

**HISTORY**

**EARLY STATES IN INDIA**

- Towards the end of Vedic period.
- Transfer from tribal allegiance to territorial allegiance and loyalty of people shifted from tribal organization to political - geographical units.
- Middle of 6<sup>th</sup> century – Janapatha – existed – well defined boundaries.
- Janapatha – place where man placed his foot.
- Capital of these territories – urban centers – one urban center in each Janapatha.
- Some become – **Mahajanapadas** – more than one urban settlement.
- Caste based administration.
- Ruling army.
- 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE - At Gangetic plain and soon pan India.

**Source of knowledge**

- Earliest methodological postulation regarding the origin of the state – ***Ambattha*** and ***Agganna Suttantas*** of ***Digha Nikhaya*** – belong to the earliest strata of pali literature.
- Social and political structure – ***Jatakas*** – work of Buddha’s stories.
- Mostly the information about the ancient period has collected from the text belonging to later periods.

**Terms**

Vetana / bhattavetana	Wages or professional tax
Donamapaka	Official responsible for the measuring of revenue.
Mahantasenagutta	Chancellor of the exchequer
Rajabali	Kings share, revenue
Samudaya	Revenue
Sunka	Toll tax, customs
Rajakosa	Roya treasury
Kosarakkha	The keeper of the king’s treasury
Gamabhojaka / Gamapati / Gamani / Gamanika	Local officials
Bandhanagarika	Prison keeper
Senanayaka	Army general
Rajabhata	Soldier
Rajagara	A king’s pleasure horse
Rajakutumba	Kings’ property

- These terms indicate – a well developed territorial state with armies.
- The **Janapatha and Mahajanapadas** – have different system of ruling and selecting the kings.
- These words are form Pali text – absence of “r” sound.
- Sanskrit terms are also used.
- Janapatha – territory with no definite boundary; Mahajanapadas – large Janapatha, structured, well-defined boundaries.
- **Gana and Sangha** – republican form of government in the Pali and Prakrit text.
- Early Pali text mention – sixteen Mahajanapadas – Solasa Mahajanapadas – existed at the time of Buddha.
- Early pali and Prakrit text mention – eleven Gana or Sangha – that existed at the time of Buddha.

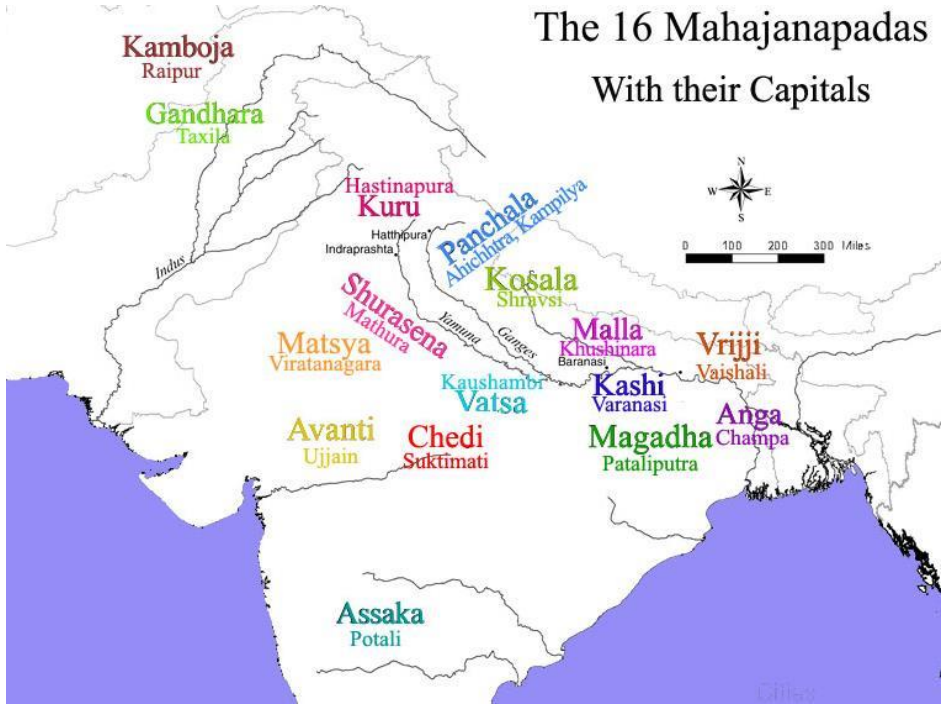
**SOLASA MAHAJANAPADAS – SIXTEEN MAHAJANAPADA AT THE TIME OF BUDDHA**

Anga (Karnan in Mahabharata)  
 Magadha  
 Kasi  
 Kosala (Sri Rama Ramayana)  
 Vajji  
 Malla  
 Ceti  
 Vamsa  
 Kuru (present day Delhi)  
 Panchala  
 Maccha (mention in Mahabharata)  
 Surasena  
 Assaka  
 Avanti (Mahabharata)  
 Gandhara (present day Pakistan)  
 Kambhoja (present day Afghanistan)

