



MAHAJANAPADAS

JUNAID

**Q) Arrange the following in a chronological order :
(PGT-2023)**

- (i) Mahajanapada**
- (ii) Jana**
- (iii) Empire**
- (iv) Janapada**

- (a) (ii), (iii), (i), (iv)**
- (b) (ii), (iv), (i), (iii)**
- (c) (iii), (i), (iv), (ii)**
- (d) (iii), (ii), (i), (iv)**

Answer : b) (ii), (iv), (i), (iii)

EMERGENCE OF STATE AND MONARCHY IN NORTH INDIA

- **Use of Iron from 600 BC > warrior class played important part- new agricultural tool> peasants produced surplus> surplus products collected by princes to meet their military and administrative needs.**

- **Surplus also to feed in towns> these material advantage enabled people to stick to their land and also to expand at the cost of neighbouring areas > rise of large states with towns strengthened the territorial ideas.**
- **While there were territorial ideas, people owed strong allegiance to Janapada(territory to which they belonged) and not to Jana (tribe which they belonged)..**

- **Janapada : Land where Jana(people, clan or tribe) settled.**
- **Iron tools> Agriculture expansion> Importance of Gangetic plain> Urbanism > Socio economic classes transformed to state organs and the occupation specialisation supported the state as being state collectors and other administrative works > Formation of monarchy in Gangetic plain while republics in foothills of Himalaya and Terai region of Nepal.**

- **Tribal identities in Early Vedic period > tribal identities merged with territorial identities in Later Vedic period > various territorial identities combined to form one territorial state > Janapadas > Mahajanapadas.**
- **Janapadas are small kingdoms of Vedic age > with development of iron, the Janapadas became more powerful and evolved into Mahajanapadas.**
- **So, Jana > Janapada > Mahajanapada > Empire**



- **Mahajanapadas(16 states): Monarchical states and few Gana Sanghas (Malla and Licchavis).**

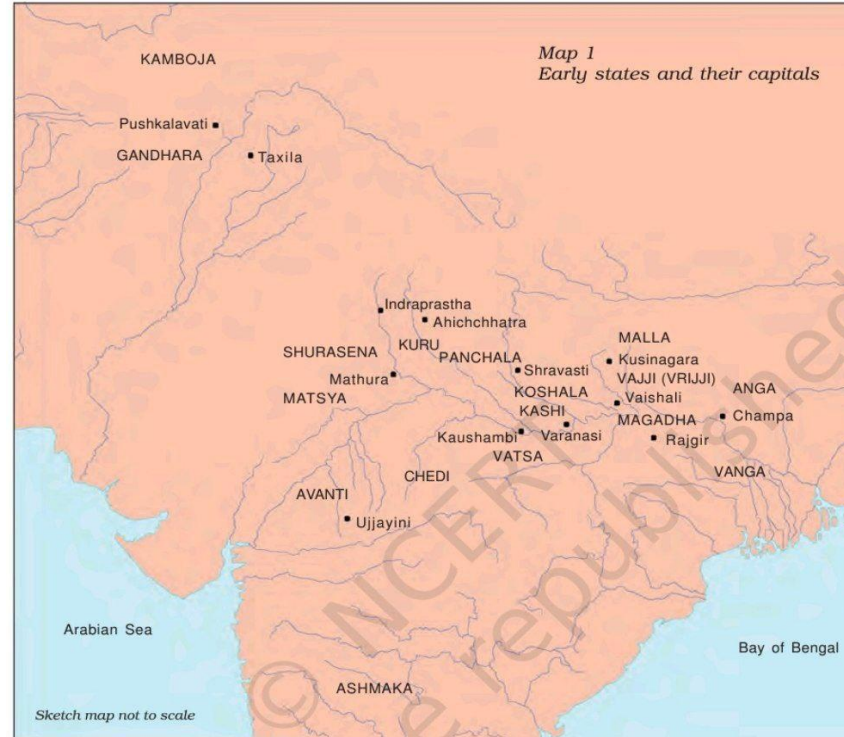


Q) Which of the following was the principal city of Assaka Mahajanapada?

- a) Bairat**
- b) Danatapura**
- c) Mahishmati**
- d) Potana**

Answer : d) Potana

MAHAJANAPADAS



- **Anga** : Capital is in Champa-Presently Bihar.
- **Magadha** : Rajagriha and Pataliputra-Bihar.
- **Malla** : Gana Sangha - Kushinagara and Pavapuri- Uttar Pradesh.
- **Vajji** : Gana - Included 8 clans among which Lichchavis were most powerful with capital Vaishali- Bihar - Later a Mahajanapada).



- **Kosala** - Sravasti-Uttar Pradesh.
- **Kasi** - Varanasi- U.P
- **Kuru** - Later became a Gana- Indraprastha
- Delhi.
- **Vatsa** - Kaushambi - U.P.
- **Panchala** - Ahichatra and Kampila - U.P

- **Matsya** : Viratnagar-Rajasthan
- **Sursena** : Mathura- U.P
- **Avanti** : Ujjain and Mahishmathi- Madhya Pradesh
- **Ashmaka** : Potana - Maharashtra.
- **Kamboja** : Rajapur-Kashmir.
- **Gandhara** : Taxila - Pakistan
- **Chedi** : Suktimathi- debate of Madhya Pradesh or U.P.

- **Anguttara Nikaya : ‘Shodasha Mahajanapada’.**
- **Kasi(famous for textile and horses) - Vajji(matrimonial alliance with Magadha)- Vatsa(famous for cotton and fabrics)- Malla(performed last rites of Buddha).**
- **Matsya(Rigveda mention it)- Ashmaka(the only southern Mahajanapada).**

- **Pradyota, patronised Buddhism, was the ruler of Avanti and Magadha and said to have conquered Kosambi too)-Koshala(city of Ayodhya).**
- **Northern Black Polished Ware(NBPW).**

GANA SANGHAS

- Oligarchy or confederate clans.
- Two types : All or a section of clans(Sakyas and Koliyas) and confederation of several clans(Vajjis and Yadavas) .
- **Shakyas**
- **Mallas**
- **Bidesha**



- **Jnaapti(giving notice), Karma Vacha (resolutions), Rajan or Sangha Mukhya(chiefs of executive Government), Uparajan(vice consul), Samastagara(council).**
- **In some cases, oligarchy system replaced by chieftain system(Shakya splitting from Kosala).**
- **Decline due to reasons such as defeated by monarchs, geographical reasons, failure of governance system, etc.**



THANK YOU