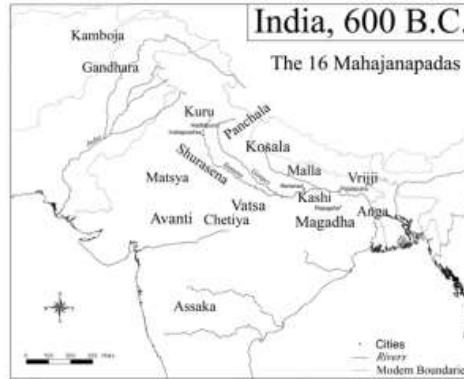


Rise of Magadha Empire

The Maha-Janapadas



- Angutara Nikaya, a Buddhist scripture mentions 16 great kingdoms or Mahajanapadas in the beginning of the 6th century BC in India.
- They emerged during the Vedic Age. Socio-economic developments chiefly due to the use of iron tools in agriculture and military, along with religious and political developments led to the rise of the Mahajanapadas from small kingdoms or Janapadas.
- By the 6th century BC, the political centre shifted from the west of the Indo-Gangetic plains to the eastern side of it.
- This was due to better fertility of the land because of more rainfall and rivers.
- Also, this region was closer to the iron production centres.

16 Maha-Janapadas

Sl. No.	Maha-Janapadas	Capital	Present Location
1	Anga	Champa	Bhagalpur and Munger
2	Magadha	Girivraja/Rajagriha	Gaya and Patna
3	Kasi	Kasi	Varanasi
4	Vatsa	Kausambi	Allahabad
5	Kosala	Shravasti	Awadh, Eastern UP
6	Saurasena	Mathura	Mathura
7	Panchala	Ahichchatra and Kampilya	Western UP
8	Kuru	Indraprastha	Meerut and SE Haryana
9	Matsya	Virat	Jaipur
10	Avanti	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh and Malwa
11	Chedi	Sothivati/Banda	Bundelkhand
12	Gandhara	Taxila	Peshawar
13	Kamboja	Pooncha	Rajori and Hajra (Kashmir)
14	Asmaka	Pratishthan	Godaveri banks
15	Malla	Kusinara	Deoria and UP
16	Vajji	Vaishali	Vaishali

In course of time, smaller or weak kingdoms, and the republics were eliminated by the stronger rulers. In the 6th century only 4 powerful kingdoms remained:

- **Magadha** (Important rulers: Bimbisara, Ajatashatru)
- **Avanti** (Important ruler: Pradyota)
- **Kosala** (Important rulers: Prasenjit)
- **Vatsa** (Important rulers: Udayana)

Later, all of them were annexed to or became part of Magadha.

The four Mahajanapadas – Magadha, Kosala, Avanti and Vatsa were vying for supremacy from the 6th century BC to the 4th century BC. Finally, Magadha emerged victorious and was able to gain sovereignty. It became the most powerful state in ancient India. Magadha is situated in modern Bihar. Jarasandha, who was a descendant of Brihadratha founded the empire in Magadha. Both are talked about in the Mahabharata.

Haryanka Dynasty

The first important and powerful dynasty in Magadha.

○ **Bimbisara (558 BC – 491 BC)**

- Son of Bhattiya.
- He ruled over Magadha from 544 BC to 493 BC.
- Contemporary and follower of the Buddha. Was also said to be an admirer of Mahavira.
- Had his capital at Girivraja (Rajgir).
- Also known as Sreniya.
- Was the first king to have a standing army.
- He started the practice of using matrimonial alliances to strengthen his political position.
- He had three wives: Kosaladevi (King of Kosala's daughter and the sister of Prasenjit), Chellana (daughter of the Lichchavi chief of Vaisali) and Khema (daughter of the king of Modra, Punjab).
- He followed a policy of conquest and expansion. Most notable conquest by Bimbisara was that of Anga.
- He had an effective and excellent administrative system. The officers occupying high posts were divided into three – executive, military and judicial.

○ **Ajatasatru (492 BC - 460 BC)**

- Son of Bimbisara and Chellana.
- He killed his father and became ruler.
- Embraced Buddhism.
- He convened the First Buddhist Council at Rajagriha just after the death of Buddha in 483 BC.
- Won wars against Kosala and Vaishali.

