

Class-VI

Chapter-9

Answer the following questions.

1. The Aryans settled down in janas or tribes and led a semi-nomadic life. By the Later Vedic Age, the Aryan had moved further into the Ganga Valley. In time, some of these janas grew in size and power, and came to be known as janapadas (literally meaning 'foothold of tribe'). Gradually, many of these janapadas evolved into larger political groups, called mahajanapadas, by capturing more and more land.

2. Two types of political systems prevailed in the mahajanapadas. They were either republics or monarchies. A republican mahajanapada was ruled by a group of people elected by the people of that tribe. There was no hereditary ruler. Decisions were taken on the basis of majority consent. So, it was a kind of a democratic system where the people of the tribe had a say in their political system. The Sakya mahajanapada was an important republic. Most of the mahajanapadas had a monarchical system. After the king's death, his son succeeded to the throne. Magadha was a monarchy.

3. Bimbisara used marriage alliances, military conquests and diplomatic relations to strengthen his position. He married a princess from Kosala, who brought Kashi (modern Varanasi) as part of her dowry. He also married princesses from Vaishali and Madra, thus forming friendly alliances with those states. Bimbisara conquered Anga and the river port of Champa. He used diplomatic relations to secure the cooperation of the rulers of Avanti and Gandhara.

4. Magadha had several advantages over the other mahajanapadas.

It was situated in close proximity to rich deposits of iron ore in the area, which was used to make me

effective tools and weapons.

Rivers like the Ganga and Bhagirathi provided ample water for irrigation and made the soil ferti

These rivers also acted as means of transportation for armies and equipment.

The dense forest cover of the area provided timber for building carts, chariots and houses.

The forests also provided elephants, which were trained for use by the army.

Magadha had thriving trade relations with other regions, including the South

5. Bimbisara was the first prominent ruler of Magadha and founder of the Haryanka dynasty. He is considered to be the first prominent ruler because it was under his reign that Magadha rose to great heights. His capital was at Rajagriha, Bimbisara used marriage alliances, military conquests and diplomatic relations to strengthen his position. He married a princess from Kosala, who brought Kashi (modern Varanasi) as part of her dowry. He also married princesses from Vaishali and Madra, thus forming friendly alliances with those states. Bimbisara conquered Anga and the river port of Champa. He used diplomatic relations to secure the cooperation of the rulers of Avanti and Gandhara.

6. Alexander was the son of King Phillip of Macedonia, Alexander set out to conquer the world. Alexander first defeated the Persian ruler. After achieving this feat, he marched on forward to India, attracted by its riches and wealth. Also, Alexander had a strongly curious nature and he wanted to explore other geographical territories. After conquering Kabul, Alexander reached India through the Khyber Pass in 326 BCE.

7. The political scenario of North-West India was ripe for Alexander's invasion. The area was divided into many tribal republics and independent monarchies. It was easy for Alexander to conquer them one by one, Among these rulers, Ambhi, the prince of Taxila and King Porus, whose kingdom lay between the Indus and Chenab, were quite well-

thelum and Chenab, were quite well-known and had the potential to check the advance of Alexander. However, their failure to unite and fight him together made them susceptible to defeat.

8. Nandas were an important dynasty who came to power after the Shishunagas.

They were extremely powerful rulers who extended Magadhan power by conquering Kalinga. The Nandas were very powerful and extremely rich, so much so that it is said that they maintained an army with 200,000 infantry, 60,000 cavalry and 3000 to 6000 war elephants. This huge army deterred Alexander from advancing further.

G. Photo study questions

1. Bimbisara

2. He is paying his respects to Buddha.

3. Buddhism

