

Early Kingdoms

Class : VI Date: 26.8.22

I. Answer the following in brief:

1.Who are Janapadas and Mahajanapadas?

Ans: The small tribes of the earlier period gave way to large kingdoms.These territories are known as Janapadas. The larger and more powerful janapadas are known as Mahajnapadas.

2. What is Ashvamedha?

Ans: Ashvamedha or horse sacrifice ceremony was often performed by powerful kings. The king wishing to perform the ceremony set a horse free to roam to other kingdoms. If a king allowed this sacred horse to pass it indicated that he had accepted the superiority of first king.But if a king stopped it meant he was challenging. A battle was followed later. The king who should perform the ceremony was proclaimed king of kings.

At the end horse was sacrificed as a gift to gods.

3. How was the trading system carried out those days?

Ans: Trade was a boost during this period. Trade was carried out through Barter system. Inland trade was brisk. Goods were sent far and wide. Bimbisara the king of Magadha built roads and bridges. Besides land route sea route was also carried. The main articles traded were silk, muslin, perfumes and ivory.

4. Expalin Vajji Confederacy.

Ans: The vajjis were a confederacy of many clans of whom the Lichchhavis were powerful. Their capital was Vaishali.

They were Republic. Decisions were taken by themselves. They remained independent for a long time. Finally Ajastashatru conquered mahajanapada.

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