○ **Udayin**

- Son of Ajatasatru.
- Shifted the capital to Pataliputra (Patna).
- Last of the major Haryanka rulers.
- Succeeded by three kings – Aniruddha, Manda and Nagadasaka.

Sisunaga Dynasty

According to Sri Lankan chronicles, the people of Magadha revolted during the reign of Nagadasaka and placed an amatya (minister) named Sisunaga as king.

○ **Sisunaga**

- Was the viceroy of Kasi before becoming king of Magadha.

- Capital was at Girivaraja.
- He annexed Avanti and brought an end to the long rivalry between Magadha and Avanti.
- Later shifted the capital to Vaishali.
- **Kalasoka**
- Son of Sisunaga.
- Kalasoka shifted the capital to Pataliputra.
- He conducted the Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali.
- He was killed in a palace revolution that brought the Nanda dynasty to the throne.

Nanda Dynasty

This was the first non-Kshatriya dynasty. The first ruler was Mahapadma Nanda who usurped the throne of Kalasoka.

- **Mahapadma Nanda**
 - He is called the “first historical emperor of India.”
 - He murdered Kalasoka to become the king.
 - His origins are not clear. As per the Puranas, he was the son of the last Sisunaga king from a Sudra woman. As per some Jain texts and Greek writer Curtius, he was the son of a barber and a courtesan.
 - His reign lasted for twenty eight years from 367 BC to 338 BC.
 - He is also called “Sarva Kshatriyantaka” (destroyer of all the kshatriyas) and “Ekkrat”.
 - The empire grew under his reign. It ran from the Kuru country in the north to the Godavari Valley in the south and from Magadha in the east to Narmada on the west.
 - He conquered many kingdoms including Kalinga.
- **Dhana Nanda**
 - He was the last Nanda ruler.
 - He is referred to as Agrammes or Xandrames in Greek texts.
 - Alexander invaded North-Western India during his reign; but he could not proceed towards the Gangetic plains because of his army’s refusal.
 - He inherited a huge empire from his father. He possessed a standing army of 200,000 infantry, 20,000 cavalry, 3000 elephants and 2000 chariots. He became a powerful ruler because of this.
 - He is said to be one of the 8 or 9 sons of Mahapadma Nanda.
 - He became unpopular with his subjects owing to an oppressive way of extorting taxes. Also, his Sudra origins and an anti-kshatriya policy led to a large number of enemies.
 - Finally he was overthrown by Chandragupta Maurya along with Chanakya, which led to the foundations of the Maurya Empire in Magadha.

Reason behind the Rise of Magadha

Geographical factors

- Magadha was located on the upper and lower parts of the Gangetic valley.
- It was located on the main land route between west and east India.

- The area had fertile soil. It also received enough rainfall.
- Magadha was encircled by rivers on three sides, the Ganga, Son and Champa making the region impregnable to enemies.
- Both Rajgir and Pataliputra were located in strategic positions.

Economic factors

- Magadha had huge copper and iron deposits.
- Because of its location, it could easily control trade.
- Had a large population, which could be used for agriculture, mining, building cities and in the army.
- General prosperity of the people and the rulers.
- The mastery over Ganga meant economic hegemony. Ganga was important for trade in North India.
- With the annexation of Anga by Bimbisara, river Champa was added to the Magadha Empire. Champa was important in the trade with South-East Asia, Sri Lanka and South India.

Cultural factors

- Magadhan society had an unorthodox character.
- It had a good mix of Aryan and non-Aryan peoples.
- Emergence of Jainism and Buddhism led to a revolution in terms of philosophy and thought. They enhanced liberal traditions.
- Society was not so much dominated by the Brahmanas and many kings of Magadha were 'low' in origins.

Political factors

- Magadha was lucky to have many powerful and ambitious rulers.
- They had strong standing armies.
- Availability of iron enabled them to develop advanced weaponry.
- They were also the first kings to use elephants in the army.
- The major kings also developed a good administrative system.