**ELEVEN SANGAS OR REPUBLICS AT THE TIME OF BUDDHA**

Lichchavis of Vaishali  
 Videhas of Mithila  
 Sakyas of Kapilavattu – Sri Buddha  
 Koliyas of Ramagama

Moriyas of Pipphalivana  
 Mallas of Kusinara  
 Mallas of Pava  
 Kalamas of Kesaputta  
 Bulis of Allakappa  
 Bhaggas of Sumsumagiri  
 Nayas of Kundapura



MAHAJANAPADA	PRESENT DAY STATE	CAPITAL
Gandhara	Pakistan	Taxila
Kamboja	Afghanistan	Raipur
Kuru	Delhi	Hastinapura
Panchala	Meerut	Kampilia
Kosala	Uttar P	Savatthi
Shurasena	Central part	Mathura / Uttaramadhura (pali)
Matsya	Central part	Viratanagara / Vairat
Avanti	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain
Chedi	Madhya Pradesh	Sotthivati
Assaka	Maharashtra	Patitthana
Magadha	Patna Bihar	Pataliputra
Anga	Bihar	Champa

## E ▶ ENTRI

Vrijji	BEganl	Vaisali
Malla	UP	Pava and Kusinara
Kashi	Bihar	Varanasi / Banarasi
Vatsa	Uttar Pradesh	Kosambi

## ANGA

- Located – east of Magadha – separated by river Champa.
- Present day – Chandan Nala.
- Nathnagar locality of Bhagalpur.
- Two important cities – Bhaddiya and Assapura.
- At the time of Buddha- king was very wealthy nobleman – only authority to grant permission to a brahman.
- King – subject of Bimbisara (Magadha king).

## MAGADHA

- According to *Buddhagoshā* – Magadha received name from a tribe of Khattiyas or Kshatriya – called Magadha.
- **Rajagaha or Rajagrha** – initial capital.
- Later shifted to – **Pataliputra**.
- The core of the state – area of modern Bihar – south of the Ganga.
- At the time of the buddha – Magadha Mahajanapadas – bounded on south – Vindhya mountains; on the west – river Sona; on the north – the Ganges; on the east – the river Champa.
- Magadha – cradle of two of Mahajanapadas major religions – Jainism and Buddhism.
- Originated – Two great empire – Maurya and Gupta Empire.
- According to the Puranas – Magadha empire was established – Brihadratha – sixth in the line from emperor Kuru of the Bharata Dynasty.
- Brihadratha – succeeded by the Pradyotas – followed by the Haryanka dynasty.

Why Magadha became most important Mahajanapadas?

- Located at a strategic location.
- Presence of huge river channel.
- Facilitated the river transportation and trade.
- Fertile soil – in ganga river valley.
- Heavily forested – which provided timber.
- Capital was surrounded by – mountains – safety and security.
- Chotanagpur plateau – huge reservoir of iron was available.
- Rulers of Magadha – unorthodox and tolerant.

## KASHI

- Extent of three hundred yojanas (measure).
- Banarasi – capital.
- At the time of buddha – absorbed into the Kosala Mahajanapadas under **king Pasenadi** – ruled over the two Mahajanapadas jointly.
- According to *Jataka* – **king Manoja** – able to subdue the kings of Assaka, Kosala, Anga, Magadha.
- Banarasi – mention in early Buddhist text – wealthy and prosperous place – center of trade and industry.
- Known for manufacture of ships – sandalwood – cloths.
- Brahmana – chaplain of King Renu – divided his empire – the administration of Kasi fell into the hands of **Dhatarattha** – represented as a king of the line of Bharata.
- Bharata line of Kasi kings – appear to supplanted – a new line of kings – **Brahmadattas** – probably of Videhan origin.

## KOSALA

- Located – north west of Magadha.
- Neighbour of kasi.
- Geographical unit – large territory, divided into two parts:
  - Dakkhina Kosala – lying to the south of river Sarayu – with Ayodhya as capital
  - Uttara Kosala – lay north of Sarayu with Savatthi as major focus.
- At the time of buddha – koala was a powerful kingdom under **king Pasendi** – succeeded his son – Vidudabha.
- Sixth century BCE – the Sakyas – appear to have been subject of Kosala.

## VAJJI

- **Confederacy** of several clans.
- **Dominant clans – Lichchavis and Videhas.**
- Sometimes conjectured that – Vajjain confederacy was composed of eight clans.
- Lichchavis and Vajji – name was used synonymously.
- At the time of Buddha – Vajjains were prosperous and powerful Mahajanapadas.
- Ajathasatru – annexed the kingdom of Vajji to Magadha: later.

## MALLA

- Located – Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

## **ENTRI**

- Covering Lichchavis and Sakyas.
- At the Buddhist time – Malla divided into autonomous parts with respective capital – **Pava and Kusinara.**
- Buddha took last meal at – Pava.
- Breathed his last at – Kusinara.
- Malla chiefs – administered the affairs of the state.
- Malla also falls into the hands of Ajathasatru.

## **CHETI**

- Lay near Yamuna to the east – neighbourhood of Kuru Mahajanapadas.
- Upcara
- Modern Bundelkhand and adjoining regions.
- Buddha preached several discourses to the Cetis in the town of Sahajati.

