

Janapadas and Mahajanapadas

Chapter 6: Janapadas and Mahajanapadas · Topic 1

Key Concept

Janapadas were early territorial units or kingdoms formed by settled agricultural communities in ancient India.

Around the 6th century BCE, sixteen major kingdoms called Mahajanapadas emerged, each with significant political and economic power.

Mahajanapadas had different forms of government, including monarchies (ruled by kings) and republics (ruled by assemblies).

The rise of Mahajanapadas marked a significant step towards larger, more organised political entities, eventually leading to empires.

Quick Revision Notes

- Janapadas: early territorial units/kingdoms.
- Formed by settled agricultural communities.
- ~6th century BCE: 16 Mahajanapadas emerged.
- Each had significant political, economic power.
- Government forms: monarchies, republics.
- Monarchies ruled by kings.
- Republics ruled by assemblies.
- This led towards larger empires eventually.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the sixteen Mahajanapadas.
- 2 Discuss the difference between a monarchy and republic.
- 3 Discuss how Janapadas formed.
- 4 Research a specific Mahajanapada kingdom.
- 5 Discuss why organised states were significant.
- 6 Explain how Mahajanapadas led to larger empires.