Objective Questions

1. **Capital of Magadha Empire is**

- (A) Mahismati
- (B) Rajagriha
- (C) Ujjain
- (D) None

Correct Answer: (B) Rajagriha

2. **Who was the founder of Haryanka dynasty?**

- (A) Ajatsatru
- (B) Uddyan
- (C) Bimbisara
- (D) Nagdashak

Correct Answer: (C) Bimbisara

3. **Who was the last king of Nanda Dynasty?**

- (A) Dhana Nanda
- (B) Mahapadma Nanda
- (C) Bhutapala Nanda
- (D) Kaivarta Nanda

Correct Answer: (A) Dhana Nanda

4. **Which book describes more about 16 Mahajanapada?**

- (A) Digha Nikaya
- (B) Vinaya Pitaka
- (C) Anguttara Nikaya
- (D) Sutta Nipata

Correct Answer: (C) Anguttara Nikaya

5. **Which one is the capital of Avanti?**

- (A) Mahismati
- (B) Taxila
- (C) Kansambi
- (D) Giriv Raja

Correct Answer: (A) Mahismati

6. **Son of Bimbisara is**

- (A) Ashoka
- (B) Uddyan
- (C) Ajatsatru
- (D) Nagdashak

Correct Answer: (C) Ajatsatru

7. **Which one is the technique used by Bimbisara to extend his empire?**

- (A) War
- (B) Marriage
- (C) Betray
- (D) None

Correct Answer: (B) Marriage

8. **Bimbisara was the great follower of**

- (A) Mahavira
- (B) Gautam Buddha
- (C) A and B
- (D) All

Correct Answer: (C) A and B

9. **Who was the last king of Shishunaga dynasty?**

- (A) Kakavarna Kalashoka
- (B) Nandi Bardhan
- (C) Shishunaga
- (D) None

Correct Answer: (B) Nandi Bardhan

10. **Patliputra situated in between**

- (A) Son and Ganga
- (B) Kosi and Ganga
- (C) Mahanadi and Ganga
- (D) None

Correct Answer: (A) Son and Ganga

11. **Sudarshan lake dug by**

- (A) Ashoka
- (B) Chandragupta Maurya
- (C) Bimbisara
- (D) Ajatsatru

Correct Answer: (B) Chandragupta Maurya

12. **At the time of Chandragupta Maurya who traveled in India?**

- (A) Fa-Hien
- (B) Megasthenes
- (C) Ibn Battuta
- (D) Al-Biruni

Correct Answer: (B) Megasthenes

13. **Bhabru Edicts situated at**

- (A) Madhya Pradesh
- (B) Uttar Pradesh
- (C) Rajasthan

(D) Afghanistan

Correct Answer: (C) Rajasthan

14. **In which year Ashoka started his kingdom?**

- (A) 232 BC
- (B) 268 BC
- (C) 270 BC
- (D) 230 BC

Correct Answer: (B) 268 BC

15. **Who was the son of Chandragupta Maurya?**

- (A) Sumanth
- (B) Ashoka
- (C) Bindusara
- (D) Bimbisara

Correct Answer: (C) Bindusara

16. **Who was the master of Chandragupta Maurya?**

- (A) Chanakya
- (B) Kautilya
- (C) Vishnugupta
- (D) All

Correct Answer: (A) Chanakya

17. **Which Purana explain more about Mauryan Empire?**

- (A) Agni Purana
- (B) Padma Purana
- (C) Vishnu Purana
- (D) Bhagavata Purana

Correct Answer: (C) Vishnu Purana

18. **Uddyan is the son of**

- (A) Ashoka
- (B) Ajatsatru
- (C) Bimbisara
- (D) None

Correct Answer: (B) Ajatsatru

19. **Who established the Shishunaga dynasty?**

- (A) Nandivardhana
- (B) Bimbisara
- (C) Shishunaga
- (D) None

Correct Answer: (C) Shishunaga

20. **Who was the first son of Bindusara?**

