

GRECO-PERSIAN WARS - KEY TAKE AWAY POINTS

- Greco-Persian wars happened in 500 BC(2500 years ago). This war is significantly connected to the Alexander invasion of India.
- The Achaemenid empire controlled the Persian region. Darius, the Persian emperor wants to control the Mediterranean region, which was under Greek control.
- Darius aims to subdue Greeks, but the Greeks refused to surrender. So, Darius started to invade Greece. Greek Territory in 2500 B.C was in a segmented state. There are many small kingdoms fighting among themselves.
- Darius planned to attack Athens, a culturally famous place. The Persian army is mightier than Greek states. It is as much as ten times bigger.
- After several debates, Senators of Athens decided to defend Athens along with the support of common people. Greek Army put up a brave show and they ended up in successfully eliminating Persian army from Greek soil.
- The army overjoyed, one of the generals run towards the senator house and explains about the victory. The journey from battlefield to Athenian Senate is known as Marathon Journey.
- This battle is famously called as **Battle of Marathon in 490 BCE**.
- After Darius failed, his son Xerxes plans to attack Greece in a different way via Thermopylae.
- Thermopylae was controlled by Sparta, one of the Greek kingdom. Spartans are known for their bravery and valor they gave a very tough fight. But Persian successfully overcame them and killed the Sparta king Leonidas. This incident triggered the anti-Persian sentiment in all Greek kingdoms.

- Unified Greek forces fought a next battle known as Battle of Thermopylae in 480 BCE. After that, there was a series of battles fought between both kingdoms. Finally, the battle of Plataea in the same year resulted in the retreat of Persians and formidable unification of Greeks.
- The entire Greco-Persian war episode was described in Herodotus works. This was read by the Greek philosopher Socrates and the story was communicated to Plato. In turn, Plato communicated the story to his pupil Aristotle. As Aristotle taught to his student Alexander.
- Alexander, the mighty warrior, plans to conquer the Persia as it was the initial aggressor. Later, he expanded his ambition to the entire world. This is the main context for his invasion towards India.
- So, Alexander invasion towards India has a significant connect from Greco-Persian wars which happened in 490BC. The impact of invasion led to the development of Greek culture in the North-western part of India.