

History Part - 6

6] Mahajanapadas

Notes

1. Small Aryan Kings - **Janapadas**
2. Many Janapadas joint together - **Mahajanapadas**
3. Term Mahajanapadas is derived from **Sanskrit**
4. Strongest Mahajanapadas - **Kosala, Avanti, Vatsa and Magadha.**
5. The area around Patna in Bihar is called **Magadha.**
6. Who built Pataliputra? **Ajatasatru.**
7. Who brought Second Buddhist Council? **Sisunaga**
8. Where was Second Buddhist Council held? **Vaisali**
9. Period of Chandra Gupta Maurya - **BC 320 - 298.**
10. **Seleucus Nikator** - Greek King
11. **Megasthenese**, was the ambassador of Seleucus stayed at Pataliputra for many year and wrote about India in his book `Indica`.
12. In which year was the stamp issued on historical ruler Changdra Gupta Maurya? **2001**
13. Period of Ashoka - **BC 273 - 236**
14. What is `Dig Vijaya`? **Conquest of the world.**
15. What is `Dharma Vijaya`? **In order to spread Dharma Ashoka undertook a journey called as `Dharma Vijaya`.**
16. In India who introduced people`s welfare state? **Ashoka**
17. Ashokas renovated monuments of Buddhism - **Kapilavastu, Saranath and Buddhagaya.**

18. Who built hundreds of Stupas and pillars? **Ashoka**
19. Where Ashoka did conducted Third Buddhist Council? **Pataliputra**
20. Sangamithra - **Daughter of Ashoka.**
21. Name some Buddhist Stupas which is known for its beauty? **Sarnath, Lumbini.**
22. In which language is the Buddhist stupas written? **Prakrit.**
23. Those who protected the frontier were known as `Andamahamatras`.
24. Who was the last king of Maurya? **Brihadratha.**
25. Who is the first king of Nandha Dynasty? **Mahabhadra.**
26. Who was sent to Sri Lanka by Ashoka to spread Buddhism?
Son: Mahendran
Daughter : Sangamithra.

Points to Remember

- Buddhist literature Angutara Nikaya gives a list of 16 great kingdoms or Mahajanapadas in the beginning of 6th century B.C
- Major reason of the formation of Janapadas was use of Iron tools for agricultural & military purposes
- In course of time small or weak kingdoms either submitted to stronger rulers or got eliminated. Finally in 6th century BC only 4 major kingdoms survived:
 - Vatsa
 - Avanti
 - Magadha
 - Kosala
- There were 16 Mahajanapadas which are cited in the ancient literature and scriptures. The major 16 Mahajanapadas are Anga, Magadha, Kasi, Vatsa, Kosala, Saurasena, Panchala, Kuru, Matsya, Chedi, Avanti, Gandhar, Kamboj, Asmaka, Vajji and Malla.

Anga

Capital: Champa

Modern location: Munger and Bhagalpur

- Anga Mahajanapada finds reference in the Mahabharata and Atharva Veda
- During the rule of Bimbisara, it was taken over by Magadha Empire.
- It is situated in present day Bihar and West Bengal.

Magadha

Capital: Girivraja| Rajagriha

Modern location: Gaya and Patna

- Magadha finds mention in the Atharva Veda which conveys that Magadha was semi-Brahmanical habitation.
- It was located in present day Bihar close to Anga, divided by river Champa.
- Later, Magadha became a center of Jainism and the first Buddhist Council was held in Rajagriha.

Kasi

Capital: Kasi

Modern Location: Banars

- It was located in Varanasi.
- This city got its name from rivers Varuna and Asi as cited in the Matsya Purana.

Vatsa

Capital: Kausambi

Modern Location: Allahabad

- Vatsa is also known as Vamsa
- This Mahajanapada followed the monarchical form of governance.
- The capital is Kausambi.
- This was a central city for economic activities.

- There were a prosperous trade and business scenario in 6th century BC. After the rise of Buddha, the ruler Udayana made Buddhism a state religion.
- Vatsa was located around the present day Allahabad.

Kosala

Capital: Sravasti

Modern Location: Eastern Uttar Pradesh

- It was located in modern Awadh region of Uttar Pradesh.
- Its capital was Sravasti

Saurasena

Capital: Mathura

Modern Location: Western Uttar Pradesh

- This place was a center of Krishna worship at the time of Megasthenes. Also, there was a dominant followership of Buddha here.

Panchala

Capital: Ahichchatra and Kampliya

Modern Location: Western Uttar Pradesh

- Its capital for northern Panchala was Ahichchatra and Kampilaya for its southern regions.
- It was situated in present-day western Uttar Pradesh.
- Later the nature of governance shifted from monarchy to republic.

Kuru

Capital: Indraprastha

Modern Location: Meerut and Southeastern Haryana

- The area around Kurukshetra was apparently the site for Kuru Mahajanapada.
- It moved to a republic form of governance.

Matsya

Capital: Viratnagar

Modern Location: Jaipur

- It was situated to the west of the Panchalas and south of the Kurus.
- The capital was at Viratanagar
- It is situated around present day Jaipur.