- (A) Sumana
- (B) Ashoka
- (C) Tishya
- (D) None

Correct Answer: (A) Sumana

21. **At the time of Chandragupta Maurya who traveled in India?**

- (A) Fa-Hien
- (B) Megasthenes
- (C) Ibn Battuta
- (D) Al-Biruni

Correct Answer: (B) Megasthenes

22. **Which area of India was known as Avantika in ancient times?**

- (A) Avadh

- (B) Ruhelkhand
(C) Bundelkhand
(D) Malwa
Correct Answer: (D) Malwa
23. **The 'Ajivikas' were**
(A) Sect contemporary to the Buddha
(B) Breakaway branch of the Buddhists
(C) Sect founded by Charvaka
(D) Sect founded by Shankaracharya
Correct Answer: (A) Sect contemporary to the Buddha
24. **Whose army did Alexander the Greek ruler confront on the banks of the river Jhelum?**
(A) Chandragupta Maurya
(B) Ambi
(C) Dhanananda
(D) Porus
Correct Answer: (D) Porus
25. **Name of Republic which was a confederacy to tribes in the 6th century B.C.**
(A) Gandhara
(B) Vajji
(C) Koushal
(D) Avanti
Correct Answer: (B) Vajji
26. **Who was the founder of Haryanka dynasty?**
(A) Ajatsatru
(B) Uddyan
(C) Bimbisara
(D) Nagdashak
Correct Answer: (C) Bimbisara
27. **Who was the last king of Nanda Dynasty?**
(A) Dhana Nanda
(B) Mahapadma Nanda
(C) Bhutapala Nanda
(D) Kaivarta Nanda
Correct Answer: (A) Dhana Nanda
28. **Which ruler murdered his father, Bimbisara to ascend the throne?**
(A) Ashoka
(B) Ajatshatru
(C) Kanishka
(D) Simukha
Correct Answer: (B) Ajatshatru
29. **Alexander and the army of Porus camped on the opposite bank of which river?**
(A) Ravi
(B) Jhelum
(C) Sutlej
(D) Chenab
Correct Answer: (B) Jhelum
30. **Which one of the following scholar, challenged Invincible Yajnavalkya for debate?**
(A) Ghosha
(B) Apala
(C) Maitreyi
(D) Gargi
Correct Answer: (D) Gargi
31. **Which of the following ruler was responsible for the rise of Magadha?**
(A) Bindusara
(B) Ajatshatru
(C) Bimbisara
(D) Vasudeva
Correct Answer: (C) Bimbisara
32. **Which book describes more about 16 Mahajanapada?**
(A) Digha Nikaya
(B) Vinaya Pitaka
(C) Anguttara Nikaya
(D) Sutta Nipata
Correct Answer: (C) Anguttara Nikaya
33. **Which one is the capital of Avanti?**
(A) Mahismati
(B) Taxila
(C) Kansambi
(D) Giriv Raja
Correct Answer: (A) Mahismati
34. **King Kharvela was the greatest ruler of the Chedi Dynasty of :**
(A) Cholamandalam
(B) Kalinga
(C) Kannauj
(D) Purushpur
Correct Answer: (B) Kalinga
35. **Name the kingdom which first used elephants in wars :**
(A) Kosala
(B) Magadha
(C) Champa
(D) Avanti
Correct Answer: (B) Magadha
36. **Which dynasty ruled over 'Magadha' after Mauryan Dynasty?**
(A) Satavahan
(B) Shunga
(C) Nanda
(D) Kanva
Correct Answer: (B) Shunga
37. **Nalanda Mahavira site is situated in :**
(A) Rajasthan
(B) Assam
(C) Bihar
(D) Gujarat
Correct Answer: (C) Bihar
38. **Which one is the technique used by Bimbisara to extend his empire?**
(A) War
(B) Marriage
(C) Betray

