

**STD-VI**

**SOCIAL STUDY**

**EARLY STATES IN INDIA (HISTORY)**

**ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:-**

**Q1. Name two literary sources of information about the janpadas of ancient India.**

**Ans. The two literary sources are:-**

- \*Vedic texts called Brahmanas.**
- \*Early Buddhist texts.**

**Q2. What were the different forms of government prevalent in the janpadas?**

**Ans. Janpadas were either monarchies like Magadha or republics like Vajji.**

**Q3. Name any four Mahajanpadas.**

**Ans. The four Mahajanpadas were:-**

- \*Kosala**
- \*Vatsa**
- \*Avanti**
- \*Vajji.**

**Q4. Name some of the cities that flourished in Mahajanpadas.**

**Ans. Cities that flourished in the Mahajanpadas:-**

- \*Patliputra**
- \*Kaushambi**
- \*Ujjain**

**Q5. What kind of money was used in trade in the Mahajanpadas?**

**Ans. Money in the form of punch-marked coins made of copper and silver was used in trade. Earlier, trading was done only through barter.**

**Q6. Why did Ajatshatru fortify Patliputra?**

**Ans. Ajatshatru fortified Patliputra from where he could control the Gangetic plains and the trade along the Ganges.**

**Q7. Mention any two reasons why agriculture flourished in the Mahajanpadas.**

**Ans. Agriculture flourished in the Mahajanpadas because:-**

- \* Most of the Mahajanpadas were located in fertile areas.**
- \* They had rivers flowing close by.**
- \* Many canals and wells were dug to improve irrigation.**
- \* Iron came to be used widely in the making of ploughshares, hoes and various other farming tools.**
- \* The farmers learnt to use manure.**
- \* They also learnt the art of transplantation of rice plants.**

**Q8. Why did the rulers of the Mahajanpadas maintain standing armies and fortify their capitals?**

**Ans. The rulers of Mahajanpadas maintained standing armies and fortified their capitals due to the following reasons:-**

- \* The Mahajanpadas had rich resources, which enabled their rulers to maintain elaborate systems of administration.**
- \* The king maintained a large, well-equipped and regularly paid army during both war and peace.**
- \* They maintained standing armies to control the Gangetic plains.**
- \* They needed armies to win over neighbouring territories and to secure trade.**

**Q9. Why did the rulers of Mahajanpadas introduce taxation? Briefly describe the system of taxation.**

**Ans. The rulers of the the mahajanapadas introduced taxation because:-**

- \*To pay salaries to the people who were working in administration.**
- \*To maintain a standing army.**
- \*For expenditure on public works like construction of roads and canals.**

**The system of taxation was as follows:**

- \*Taxes could be paid in cash or in kind.**
- \*One-sixth of the agricultural produce had to be given as tax.**
- \*Taxes could also be paid in the form of unpaid labour.**

**Q10. Briefly describe the system of government in Vajji.**

**Ans. Vajji did not have a king and was a Republic.**

- \*Vajji was a state ruled by the heads of families.**
- \*It was the union of eight clans.**
- \*It was ruled by an assembly of more than 7000 clan representatives and elders, each called a Raja(ruler).**
- \*The members of the assembly together took decision on all major issues.**
- \*Vajji had its capital at Vaishali.**

**Q11. Where was the kingdom of Magadha situated? What were the natural advantages that helped it to become the most powerful Kingdom in North India?**

**Ans. The kingdom of Magadha was situated in the eastern portion of the Gangetic plains and some part was in the Chottanagpur plateau region .The kingdom of magadh had its capital at Rajgriha and later at Patliputra.**

