradhapura Kingdom.

7 KING GANATISSA

Elusive Son of Panduvasudeva. 2nd King of Anuradhapura. 7th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 367 -? BCE. Nature of Death: Unknown. A mystery king: there is debate about his very existence.

8

KING MUTASIVA

Son of King Ganatissa or King Pandu Kabhaya. 3rd King of Anuradhapura. 8th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 367 - 307 BCE. Nature of Death: Natural. 4th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. Little is known about his long reign.

9
KING
DEVANAMPIYA
TISSA

Son of King Mutasiva. 4th King of Anuradhapura. 9th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 307 - 267 BCE. Nature of Death: Natural. 5th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. Noted for being the king to introduce Buddhism into Sri Lanka.

10 KING UTTIYA

Son of King Mutasiva, and brother of King Devanampiya Tissa. 5th King of Anuradhapura. 10th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 267 – 257 BCE. Nature of Death: Natural. 6th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. A short reign about which little of importance is reliably known.

11 KING MAHASIVA

Son of King Mutasiva and brother of Kings Devanampiya Tissa and Uttiya. 6th King of Anuradhapura. 11th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 257 – 247 BCE. Nature of Death: Natural. 7th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. Another short reign about which little of importance is reliably known.

12 KING SURATISSA

Son of King Pandu Kabhaya. 7th King of Anuradhapura. 12th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 247 – 237 BCE. Nature of Death: Killed in battle. 2nd reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. 2nd reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died in battle.

13

SENA AND GUTTIKA

SENA AND GUTTIKA

Tamil invaders and the first non-Vijayan invaders interlopers to penetrate the Vijayan dynasty. Joint 7th Kings of Anuradhapura. Joint 13th monarchs (albeit interloper) of the Vijayan Dynasty. 1st and 2nd nonfamily related monarchs of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 237 – 215 BCE. Nature of Death: Highly likely to have been killed in battle. 3rd and 4th reigning Sri Lankan monarchs to have been murdered for the succession. 3rd and 4th reigning Sri Lankan monarchs to have died in battle.

14 KING ASELA

Son of King Mutasiva, and brother of Kings Devanampiya Tissa, Uttiya and Mahasiva. 8th King of Anuradhapura. 14th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 215 – 205 BCE.

Nature of Death: Killed in battle. 5th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. 5th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died in battle. An unlucky king, who had to kill the Tamil invaders who had stolen his throne, before being himself killed by another one, after he had regained his throne.

15 KING ELLALAN

A Chola prince and the second non Vijayan invading interloper into the Vijayan dynasty.

9th King of Anuradhapura. 15th (albeit interloper) monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty.

3rd non family-related monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 205 – 161 BCE.

Nature of Death: Killed in battle. 6th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. 6th reigning Sri

Lankan monarch to have died in battle.

Nicknamed "The Just King."

16 KING DUTUGAMUNU

A Vijayan cousin. 10th King of Anuradhapura. 16th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 161 – 137 BCE. Nature of Death: Natural. 8th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. Nicknamed "The Great" for unifying almost the entire island into his kingdom.

17 KING SADDHA TISSA

Brother of King Dutugamunu. 11th King of Anuradhapura. 17th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 137 – 119 BCE. Nature of Death: Natural. 9th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. A reign noted for its ambitious new constructions.

18 KING THULATTHANA

Son of King Saddha Tissa. 12th King of Anuradhapura. 18th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 119 BCE. Nature of Death: Murdered. 8th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. His dramatically short reign left him no time to achieve anything, including survival.

19 KING LANJA TISSA

Son of King Saddha Tissa and brother of King Thulatthana. 13th King of Anuradhapura. 19th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 119 – 109 BCE. Nature of Death: Natural. 10th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. His short reign left him little time to achieve anything, and very little is known about this period.

20 KING KHALLATA NAGA

Son of King Saddha Tissa and brother of Kings Thulatthana & Lanja Tissa. 14th King of Anuradhapura. 20th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 109 – 103 BCE. Nature of Death: Murdered. 9th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. His short reign left him no time to achieve much - including survival.

21 KING VALAGAMBA

Son of King Saddha Tissa and brother of Kings Thulatthana, Lanja Tissa and Khallata Naga. 15th King of Anuradhapura. 21st monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign (part 1): 103 BCE. Reign (part 2): 89 –77 BCE. Nature of Death: Natural. 11th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. Quite probably Sri Lanka's pluckiest king, whose first reign was terminated by the Tamil invaders he then spent most of the rest of his life fighting, in order to regain his crown for a final 9 years.