- (D) None
Correct Answer: (B) Marriage
39. **Who was the last king of Shishunaga dynasty?**
(A) Kakavarna Kalashoka
(B) Nandi Bardhan
(C) Shishunaga
(D) None
Correct Answer: (A) Kakavarna Kalashoka
40. **Which Purana explain more about Mauryan Empire?**
(A) Agni Purana
(B) Padma Purana
(C) Vishnu Purana
(D) Bhagavata Purana
Correct Answer: (C) Vishnu Purana
41. **Who established Nanda dynasty?**
(A) Govishanaka Nanda
(B) Rashtrapala Nanda
(C) Dhana Nanda
(D) Mahapadma Nanda
Correct Answer: (D) Mahapadma Nanda
42. **Edicts started at the time of**
(A) Bindusara
(B) Ashoka
(C) Chandragupta Maurya
(D) None
Correct Answer: (B) Ashoka
43. **In which Edicts Ashoka describe kalinga war?**
(A) 14th
(B) 13th
(C) 10th
(D) 8th
Correct Answer: (B) 13th
44. **In which year Ashoka attacked in Kalinga?**
(A) 261 BC
(B) 270 BC
(C) 250 BC
(D) 230 BC
Correct Answer: (A) 261 BC
45. **Sri Nagar established by**
(A) Chandragupta Maurya
(B) Ajatsatru
(C) Ashoka
(D) Bimbisara
Correct Answer: (C) Ashoka
46. **In which year Ashoka died?**
(A) 240 BC
(B) 232 BC
(C) 230 BC
(D) 235 BC
Correct Answer: (C) 230 BC
47. **Who was the last king of Maurya dynasty?**
(A) Brihadratha
(B) Shatadhanvan
(C) Devavarman
(D) None
Correct Answer: (A) Brihadratha
48. **Sanchi Stupa constructed by**
(A) Bimbisara
(B) Chandragupta Maurya
(C) Ashoka
(D) None
Correct Answer: (C) Ashoka
49. **Who established Shunga Empire?**
(A) Agnimitra
(B) Pushyamitra Shunga
(C) Devabhuti
(D) None
Correct Answer: (B) Pushyamitra Shunga
50. **In which Mahajanapada Gautama Buddha was died?**
(A) Vatsa
(B) Kosala
(C) Mall
(D) Anga
Correct Answer: (C) Mall
51. **Who was the first foreigner to invade India?**
(A) Alamgir
(B) Muhammad bin Quasim
(C) Mahmud of Ghazni
(D) Darius I
Correct Answer: (D) Darius I
52. **Who was the first monarch of Magadh in 16th century B.C.?**
(A) Chandragupta Maurya
(B) Bimbisara
(C) Sishunaga
(D) Devadutta
Correct Answer: (B) Bimbisara
53. **Which was the earliest capital of Magadha?**
(A) Vaishali
(B) Benarash
(C) Rajgir
(D) Patliputra
Correct Answer: (C) Rajgir
54. **Who transferred his capital from Rajgir to Patliputra?**
(A) Chandragupta II
(B) Ashoka
(C) Udayin
(D) Harshabardhana
Correct Answer: (C) Udayin
55. **Who transferred his capital from Patliputra to Vaishali?**
(A) Ahoka
(B) Dhanananda
(C) Shishunaga
(D) Giriraja
Correct Answer: (C) Shishunaga

56. In which battle Alexander defeated king Puru?

- (A) Battle of Panipath
- (B) Battle of Buxer
- (C) Battle of Hydaspas
- (D) Battle of Palasi