## **VATSA**

- Mahajanapadas of **Vamsas.**
- Lay south of Kosala and north of Avanti.
- At the time of Buddhism – **Udena** was the king.
- Location – western bank of Ganges in Allahabad sector to Yamuna in Kosambi – Pabhosa sector.

## **KURU**

- Areas of – Haryanais district of Kaithal, Thaneswar, Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat, adjoining areas of Uttar Pradesh till Ganga – Hastinapura is located.
- According to Jatakas – extent of three hundred yojanas – its capital – **Indapatta- seven yojanas circumferences.**
- Kuru was originally the name of the chieftains or **Rajakumara** of this country – who later lent their name to the territory.
- Kururattha – very little political influence.
- At Buddhist time – kuru, Panchalas, Kekaka – three powerful kingdoms.
- Ruling dynasty at Indapatta – belong to Yudhittha gotra.
- Dhananjaya Koravya – mentioned several times.
- Indapatta – mentioned in early text as capital of Kururattha.
- Kammasadhamma and Thullakotthita – important nigamas – market towns, located in the neighbourhood of Indapatta – identified with Kamaspur – Sonapat district of Haryana and Tilpat – Faridabad district of Haryana.

## PANCHALA

- Located east of Kururattha.
- Identified with the north and east of Delhi.
- The Mathura Agra segment of UttarPradesh.

## MATSYA / MACCHA

- Mentioned along with Surasena.
- Lay south and south west of Indapatta and south of Surasena.
- **Vairat** – capital – city of king Virata.
- The Vidhura Pandita Jataka – talk about Maccha – game of dice played between Punnaka and the king of Kururattha.

## SURASENA

- Mentioned along with Matsya.
- Located south of Kuru.
- Famous for Epics and Puranas – connection with Krishna and Yadavas.
- The *Ghata Jataka* – confirms that – Brahmanical tradition associated with Vasudeva Family of Madurai.
- Madhura – only city in Majjhimadesa about which the buddha made somewhat uncharitable comments – due to close connection with Jainas.

## ASSAKA

- Asmaka
- Located in Dakkhinapatha.
- Identified with Aurangabad district.
- Text mention capital as – Potana, Potali, Potanagara.

## AVANTI

- Ujjeni – pali text and **MahisMati** – capital.
- King Pajjota – contemporary of Buddha – known for violent temper – **Canda Pajjota in Pali text**.
- **Kuraraghara and Sudarsanapura** – two important towns.

## GANDHARA

## E ▶ ENTRI

- Regarded as the **paccantimajanapada** – border region.
- Number of Jataka mention capital – **Takkasila**.
- Modern day – eastern Afghanistan, whole of Kyber Pakhtunkhawa, Kashmir valley - Kashmir – Gandhara.

## KAMBOJA

- Lay outside the Majjhimadesa and belonged to Uttarapada – northwest Indian subcontinent.
- **Birthplace of horses.**
- Pointed out in *Anguttara Nikaya* – a place which was not visited by women of other countries.
- According to Jataka – the people of Kamboja lost their original customs and had become barbarous.

## OTHER JANAPADAS AND REPUBLICS

Kalinga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Present state – Orissa</li> <li>- Capital – Dantapura</li> </ul>
Sakhyas of Kapilavastu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tribal republic</li> <li>- Buddha belonged</li> <li>- Capital – Kapilavastu</li> <li>- Identified with Piprahwa</li> <li>- Buddha himself of Gotama clan</li> </ul>
Koliyas of Ramagama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capital – Ramagama</li> <li>- Republican state</li> <li>- Special body of officials – who wore special headgear with a drooping crest – Lambaculakabhata</li> <li>- Notorious for indulging – violence and extortion.</li> </ul>
Yona / Yovana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nera Kamboja</li> <li>- Same features as Kamboja</li> </ul>
Moriyas of Pipphalivana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- West of Koliyas</li> <li>- Small community</li> </ul>
Kalamas of Kesaputta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Republican clan</li> <li>- Khattiya caste</li> <li>- Capital – Nigama – market town at Kosala</li> </ul>
Bulis of Allakappa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Republican khattiya clan</li> <li>- Did not appear much time politically</li> </ul>



Bhaggas of Sumsumaragiri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Tribal republic</li><li>- Capital – Sumsumaragiri</li></ul>
Lichchavi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Powerful state at the time of Buddha</li><li>- Ajathasatru – annexed entire confederacy of Vajjains to his kingdom.</li><li>- Followed a gana sangha system of government.</li></ul>
Videha of Mithila	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Republic</li><li>- Capital- Mithila</li><li>- Seven yojanas</li><li>- A republican system of administration similar to Lichchavi</li></ul>
Naya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Republic</li><li>- Naya – kshatriya / Jnata – kshtriya</li><li>- Close associate with Lichchavi</li><li>- Member of Vajjain confederacy.</li><li>- Mahavirais father – chief of this republic</li><li>- Assisted by small council for running the affairs of republic.</li></ul>