**The natural advantages that helped it to become the most powerful Kingdom of North India were:-**

- \*The land of Magadha was rich in mineral resources.**

**\*The timber was used for making chariots,boats and buildings.**

**\*The iron ore deposits provided iron for making weapons and tools.**

**\*Elephants from the forest increased Magadh's military strength, as elephants served as tanks.**

**\*The rivers such as Ganges and Sone provided water and made the land very fertile.**

**\*The rivers promoted transport and trade.**



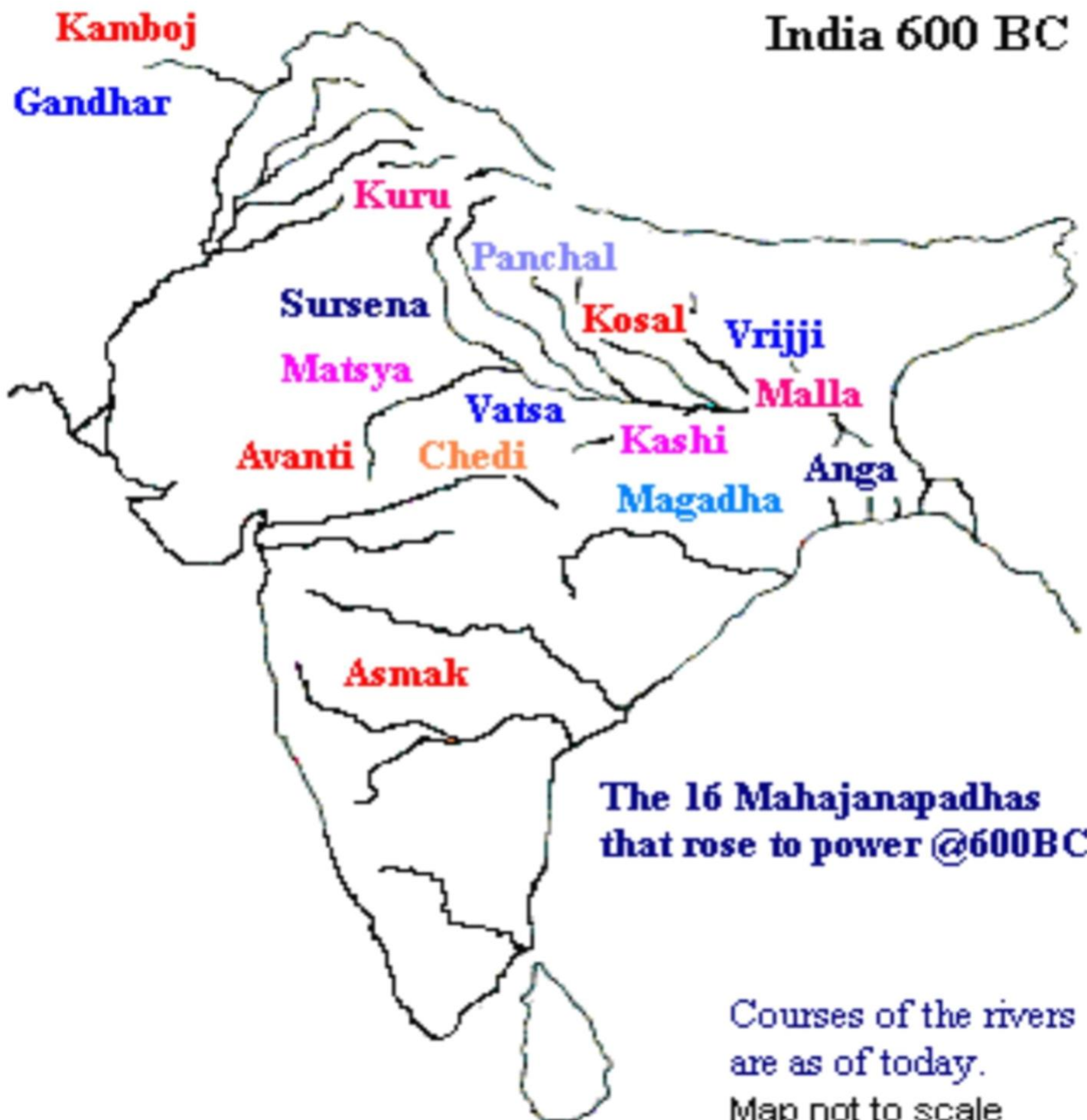
**Magadhan and Mauryan Soldiers**



**Wars in Magadh (depicted on the Sanchi stupa)**



India 600 BC



The 16 Mahajanapadas  
that rose to power @600BC.

Courses of the rivers  
are as of today.  
Map not to scale