22 KING PULAHATTA

1st of the 7 Dravidian invaders and an interloper into the Vijayan dynasty. 16th King of Anuradhapura. 22nd (albeit interloper) monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. 4th non family-related monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 103 – 100 BCE. Nature of Death: Murdered. 10th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. 1st of the Tamil “Colleague Kings”, whose collegiate nature was to murder one another.

23 KING BAHIIYA

2nd of the 7 Dravidian Invaders and an interloper into the Vijayan dynasty. 17th King of Anuradhapura. 23rd (albeit interloper) monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. 5th non family-related monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 100– 98 BCE. Nature of Death: Murdered. 11th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. 2nd of the Tamil "Colleague Kings", whose collegiate nature was to murder one another.

24 KING PANYA MARA

3rd of the 7 Dravidian Invaders and an interloper into the Vijayan dynasty. 18th King of Anuradhapura. 24th (albeit interloper) monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. 6th non family-related monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 98– 91 BCE. Nature of Death: Murdered. 12th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. 3rd of the Tamil "Colleague Kings", whose collegiate nature was to murder one another.

25 KING PILAYA MARA

4th of the 7 Dravidian Invaders and an interloper into the Vijayan dynasty. 19th King of Anuradhapura. 25th (albeit interloper) monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. 7th non family-related monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 91 – 90 BCE. Nature of Death: Murdered. 13th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. 4th of the Tamil “Colleague Kings”, whose collegiate nature was to murder one another.

26 KING DATHIKA

5th of the 7 Dravidian Invaders and an interloper into the Vijayan dynasty. 20th King of Anuradhapura. 26th (albeit interloper) monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. 8th non family-related monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 90 – 88 BCE. Nature of Death: Killed in battle. 14th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. 7th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died in battle. Last of the Tamil "Colleague Kings," whose collegiate nature was to murder one another.

27 KING MAHAKULI MAHATISSA

Adopted son of King Valagamba. 21st King of Anuradhapura. 27th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 77 – 62 BCE. Nature of Death: Natural. 12th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. A short reign about which little of importance is reliably known; and during which it is unlikely much of significance had time to be done.

28 KING CHORA NAGA

Son of King Valagamba and stepbrother of King Mahakuli Mahatissa 22nd King of Anuradhapura. 28th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 62 – 50 BCE. Nature of Death: Murdered. 15th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. A brief and unhappy reign about which little is reliably known.

29 KING KUDA TISSA

Son of Mahakuli Mahatissa. 23rd King of Anuradhapura. 29th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 50 - 47 BCE. Nature of Death: Murdered. 16th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. An even briefer and more unhappy reign about which little is reliably known.

30 KING SIVA I

Lover of Queen Anula, the wife of King Kuda Tissa. 24th King of Anuradhapura. 30th monarch (albeit, interloper) of the Vijayan Dynasty. 9th non family-related monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Although termed 'monarch,' it's questionable whether people at the time saw this transitory figure as anything such. Reign: 47 BCE. The length of his reign and its dates are uncertain. Nature of Death: Murdered. 17th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession.

31 KING VATUKA

Lover of Queen Anula, the wife of King Kuda Tissa, 25th King of Anuradhapura. 31st (albeit interloper) monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. 10th non family-related monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Although termed 'monarch,' it's questionable whether people at the time saw this 2nd transitory figure as a king. Reign: 47 BCE. The length of his reign and its corresponding dates are historically uncertain. Nature of Death: Murdered. 18th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession.

32
KING
DARUBHATIKA
TISSA

Lover of Queen Anula, the wife of King Kuda Tissa. 32nd King of Anuradhapura. 14th (albeit, interloper) monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. 11th non family-related monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Although termed 'monarch,' it is questionable whether people at the time saw this third transitory figure as a king. Reign: 47 BCE. The length of his reign and its corresponding dates are historically uncertain. Nature of Death: Murdered. 19th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession.

33 KING NILIYA

Lover of Queen Anula, the wife of King Kuda Tissa, 27th King of Anuradhapura. 33rd (albeit interloper) monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. 12th non family-related monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Although termed 'monarch,' it is questionable whether people at the time saw this 4th transitory figure as a king. Reign: 47 BCE. The length of his reign and its corresponding dates are uncertain. Nature of Death: Murdered. 20th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession.