Correct Answer: (C) Battle of Hydaspas

57. Which is the largest centre in ancient India?

- (A) Varanasi
- (B) Udayin
- (C) Kausambi
- (D) Taxila

Correct Answer: (C) Kausambi

58. Which king is titled as the "Second Parshurama"?

- (A) Mahapadma Nanda
- (B) Bimbisara
- (C) Cyrus
- (D) Shishunaga

Correct Answer: (A) Mahapadma Nanda

59. The king who claimed himself as the *first Imperial ruler of India*?

- (A) Ajatasatru
- (B) Bimbisara
- (C) Udayin
- (D) Sasanka

Correct Answer: (C) Udayin

60. Along the bank of which river Alexander defeated king Puru?

- (A) Indus
- (B) Satadru
- (C) Jhelum
- (D) Chenab

Correct Answer: (C) Jhelum

61. Where King Alexander died?

- (A) Patliputra
- (B) Vaisali
- (C) Babylon
- (D) Rajgir

Correct Answer: (C) Babylon

62. Among which the Sculptures of *Gandhara school* reflect?

- (A) Greeks
- (B) Europe
- (C) Central Asia
- (D) China

Correct Answer: (A) Greeks

63. The founder of *Nanda Dynasty* was

- (A) Mahapadma Nanda
- (B) Dhana Nanda
- (C) Shishunag Nanda
- (D) Shiva Nanda

Correct Answer: (A) Mahapadma Nanda

64. Among the following who is contemporary of *Gautama Buddha*?

- (A) Ajatsatru
- (B) Bindusara

(C) Alauddin Khilji

(D) Babur

Correct Answer: (A) Ajatsatru

65. The most significant ruler of *Kalinga* was

- (A) Ashoka
- (B) Kharavela
- (C) Chandragupta Maurya
- (D) Devadatta

Correct Answer: (B) Kharavela

66. Which *Mahajanapada* was destroyed by the influence of *Shishunag Dynasty*?

- (A) Chedi
- (B) Kashi
- (C) Avanti
- (D) Magadha

Correct Answer: (C) Avanti

67. Among which *Mahajanapadas Bimbisara* had not friend relationship?

- (A) Magadha
- (B) Avanti
- (C) Vatsa
- (D) Anga

Correct Answer: (D) Anga

68. The most powerful city among all the *Mahajanapadas* is –

- (A) Magadha
- (B) Patliputra
- (C) Kashi
- (D) Vaishali

Correct Answer: (A) Magadha

69. Which *Mahajanapada* was situated on the bank of *Yamuna*?

- (A) Vatsa
- (B) Surasena
- (C) Kosala
- (D) Panchal

Correct Answer: (A) Vatsa

70. Between which of the following was the ancient town of *Takshasila* located?

- (A) Ganga and Yamuna
- (B) Mahanadi and Godavari
- (C) Indus and Jhelum
- (D) Krishna and Kaveri

Correct Answer: (C) Indus and Jhelum

71. Which of the following dynasty was the first to rule over *Magadha*?

- (A) Haryankas
- (B) Shishunagas
- (C) Nandas
- (D) Mauryas

Correct Answer: (A) Haryankas

72. Who was the founder of *Haryanka Dynasty*?

- (A) Bindusara
- (B) Bimbisara

- (C) Mahapadma Nand
(D) Kalashoka
Correct Answer: (B) Bimbisara
73. **Who among the following patronised the Second Buddhist Council?**
(A) Shishunagas
(B) Dhananada
(C) Kalashoka
(D) Ajatshatru
Correct Answer: (C) Kalashoka
74. **Who was the king of Nanda Dynasty when Alexander attacked India in 4327/326 BC?**
(A) Shishunagas
(B) Mahapadma Nand
(C) Kalashoka
(D) Dhananada
Correct Answer: (D) Dhananada
75. **Which of the following ancient treaty that talks about overthrowing of Nandas by the Chandragupta Maurya?**
(A) Kathasaritasagara
(B) Brihadkatha Manjari
(C) Mudrarakshasa
(D) Rajatringini
Correct Answer: (C) Mudrarakshasa
76. **Seleucus sent Megasthenes as his ambassador to the court of which Mauryan King?**
(A) Kalashoka
(B) Chandragupta Maurya
(C) Bindusara
(D) Ashoka
Correct Answer: (B) Chandragupta Maurya
77. **Who among the following ruler patronised the First Buddhist Council?**
(A) Ajatashatru
(B) Bimbisara
(C) Shishunagas
(D) None of the above
Correct Answer: (A) Ajatashatru
78. **Which of the following first Indian King in the Indian History who left his records engraved on stones?**
(A) Kalashoka
(B) Chandragupta Maurya
(C) Bindusara
(D) Ashoka
Correct Answer: (D) Ashoka
79. **Who was the first Indian King started the matrimonial alliances to strengthen his power?**
(A) Ajatashatru
(B) Bimbisara
(C) Shishunagas
(D) Dhananada
Correct Answer: (B) Bimbisara
80. **Which of the following ancient Indian King issued inscriptions like Darius I who was the king of Iran?**
(A) Bimbisara
(B) Shishunagas
(C) Bindusara
(D) Ashoka
Correct Answer: (D) Ashoka
81. **Which physician was sent by Bimbisara to treat Avanti King Pradyota?**
(A) Jivaka
(B) Udayin
(C) Kalashoka
(D) Both a & b
Correct Answer: (A) Jivaka
82. **What was the other name of Bimbisara?**
(A) Shrenika
(B) Ekarat
(C) Sarvakshatrantaka
(D) Shalimal
Correct Answer: (A) Shrenika
83. **Who was the last ruler of Shisunaga dynasty?**
(A) Kalashoka
(B) Nandivardhan
(C) Naga-Dasak
(D) Udayin
Correct Answer: (B) Nandivardhan
84. **Which among the following rulers is often described as 'the first empire builder of Indian History'?**
(A) Dhanananda
(B) Mahapadmananda
(C) Bimbisara
(D) Chandragupta Maurya
Correct Answer: (B) Mahapadmananda
85. **Who was the founder of Nanda dynasty?**
(A) Mahapadmananda
(B) Shisunaga
(C) Dhanananda
(D) Nandivardhan
Correct Answer: (A) Mahapadmananda
86. **Which among the rulers of Magadh founded the city of Patliputra (Patna) on the bank of river Ganges?**
(A) Chandragupta Maurya
(B) Ajatshatru
(C) Bimbisara
(D) Bindusara
Correct Answer: (B) Ajatshatru
87. **Who among the following was King of Magadha at the time of Mahaparinirvana of Gautam Buddha?**
(A) Bimbisara
(B) Udayi
(C) Ajatshatru