Chedi

Capital: Sothivati

Modern Location: Jaipur

- This was cited in the Rigveda
- The capital was Sothivati.
- It located in the present day Bundelkhand region.

Avanti

Capital: Ujjaini or Mahismati.

Modern Location: Malwa and Madhya Pradesh

- Avanti was significant in relation to the rise of Buddhism.
- The capital of Avanti was located at Ujjaini or Mahismati.
- It was situated around present day Malwa and Madhya Pradesh.

Gandhara

Capital: Taxila

Modern Location: Rawalpindi

- The capital was at Taxila.
- Gandhara are cited in the Atharva Veda
- The people were highly trained in the art of war.
- It was significant for international commercial activities.

Kamboja

Capital: Pooncha

Modern Location: Rajori and Hajra

- The capital of Kamboj is Pooncha.
- It is situated in present day Kashmir and Hindukush.

- Several literary sources mention that Kamboja was a republic.

Ashmaka or Assaka

Capital: Pratisthan/ Paithan

Modern Location: Bank of Godavari

- The capital of this Mahajanapada was located at Pratisthan or Paithan.
- It was located on the bank of Godavari.

Vajji

Capital: Vaishali

Modern Location:

- It is the capital of Vajji was Vaishali.
- The main races residing in this Mahajanapadas were Licchavis, Vedehans, Jnatrikas and Vajjis.

Malla

Capital: Kusinara

Modern Location: Deoria and Uttar Pradesh.

- It finds a reference in Buddhist and Jain texts and Mahabharata.
- Malla was a republic
- Their capital was Kusinara situated around present-day Deoria and Uttar Pradesh.

Expected Questions

1. Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

- 1) During the time of the Buddha, north india was dominated by 16 Mahajanapadas.
- 2) Some of these were ruled by descendants. Some other elected king groups were ruled.

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 1 and 2**
- (D) None of these
2. The area around patna in bihar is called as
- (A) Anga
- (B) Magadha**
- (C) Kosalam
- (D) Vajji
3. During whose rule the magadha Empire gained the high fame ?
- (A) Ajatasatru**
- (B) Mahapadma nanda
- (C) Saisunaga
- (D) Porus
4. Who was the first king of Nanda dynasty?
- (A) Ajatasatru
- (B) Mahapadma nanda**
- (C) Dana nanda
- (D) Saisunaga
5. Who was the last king of Nanda dynasty?

- (A) Ajatasatru
- (B) Mahapadma nanda
- (C) Dana nanda**
- (D) Saisunaga

6. Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

- 1) The Nandas are not believers in God.
- 2) Chanakaigar trained Chandragupta and won the danananda to get the Mauryan Empire.

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 1 and 2**
- (D) None of these

7. Who is Alexander's friend?

- (A) Saisunaga
- (B) Danananda
- (C) Porus
- (D) Nearchus**

8. To whom chanakya work as minister ?

- (A) Porus
- (B) Danananda**

(C) Saisunaga

(D) Nearchus

9. Which religion did the Nanda Emperors embrace?

(A) Jainism

(B) Buddhism

(C) Hinduism

(D) None of these

10. Who was the reason to extend the magadha empire from the Indus River to the Deccan?

(A) Ajatasatru

(B) Mahapadma nanda

(C) Dana nanda

(D) Saisunaga

11. By whom the first Buddhist Conference convened?

(A) Ajatasatru

(B) Mahapadma nanda

(C) Dana nanda

(D) Saisunaga

12. Who came to power after the Saisunaga dynasty?

(A) Nanda Dynasty

- (B) Aryan dynasty
- (C) Magadha Empire
- (D) None of these

13. Who spread the rule of Magadha across North India?

- (A) Saisunaga
- (B) Mahapadma nanda
- (C) **Both (A) and (B)**
- (D) None of these

14. The Indo- Greek sculptures were formed together

- (A) **Gandhara art**
- (B) Monasteries
- (C) Strains
- (D) None of these

15. Who was the first Indian to oppose Alexander?

- (A) Yerkulasu
- (B) Ambhi
- (C) Saisunaga
- (D) **Porus**

16. Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. Magadha's first capital was Rajgir, The second capital was Siravasthi and later Pataliputra became the capital.

2) Bimbisara of the Aryan Dynasty transformed the smallest state through the invasions and marriages and transformed into a strong state.

(A) 1 Only

(B) 2 Only

(C) 1 and 2

(D) None of these

17. Alexander belongs to which country?

(A) Chia

(B) China

(C) Egypt

(D) Greek

18. Which king of Nanda dynasty had crossed the Vindhya hills and captured the Deccan plains?

(A) Ajatasatru

(B) Mahapadma nanda

(C) Dana nanda

(D) Saisunaga

19. Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1) Rajagriha, near Kaya, was the head of the Aryan dynasty and ruled magadha

2) Ajatasatru built a big fort in Pataliputra.

(A) 1 Only

(B) 2 Only

(C) 1 and 2

(D) None of these

20. Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1) Bimbisara married Kosala princess Kosala Devi and got Kasi as dowry.

2) After Mahatma empire was subsequently acquired by the Nanda dynasty.

(A) 1 Only

(B) 2 Only

(C) 1 and 2

(D) None of these