34 QUEEN ANULA

Wife of King Chora Naga. 1st Queen and 28th monarch of Anuradhapura. 34th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 47 – 42 BCE. Nature of Death: Burnt alive. 21st reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. Sri Lanka's first female head of state, albeit not its finest role model.

35
KING
KUTAKANNA
TISSA

Brother of King Kuda Tissa. 29th King of Anuradhapura. 35th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 42 – 20 BCE. Nature of Death: Natural 13th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. A long (by the standards of the time) and blessedly uneventful reign.

36 KING BHATIK ABHAYA

Son of King Kutakanna Tissa. 30th King of Anuradhapura. 36th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 20 BCE - 9 CE. Nature of Death: Natural. 14th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. A short reign about which little of importance is reliably known.

37
KING
MAHADATHIKA
MAHANAGA

Brother of King Bhatik Aabhaya. 31st King of Anuradhapura. 37th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 9 – 21 CE. Nature of Death: Natural. 15th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. A short reign about which little of importance is reliably known.

38
KING
AMANDAGAM
ANI ABHAYA

Son of King Mahadathika Mahanaga 32nd King of Anuradhapura. 38th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 21 - 30 CE. Nature of Death: Murdered. 22nd reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. A reign during which the seeds of a later civil war would have become noticeable.

39
KING
KANIRAJANU
TISA

Son of King Mahadathika Mahanaga and brother of King Amandagamani Abhaya. 33rd King of Anuradhapura. 394th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 30 – 33 CE. Nature of Death: Natural. 16th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. A short reign about which little is reliably known. A reign characterised by the start of civil war.

40 KING CHULABHAYA

Son of King Amandagamani Abhaya. 34th King of Anuradhapura. 40th monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 33 – 35 CE. Nature of Death: Possibly Natural. 17th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death, if indeed that could be verified. A reign characterised by incipient civil war.

41 QUEEN SIVALI

Sister of King Chulabhaya. 2nd Queen and 35th monarch of Anuradhapura. 41st monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 35 CE. Nature of Death: Murdered. 23rd reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. A reign characterised by total civil war.

42 KING ILANAGA

Nephew of Queen Sivali. 36th King of Anuradhapura. 42nd monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 38 – 44 CE. Nature of Death: Natural. 18th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have died a natural death. A reign - characterised by civil war; and one that was unable to halt the dynasty's ultimate gallop to extinction.

43
KING
YASSALALAKA
TISSA

Son of King Ilanaga and brother of King Chandamukha Siva. 38th King of Anuradhapura. 43rd monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. Reign: 52 – 60 CE. Nature of Death: Murdered. 25th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. The last true Vijayan monarch.

44 KING SUBHARAJA

A lookalike intern king, unrelated to any Vijayans. 39th King of Anuradhapura. 44th (albeit interloper) monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty. 13th non family-related monarch of the Vijayan Dynasty Reign: 60 – 66 CE. Nature of Death: Murdered. 26th reigning Sri Lankan monarch to have been murdered for the succession. The Vijayan dynasty bows out of history at this point.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Swarbrick is a publisher, planter, hotelier, hermit, and writer.

He was born in Colombo and raised, with few concessions to modernity, in India, Singapore, and the Middle East. Cornish, he gained his degrees on the Celtic fringe: at the Universities of Wales, and Stirling, prolonging an introduction to accepted working hours for as long as was decently possible.

Having worked at News Corp's HarperCollins UK as board director for various otherwise homeless departments including sales, art and marketing; and HarperCollins India, he ran Hachette's consumer learning division. Prior to this, he launched Oxford University Press's first commercial online business, Oxford Reference Online.

When the doubtful charms of boardroom bawls, bottom lines, and divas diminished, he returned to Sri Lanka, the land of his birth hundreds of years earlier, to rescue a spice plantation and set of art deco buildings that had gone feral in the jungle.

Today, as The Flame Tree Estate & Hotel, it has become one of the country's top ten boutique hotels, run by the kindest and most professional of hospitality teams; and overseen by several small schnauzers.

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ABOUT THE FLAME TREE ESTATE & HOTEL

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Its 1,000 high rocky hills stalled the Dutch army in 1765; and until the civil war the estate stretched over 100 acres with 3 working elephants.

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