(D) Chandragupta Maurya

Correct Answer: (C) Ajatshatru

88. **Who among the following kings was a contemporary of both Mahavira and Buddha?**

- (A) Ajatshatru
- (B) Nandivardhana
- (C) Bimbisara
- (D) Ashoka

Correct Answer: (C) Bimbisara

89. **Which among the following was / were the reasons behind the Rise of Magadha as imperial power in Ancient India:**

- (1) Strategic position surrounded by five hills and aggressive policy of rulers
- (2) Rich and fertile zone with good communication channels
- (3) Association with Buddhism and Gautam Buddha

Choose the correct option:

- (A) Only 1
- (B) 1 & 2
- (C) 2 & 3
- (D) 1, 2 & 3

Correct Answer: (B) 1 & 2

90. **The ancient city of Raj Griha which is modern Rajgir near Patna was built by which of the following kings?**

- (A) Bimbisara
- (B) Ajatshatru
- (C) Prasenjit
- (D) Ashoka

Correct Answer: (A) Bimbisara

91. **Who among the following rulers conquered the Anga Mahajanpada and merged it with Magadha?**

- (A) Chandragupta Maurya
- (B) Asoka

(C) Bimbisara

(D) Ajatshatru

Correct Answer: (C) Bimbisara

92. **Who among the following annexed Anga to Magadha?**

- (A) Chandragupta Maurya
- (B) Bimbisara
- (C) Ashoka
- (D) Samudragupta

Correct Answer: (B) Bimbisara

93. **Bring out the only incorrect statement:**

- (A) Brihadrath was the last ruler of Mauryan Dynasty
- (B) Devabhuti was the last ruler of Sunga Dynasty
- (C) Ajatashatru was the last ruler of Haranyaka Dynasty
- (D) Dhana Nanda was the last ruler of Nanda Dynasty

Correct Answer: (C) Ajatashatru was the last ruler of Haranyaka Dynasty

94. **In Greek texts, who among the following has been mentioned as Amitrochates?**

- (A) Bimbisara
- (B) Bindusara
- (C) Kautilya
- (D) Ashoka

Correct Answer: (B) Bindusara

95. **Which among the following is correct about Bhaddasala?**

- (A) He was a poet in the court of Chandragupta Maurya
- (B) He was the general of the Nanda Army
- (C) He was an ambassador of Ceylon King sent to Asoka's court
- (D) He was a playwright in the Gupta Era

Correct Answer: (B) He was the general of the Nanda Army

Important One-Liner Question on the Magadha Empire

1. **How many Mahajanapads were powerful during 600 in North India?**

Ans. Four Mahajanapads-Avanti, Vats, Kosala and Magadh

2. **Which was the capital of the kingdom Avanti?**

Ans. Ujjain.

3. **Which was the capital of the kingdom Vats?**

Ans. Kausambhi.

4. **Which was the capital of the kingdom Kosala?**

Ans. Ayodhya.

5. **Which was the capital of the kingdom Lichhavi?**

Ans. Vaishah.

6. **Which was the capital city of the Kingdom Kashi?**

Ans. Varanasi.

7. **Of which Mahajanapad Kapilvastu republic was a part?**

Ans. Kosala.

8. **Where were two capital cities of Kapilvastu republic?**

Ans. Kapilvastu and Lumbini.

9. **Of which Mahajanapad Prasenjit was the ruler?**

Ans. Kosala.

10. **Which Mahajanapad was the first republic of India?**

Ans. Lichhavi.

11. **Where was the capital Magadh during the reign of Bimbisara?**

Ans. Giriviraja.

12. **Which dynasty Bimbisara belonged to?**
Ans. Haryanka dynasty.
13. **To whom Bimbisara married?**
Ans. Bimbisara married the daughter of the king of Kosala, the daughter of Lichhavi Chief and the daughter of the Madra in Punjab
14. **Who defeated Brahmadata, the ruler of Anga?**
Ans. Bimbisara.
15. **Who built the new capital Rajagriha north to Giriviraja?**
Ans. Bimbisara.
16. **Why did Magadh kingdom become very powerful during the reign of Bimbisara?**
Ans. The kingdom of Magadh had large deposits of iron-ore⁵ in the region of Chotanagpur (Jharkhand). Iron was used for making the weapons. This was the reason why Magadh became the most powerful Kingdom during his reign.
17. **What was the religion of Bimbisara?**
Ans. It is not certain about his religion but it is said that during the last stage of his life he embraced Buddhism.
18. **Who killed Bimbisara?**
Ans. His son, Ajatshatru killed him.
19. **Who is known as "Pitrahanta" in Indian history?**
Ans. Ajatshatru.
20. **Who is known as Kunika in the history of India?**
Ans. Ajatshatru.
21. **Who became the king of Magadh after the death of Bimbisara in 493 BC?**
Ans. Ajatshatru became the king in 493 BC.
22. **To whom Ajatshatru was married?**
Ans. He was married to the daughter of Prasenjit, the king of Kosala.
23. **During whose reign the first Buddhist council was held?**
Ans. Ajatshatru.
24. **For how many years Ajatshatru ruled over Magadh?**
Ans. He ruled from 493 BC to 461 BC.
25. **Who became the king after the death of Ajatshatru?**
Ans. Udaibhadra or Udayana who ruled from 461 BC to 433 BC.
26. **During whose reign the capital of Magadh was shifted from Rajagriha to Patliputra?**
Ans. During the reign of Udayana.
27. **Who was the last king of the Haryanka dynasty?**
Ans. Nagadashaka.
28. **When the Haryanka dynasty came to an end?**
Ans. In 413 BC, When shishunaga was appointed the king of Magadh after killing the last ruler of Haryanka dynasty.
29. **Who was the founder of Shishunaga dynasty?**
Ans. Shishunaga.
30. **During whose reign the second Buddhist council was and where?**
Ans. Kalashoka, in Vaishali.
31. **Who was the last king of the Shishunaga dynasty?**
Ans. Nandivardhan and the rule of this dynasty ended in 361 BC,
32. **Who was the founder of Nanda dynasty?**
Ans. Mahapadma Nanda.
33. **Who was the king of Magadh when Alexander invaded India in 326 BC?**
Ans. Dhanananda.
34. **Who was the last ruler of Nanda dynasty?**
Ans. Dhanananda.
35. **Who were known as the first empire builders of India?**
Ans. Nanda kings.
36. **Who was the headman of the village in Magadh kingdom?**
Ans. Grarnini.
37. **What were the important cities of Magadh kingdom?**
Ans. Rajagriha, Patliputra, Ayodhya, Ujjain.
38. **What was the tax collected by the king from the people in Magadh kingdom?**
Ans. From V12 to Veth of the total produce.
39. **From where spices and precious stones were brought to Magadh?**
Ans. From south India, the Traders brought spices and precious Stones.
40. **What is meant by the term 'Janapada'?**
Ans. The kingdom based on tribes and clans was known as Janapada during ancient India.
41. **What is Monarchy?**
Ans. When a territory is ruled by a hereditary king.
42. **What is a Republic?**
Ans. When a territory is administered by an elected leader or council.
43. **Who was the first monarch of Magadh kingdom in the sixth century BC?**
Ans. Bimbisara.
44. **Who was the king of Taxila during the invasion of Alexander the great?**
Ans. Ambhi
45. **In which battle Alexander the great defeated porus, the king of Punjab?**
Ans. The battle of Hydaspes